

**BURGETTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public comments and questions not pertaining to the agenda items will be held to  
the end of the meeting.

Attending: Council Members: Ken McKinney  
Pam Church  
Beth Hoppe  
James Smith II  
Gary Manges

Mayor: Luke Snatchko

Solicitor:

Secretary: Debbie Resnik

Treasurer: Debbie Resnik

Visitors: Kobe Sarracino Sheila Golonka  
Lisa Slopek-Sinko Marcia Golonka

Roll Call: All Present

James Smith made the Motion to pass the February 26, 2024, Work Session Agenda  
Second by-Gary Manges

**Questions/Comments:**

None

Motion carried-None Opposed

1. Financials: Debbie Resnik

**Police Contract-**

- Explanation given for 2024 increase of \$750.00 per quarter.
- Revenue will be taken from the ACT 13 fund.

2. Council Reports:

Street Department – Gary Manges

- Discussed uniform and boots allowance for Glen Latshaw
- Rescind vote at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting for the rafter purchase in the street garage.
- Discussed lean-to behind garage.
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**Street Sign-**

- Pegs in location and size of the sign.
- According to PennDOT they want a clear field for traffic in all four directions.

- The borough has this where it is sitting.
- Gary would like the council to review it before Friday.
- 3 ½ yards of concrete will be needed for footer.
- Digging will begin March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ken McKinney has concerns with the fence going south bound and you will not be able to see it. I do not think we can do anything because the fence is so far back.

This is why the original sign is placed where it is.

Gary Manges, "I feel the sign was always facing the wrong directions."

**Questions/Comments:**

None

b. Park and Recreation-James Smith II  
Veterans Park-

- Flag poles are straight, trees are removed, flags and statue of liberty are in place.
- Lighting and topsoil next phase of project when weather permitting.
- A new fountain in Main Island will be any other project that will need to be addressed later.

James, "We spoke in the past about putting a new fountain there."

Ken, "Yes, that is correct, and I am putting on the agenda, so we do not forget about it."

James, "Okay that is fine."

3. Mayor Report-Luke Snatchko

**LSA updates-**

- Awarded and approved by County Commissioners
- Next step will be taken to the state for approval.

Comments:

Ken McKinney, "That is a long process."

Questions:

None

**Sign Ordinance-**

- Mayor questioned council member, Pam Church as to why she feels that she does not have to follow the sign ordinance regarding the Veteran's banners throughout the borough and it is not a borough matter?  
Pam, "So what part of the sign ordinance are we breaking?"  
Mayor, "Well you do not have an agreement with the borough."  
Pam, "So what is your issue with this."  
Mayor, "My issue is that you state it is not a borough issue, but clearly it states that it is a borough issue."  
Pam, "So, why did you not think about that when you started the donation project?"

Mayor, "I did have an agreement with council. I came to council and presented to the council and they agreed. We would take the signs down and you said you were going to keep the signs up because it was not a borough matter.

Pam, "It has never been cleared with council of when you oversaw them for two years."

Mayor, "Pam I was the one at the time who started the program and worked the deal erected the signs and removed them with a schedule of the homecoming banners and Christmas decorations were going to be put up and Mayor, "my question is and now why do you not feel this is a borough matter?"

Pam, "Since this came up with you, I have contacted several past council members in fact the past president and asked her during this time period was this ever brought to council. She stated it was never brought up because it was not a borough matter. I spoke with two others, and they stated the same thing."

Pam, "This is what I know. The BACDC started this program back in 2022, and it was a fund raiser for them. At that time, Luke was president. We put the banners up and down. After removing the banners, we had countless complaints regarding the yearly pricing. We put them up in 2023 and decided as a board to leave them up because the people we spoke with wanted them to stay up.

Pam, "I do not believe they are a sign but a memorial to the veterans."

Luke, "I think it will fall under similar devices."

Pam looks at it matter as the mayor is upset that the BACDC is not following his rules. This has been the BACDC project, and the borough has never interfered with it. There is no reason that the BACDC knows of that the banners need to come down. A new program is being implemented and expanding the program. They have been working on this for a couple months.

Pam, "So I am not sure as to why you want us to take them down."

Mayor, "As the mayor's job I am to make sure that everyone follows the ordinances and rules of the borough."

Mayor, "They are not my rules."

Mayor stated he spoke with Susan Reynolds a past council members on this matter as it was her idea. I am being specific on this matter."

Pam, "You should not speak on someone name if they are not attending the meeting."

Mayor, "Where are the new signs going?"

Ken McKinney, "So what does council need to do to move past this?"

Ken, "What would you like to see?"

Mayor, "I would like to know where the signs are going to go and would like the BACDC to come to council and ask for permission to expand and to leave the banners up all year round and not for you to say this is what the BACDC is going to do."

Gary, "I thought we all voted."

Ken, "We just discussed the matter."

Ken, "We all must work together and move past this. Will the BACDC talk with council on where they are going to put the banners?"

Pam, "Yes I will speak with council."

Ken, "Luke are you okay with that?"

Luke, "Yes"

Mayor thanked the street department for erecting the statue of liberty.

4. New Business-

**By-Pass Electric Pole-**

- The police report and estimate were forwarded to the insurance company.

**Trash Bid-**

- The council will begin looking at bid specifications for the upcoming trash bid.

5. Old Business-

**Shred It-**

- Washington Financial will sponsor this event.
- Open date for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Facebook Ordinance-**

- Facebook Ordinance was given to the council in packet for them to review at an upcoming meeting.
- Beth Hoppe, after attending PSAB Boot Camp will revoke her vote on setting up a Facebook page.

**CBDG Funding- Highland Avenue and Scott Street-**

- Washington County authorized funding
- The council must decide on using CBDG or using our engineer.

**PC WHIP- Firewall protection cost**

- Reviewed PC Whip proposal
- The council would like to research and get additional proposals.

6. Correspondence-None

7. Public Comments/Questions-

Lisa Sinkko expressed to council as a board member of the BACDC for the harassment of this job if it were up to her, she would take all banners and replace them in Smith Township so I would not have to worry about the mayor and his control issues anymore. The eye rolling and hand bumping at the end of the table is juvenile.

Kobe Sarracino would like to see if the council could extend an invitation before the bidding process so the residents can give their concerns.

Kobe Sarracino would like the street department to revisit her alley way once again. She feels that it needs to be graded and laid with additional gravel.

Beth Hoppe questioned Lisa Sinkko if she was a taxpayer within the borough.

Lisa Sinkko, "I am a board member of the BACDC, and I have monetary interests in the borough, but I do not live here. I am a resident of Smith Township."

Beth Hoppe, "So does she have the right to speak?"

Ken, "I do not have the answer to that question."

Pam, "You cannot turn anyone away from speaking."

Beth Hoppe, "I went to training classes and I was told if they are only a taxpayer they can only speak."

Beth Hoppe expressed her concerns to Lisa Sinkko on her comments of the eye rolling and hand bumping during the meeting.

Beth Hoppe expressed her concerns to the council that she will not be caught up in the tic for tac that goes on every month and every meeting.

8. Motion to Adjourn- 6:51PM