

West Newton Borough
Regular Meeting
May 9th, 2022

The regular monthly voting meeting of West Newton Borough Council was held on Monday, May 9th, 2022 in Council Chambers, 112 South Water Street. Council President Brenda Maleski called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members Gary Johnson, Dan Roebuck, Brenda Maleski, Terri Eckels, and Jason Cooper called present during roll call. Mayor Mary Popovich, Solicitor Sam Dalfonso, Engineers Donald Hixson and Dalton Mack, Councilman Dan Palfey, Councilman Tony Berarducci and Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Pergola were also present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delegates:

#1 Dale Kimberly – Mr. Kimberly was present to let Council know the shed is on Borough property per his surveyed property. Mr. Kimberly also presented about potholes/roadways not being taken care of. Mr. Kimberly was advised this is all being looked into.

#2 William Simms Jr. – Mr. Simms was present to ask Council about any conclusions regarding the creek behind 103 Home Street. Engineer Hixson responded to Mr. Simms a possible survey would need to be done and the engineers will need to speak with council and coordinate with Solicitor Dalfonso.

#3 Rick Letterio – Mr. Letterio was present to ask Council about potholes in the Alley next to his business that is used as his main entrance. Solicitor Dalfonso stated the Borough cannot vacate this Alley due to this Alley being a storm sewer line without an easement. Council member Maleski advised Mr. Letterio this will be taken under advisement for Council to talk about this and come back next meeting.

#4 Joyce Pawlik "C.R.O.W.N." – Ms. Pawlik was present to update Council on current/upcoming events. A \$100 donation was received by a resident for flowers down at the park. Hometown Hero banner applications have been submitted, the majority of the banners will be up before Memorial Day and will still be accepting applications. Ms. Pawlik asked Council for the okay to place Bunting banners on the bridge.

#5 Paul Williams (EMA) – Council member Maleski suggested to Mr. Williams to have a way to inform the community what the meaning of the different tones of the sirens would be that could go off. Mr. Williams informed Council of a program for Borough residents with special needs that can reach out to EMA for help. Mr. Williams informed Council the County and EMA will be at the Senior Center to present Emergency Preparedness class. Mr. Williams requested to move forward with the rest of the equipment purchases for EMA using the donated monies. **Motion 05-01** was made by Councilman Johnson to amend the agenda to add approval of releasing funds to the Emergency Management Director, Paul Williams. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote. Mr. Williams informed Council of a free program to pursue called Storm Ready for mass notifications.

#6 Randy Sinchovich - Mr. Sinchovich was present to ask about future road repairs.

Motion 05-02 was made by Councilman Johnson to accept last month's minutes as presented. Second made by Cooper. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Engineers report

Engineer Hixson and Mack presented the Engineers Report.

Motion 05-03 was made by Councilman Palfey to accept Engineers Report as presented. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Supervisors Report – Supervisor Lou Friedemann reported a sink hole repair on Water Street. Storm water drain fixed. Flag poles will be loaded. Fishing deck is shut down. Supervisor Friedemann would like to look into having the Road crew take classes to be certified in traffic control.

Motion 05-04 was made by Councilman Palfey to accept Supervisors Report as presented. Second made by Roebuck. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Solicitors Report – Solicitor Sam Dalfonso reported executive session for personnel and litigation at the end of the meeting. Mr. Dalfonso received a notice for Private property going up for sale. **Motion 05-05** was made by Councilman Palfey to appoint Ashley Pergola as Right to Know Officer for the Borough. Second made by Roebuck. Motion adopted by unanimous vote. Mr. Dalfonso was in touch with 105 main street owner and a citation will be sent to owner. Codification is back on board.

Motion 05-06 was made by Council member Eckels to accept Solicitors Report as presented. Second made by Johnson. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Zoning Report – Secretary/Treasurer, Ashley Pergola presented 13 occupancy permits from January – March on behalf of Zoning Officer Mike Stack. **Motion 05-07** was made by Councilman Berarducci for a reimbursement check to be issued to National Power for permit submitted by mistake. Second made by Johnson. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Mayors Report/Police Report - Mayor Popovich read the April Police report. Mayor Popovich presented to council a tax relief for Fire and EMS and giving a donation to the Fire or EMS. Mayor Popovich reminded Council and the Community of the eWaste event May 20th. **Motion 05-08** was made by Councilman Berarducci to accept the Mayors Report as presented. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Bills - Motion 05-09 made by Councilman Johnson to pay all unpaid bills of the municipality. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Treasurers Report - Motion 05-10 made by Councilman Johnson to accept the Treasurers Report as submitted. Second made by Cooper. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Tax Collectors Report - Secretary Ashley Pergola presented total year-to-date tax collections in the amount of \$251,635.14. **Motion 05-11** was made by Councilman Palfey to accept Tax Collectors Report as presented. Second made by Johnson. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports:

- ✚ **Finance & Budget:** Councilman Cooper presented to Council murals were sent to grant writer. Councilman Cooper is looking into new playground equipment. County Hauling has a surcharge rate increase. **Motion 05-12** was made by Councilman Palfey to accept the Finance & Budget report presented. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- ✚ **Streets:** **Motion 05-13** was made by Councilman Palfey to hire Austin Bacha as a grass cutter for \$14/hr. Second was made by Johnson. Motion adopted by unanimous vote. **Motion 05-14** was made by Councilman Berarducci to accept the street report as presented. Second made by Cooper. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- ✚ **Sewage:** Councilman Berarducci presented updates on Sewage plant. **Motion 05-15** was made by Councilman Johnson to accept Sewage report as presented. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- ✚ **Recreation:** Councilman Berarducci reported to Council he met with the engineer regarding the condition of the deck at Goehring Pond. Councilman Berarducci reached out to a VA of Carpenters Union that are always looking community service for their apprentice program. **Motion 05-16** was made by Council member Eckels to accept the Recreation report as presented. Second made by Johnson. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- ✚ **Insurance:** nothing to report
- ✚ **Personnel:** nothing to report
- ✚ **Public Safety:** Phone call was received regarding a Blackburn Street, property owners' cars. Chief Indof & Mike Stack will be notified about this property. **Motion 05-17** was made by Councilman Palfey for \$350 to be released to Emergency Management Director, Paul Williams from donated monies to EMA. Second made by Roebuck. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- ✚ **Properties & Code Enforcement:** Councilman Johnson reported Mike Stack left his card at 103 S Third St. and gentleman obtained a building permit. Councilman Johnson would like to send the property owner of Senior Center a letter regarding the crack in the back wall of building. Solicitor Dalfonso is calling Mike Stack in regards to Senior Center. Abandoned and Blighted properties are being sent to the Magistrate. **Motion 05-18** was made

by Councilman Palfey to accept the Properties & Code Enforcement report as presented. Second made by Cooper. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

✚ **Sanitation:** Councilman Cooper addressed complaints with County Hauling. **Motion 05-19** made by Councilman Johnson to accept the Sanitation report as presented. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

✚ **Bridge, River & Trail:** Councilman Eckels reported the Bridge Rehab Project updates and extended a thank you to all who sponsored the flower baskets on Main Street. **Motion 05-20** made by Councilman Johnson to accept the Bridge, River and Trail report as presented. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Communications:

Motion 05-21 made by Councilman Palfey to adopt **Resolution 2022-7** for online viewing access for Secretary/Treasurer, Ashley Pergola. Second made by Roebuck. Motion adopted by unanimous vote. **Motion 05-22** made by Councilmember Eckels to adopt **Resolution 2022-8** to appoint Secretary/Treasurer as its authorized representative to Berkheimer for ACH file access. Second by Cooper. Motion adopted by unanimous vote. **Motion 05-23** made by Councilmen Berarducci to continue with current UPMC Health Plan for all employees. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote. Secretary/Treasurer presented a meter correspondence received; Council agreed to notify correspondent a permit can only be issued in Borough Lots #1 & #2. Pavilion Rental for May 21st requested to rent a port-a-John on their own expense. Council agreed to allow the renter to do so. **Motion 05-24** made by Councilman Palfey to permit Commercial Bank & Trust to handle all investment accounts. Second made by Johnson. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Councilman Requests:

Councilmember Maleski reported Council will start working on the Sign Ordinance. Councilmember Maleski was asked for members who service the Senior Center, would they need a parking permit, it was understood this would a loading zone. Solicitor Dalfonso stated it is labeled as a loading zone, so they can would not need a permit and can park here to unload in that 15-minute time duration. Councilmember Maleski gives the okay to Nicole Humenik to send out letters to all of the past due sewage accounts, giving them 10 days to have their account updated or their water will be terminated.

Adjournment

Motion 05-25 made by Councilman Berarducci to adjourn the regular meeting into an executive session. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Ashley Pergola
Secretary/Treasurer

