

West Newton Borough
 Regular Meeting
 August 12th, 2024

The regular monthly voting meeting of West Newton Borough Council was held on Monday, August 12th, in Council Chambers, 112 South Water Street. Council President Jason Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members Jason Cooper, Gary Johnson, Tony Berarducci, Randy Shincovich, Dan Palfey and Terri Eckels were called present during roll call. Mayor Mary Popovich, Dodaro, Matta & Cambest Solicitor was present for Solicitor Dalfonso, Engineer Dalton Mack and Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Pergola were also present. Council member Dan Roebuck and Solicitor Sam Dalfonso were not present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delegates:

Dave Craig was present to inform Council about the condition of the Alley by his house at 136 S. 2nd street.

Chris Hasbrouck was present to speak to Council about ongoing issues at Blackburn Street garage. Mr. Hasbrouck stated all cables were reinstalled by West Penn back to the garage and requested for the Borough to check into this.

Joyce Pawlik was present to request the Borough crew to now spray around the cherry tree that has been replaced at the park. Ms. Pawlik handed out Festival invitations for the parade for Council and a flyer to be hung in the office.

Brian Demczyk was present to request from Council their okay to put in a driveway off of Locust. This will be in Rostraver twp., but since they will be starting in the Borough they were requested to come speak with Council as their sewer hook up is with the Borough. Mr. Demczyk had a question about the dimensions of a pipe they would have to put in at the end of their driveway.

Ed Ferree was present to request from Council an answer upon why the Borough we require an occupancy permit inviting people into residents' homes without their permission. Mr. Ferree also presented to Council question upon who is responsible to maintain vegetation on Borough right-aways. Council directed Mr. Ferree to Borough Solicitor to discuss further.

Kelly Furlong was present to request a copy of the ordinance be sent to the Code Enforcement officer as she believes everything at Blackburn Street is in violation. Council stated the Borough and Code enforcement is handling this issue with the Magistrate. Ms. Furlong also stated zoning could be an issue as well.

Motion 08-01 made by Councilman Palfey to accept the previous minutes. Second by Johnson. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Engineers report

Engineer Mack presented the Engineers report.

Supervisors Report – Supervisor Shincovich reported of repairs throughout the Borough.

Solicitors Report – Solicitor from Dodaro, Matta and Cambest reported Sam has all the LGUDA paperwork ready to file, zoning board has to be together to hear an appeal for any zoning violations to be sent out, and we are waiting to hear court dates from the magistrate.

Code Enforcement/Zoning Report – Nothing at this time.

Mayors Report/Police Report – Police report was presented by Mayor Popovich. Mayor stated the Lanceberger sign has been ordered and can be put up on the little league field.

Emergency Management: Paul Williams was present this evening to report updates as well as the Hazard Mitigation update. Paul will try to obtain barricades for the festival.

Bills – Motion 08-02 was made by Councilman Johnson to pay all unpaid bills. Second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Treasurers Report – Treasurer's report was presented by Secretary/Treasurer

Tax Collectors Report – Tax Collectors Report was presented by Secretary Pergola.

Committee Reports:

👇 **Finance & Budget:** Nothing to report at this time.

👇 **Streets:**

- **Motion 08-03** made by Councilman Palfey to accept quote from M&R Plumbing in the amount of \$2,390.00 from ARPA funds for a leaking pipe repair in the gym. Second made by Johnson. Motion made by unanimous vote.
- **Motion 08-04** made by Councilman Palfey to accept quote from Better Choice Inc. to install an inside French drain using ARPA funds in the amount of \$2,050.00 inside the gym. Second made by Shincovich. Motion made by unanimous vote.
- **Motion 08-05** made by Councilman Palfey to approve the purchase of street sweeper brushes from North East in the amount of \$676.00. Second made by Berarducci. Motion made by unanimous vote.
- **Motion 08-06** made by Councilman Palfey to bid up to \$20,000 on a Bucket Truck using ARPA Funds. Second by Shincovich. Motion made by unanimous vote.

👇 **Sewage:** Covered in Engineers report.

- **Motion 08-07** made by Councilman Berarducci to approve Resolution 2024-9 increasing Sewer rates to \$50 for Septembers Bill and consumption rates to \$3.50. Second by Palfey. Motion made by unanimous vote.

👇 **Recreation:** Nothing at this time.

👇 **Insurance:** Nothing at this time.

👇 **Personnel:**

- **Motion 08-08** made by Council woman Eckels to accept Resolution 2024-10 appointing Zoning Hearing Board Members as the following terms:
 - 4 Year Term – Jacob Buckel
 - 3 Year Term – Nancy Ivan
 - 2 Year Term – Taylor Golack
 - 1 Alternative – Art Berarducci

👇 **Public Safety:** Nothing to report at this time.

👇 **Properties & Code Enforcement:**

- **Motion 08-09** made by Council woman Eckels to advertise to hire a Building and Zoning Officer. Second made by Palfey. Motion made by unanimous votes.

👇 **Sanitation:** Council discussed and will have Mark from the Sewage plant conducting grease trap inspections per Ordinance 2005-4 biannually. Letters will be sent out to all business's applicable tomorrow.

👇 **Bridge River & Trail:** Nothing to report at this time.

Communications:

Secretary Pergola read thank you received by the West Newton Volunteer Fire Company for help with the purchase of their new doors. Secretary Pergola requested to attend seminar in September, Council granted request and to reimburse for milage. Secretary Pergola also read correspondence from the Big Twist inviting Council/Public to their Back-to-School event

Adjournment

Motion 08-10 made by Council woman Eckels to adjourn the regular meeting into an executive session. Second made by Berarducci. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.