

**Borough of New Stanton
Borough Council
New Stanton Council Chambers
January 17, 2023, 6 PM Minutes
of Council Meeting**

Attendance

Councilmembers: Todd Bartlow, Alex Brown, Ray Strosko, and Edwina Zack. Mayor: Tom Smith. Absent: Linda Echard, George Miller and Tom Theis.

Also in attendance: Borough Solicitor John Campfield, Borough Engineer Steve Eby and Borough Manager Jeffrey McLaughlin.

Call to Order

President Alex Brown called the regular January 17, 2023 council meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

Prayer

Jeff recited a prayer.

Approval of Bills in the Amount of \$65,081.96

Edwina made a motion seconded by Ray to approve the bills in the amount of \$65,081.96. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of the December 6, 2022 Meeting

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only

Jen Brynes from UPS spoke on the proposed revision of the route for the UPS 5K. She said that the original idea was to install a gravel path between Westinghouse and Broadview Road, but now they would like to the route to go onto Center Avenue to avoid possible hazards with people jogging/walking on the gravel. They would stay on the berm from Westinghouse to Broadview Road, which is approximately 400 linear feet. In order to do so, they would need a special permit from PennDOT, which the borough would have to submit. Jen said that she

spoke to Rob Cammarata, who said that the fire department would provide traffic control, and to CJ LaFrank from Mutual Aid, who said that they would be present with an ambulance.

Jeff said that although this is a minor change given the need to petition PennDOT, he put it on the agenda for consideration.

Agenda

1. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Pay Pugliano Construction Requisition #4 for the Arona Road Culvert in the Amount of \$207,424.97

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to pay Pugliano Construction Requisition #4 in the amount of \$207,424.97 for the Arona Road Culvert. Motion passed unanimously.

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to exhaust the Arona Road account and pay the balance of Pugliano Construction's Requisition #4 out of the Local Services Tax account. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Pay Gibson-Thomas the Arona Road Sewer Line Inspection Fee out of the Pugliano Escrow Account in the Amount of \$5,883.25

Steve said that currently the borough only has \$3,000 in escrow from Pugliano Construction to pay Gibson-Thomas for inspecting the sewer line. The borough will have to get the remaining money from Pugliano to pay the bill, but Steve asked that the motion for payment be made contingent upon him getting a notice of acceptance of the sewer line by MAWC.

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to pay Gibson-Thomas the Arona Road Bridge sewer line inspection fee out of the Pugliano escrow account in the amount of \$5,883.25, contingent upon receipt of the balance of funding from Pugliano Construction and receipt of a notice of acceptance of the sewer line by MAWC. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt a 2023 General Fund and Liquid Fuels Budget in the Amount of \$1,499,077.04

Todd made a motion seconded by George adopting the 2023 General Fund and Liquid Fuels Budget in the Amount of \$1,499,077.04. Motion passed unanimously:

4. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt Resolution 2022-1008 Setting the 2023 Real Estate Tax

Alex pointed out that with the adoption of this resolution there would be no change to the mileage rate, which is 2 mils for general purpose, 1 for debt service and 1 for the fire department.

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd adopting Resolution 2022-1008 setting the 2023 Real Estate Tax. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Renew Property Liability and Automobile Insurance with Century Insurance Consultants for 2023 in the Amount of \$29,673.00

Todd made a motion seconded by Ray adopting Resolution 2022-1009 to renew property, liability and automobile insurance with Century Insurance Consultants for 2023 at a premium of \$29,673.00. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Request that PennDOT Perform a Study to Eliminate the No Turn on Red at the Intersection of Arona Rd. and Center Avenue

Edwina made a motion seconded by Ray to request that PennDOT perform a study to eliminate the *No turn on red* at the intersection of Arona Rd. and Center Avenue. Motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about the intersection of Byers and Center Avenue. It was decided to have Steve discuss the situation with PennDOT.

7. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or And Official Action to Advertise for the February 7, 2023 Meeting Consideration of Changes to the Codification of Ordinances Including: Pension; Curfew; Trotwood Manor Parking; Rollerblading, Skateboarding and Riding on a Coaster

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to advertise for the February 7, 2023 meeting consideration of changes to the Codification of Ordinances including: Pension; Curfew; Trotwood Manor Parking; Rollerblading, Skateboarding and Riding on a Coaster. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Advertise a Public Hearing for March 7, 2023 Regarding Consideration of Changes to the SALDO, Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map to Consider Changes to the Codification of Ordinances

Alex mentioned that council has been discussing these possible ordinance changes and needs to advertise a hearing to move ahead. He did however want to call attention to Section 22607.2 of the proposed change to the SALDO. He said that originally the intention was to only require sidewalks in the B-1 and B-2 zoning districts but Section 22607.2 is indicating that the Planning Commission may require installation of sidewalks in any subdivision or development where the evidence indicates that sidewalks are necessary for the public safety. He asked if council wanted to modify this section so that it would only apply to the B-1 and B-2 zoning areas or leave it the way it is worded currently.

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to advertise a public hearing for March 7, 2023 at 5:30 PM regarding consideration of changes to the codification of zoning ordinance and zoning map and to the SALDO with amendment to section 22607.2 that the section only apply to the B-1 and B-2 zoning districts. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or And Official Action to Adjust the Route of the UPS SK Walk/Run to Include a Portion of Center Avenue and to Notify PennDOT of the Temporary Minor Encroachment

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to adjust the route of the UPS 5K Walk/Run to include a portion of Center Avenue and to notify PennDOT of the temporary minor encroachment. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or And Official Action to Adopt the 2022 KME Fire and Rescue Vehicle Lease with the New Stanton Volunteer Fire Department

Ray expressed concern about the leases and the information that was needed to be gathered to put the leases in place, particularly the lease on the newest truck.

Jeff stated that the delay regarding the 2022 lease had to do with getting an invoice from the aftermarket installer. He said that unfortunately it appears that either the leases on the older trucks were misplaced or never signed. He took responsibility for that. John brought up a concern that he had with the warranty on the 2022 truck.

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to adopt the 2022 KME Fire and Rescue Vehicle Lease with the New Stanton Volunteer Fire Department. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt Resolution 2023-Appointing _____ to the Planning Commission

The mayor said that he would be interested in joining the Planning Commission if there is no one else interested in the position. John said that there was nothing in the borough code that would prevent the mayor from being on the Planning Commission.

There was general agreement to try to encourage more involvement from local citizens before deciding whether to appoint the mayor. Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to advertise the open position on the Planning Commission via the event sign, Savvy Citizen and Facebook. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt Resolution 2023-1018 Reappointing Melvin Steele to the Zoning Hearing Board

Alex said that he thought Melvin asked good questions at the SunCap hearing and that if folks want to serve on the board and are capable of serving then they should be reappointed.

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to adopt Resolution 2023-1018 reappointing Melvin Steele to the Zoning Hearing Board. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Ray who voted *no*.

Jeff mentioned the rate of pay for Zoning Hearing Board members. There was a discussion about revisiting this in the future.

13. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action Regarding Whether to close and Reopen Bank Accounts to Eliminate Confusion Resulting from Last 4 Digits of Accounts Being the Same and to Investigate Closing the Money Market and Transferring Funds from the General Account to Purchase a CD

Jeff pointed out that the borough has two sets of accounts that have account numbers with the same last four digits, which has caused confusion at the bank when the borough goes to make deposits. Jeff also mentioned that council may want to consider purchasing a Certificate of Deposit, because interest rates are currently at 4%. It was decided to have the Finance Committee and Jeff discuss how much money can be earmarked for a CD, while still keeping the borough liquid enough to address upcoming expenses.

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to reconfigure the bank accounts to eliminate the confusion about bank account numbers. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Administrative

Planning

Commission

Jeff stated that there was no Planning Commission meeting since the last council meeting.

Borough Manager

Jeff reported that:

- The Fire Department Banquet is on January 21, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the fire hall. All council members and the mayor are invited to attend.
- He sent a zoning violation notice to the owner of 430 S. Center Avenue. He said that the owner has until February 10, 2023 to correct the violations or to appeal.

Code Enforcement Report

Mark Cypher's monthly report was included in council's agenda packet. Jeff also reported on some code enforcement items:

- The December hearing at the magistrate for 357 Arona Road was postponed. It is to be rescheduled for March.
- He said that Mark gave him an update on 119 W. Pennsylvania Avenue: the property owner is applying to the Westmoreland County Land Bank to have the house torn down.
- He said that Mark also told him that the new owner of 746 S. Center Avenue is continuing to work on the property and trying to remove the vehicles and mobile home. The house may be demolished due to mold issues.

There was a discussion about other properties.

Solicitor's Report

John said that council may want to review the properties that make up the B-1 and B-2 zoning areas in relation to the sidewalk ordinance.

John reiterated his concern about the need to get the fire truck leases in place. He said that the leases would protect both the fire department and the borough.

Engineer's Report

Steve gave an update on the Glenn Fox Road closure. He said that all of the appropriate parties had been notified. He mentioned a complaint that was received about the detour affecting children getting to school on time for breakfast. He said that the detour takes 7 minutes. He mentioned that the same complainant expressed concern about the contractor working beyond the permitted construction hours and that he spoke to the contractor reminding them that work is to end at 9 PM.

Alex said that he spoke to George Reese about the complaints and told him that the borough is working with its engineer to respond as best it can.

Fire Department Liaison

Ray reported that the general fund and savings account balance is \$90,687.72.

Council President

Alex said he did not really have anything except for his communication with George Reese from the Hempfield supervisors that he reported on earlier. Alex said that the borough is trying to balance out everybody's interests and to be good neighbors doing our best within the controls and within the realm of reasonableness.

Mayor

Tom mentioned that he received a call about the great work Public Works did on the roads. He also mentioned that he spoke to the Public Works crew after they took down the *Hometown Hero* banners. He said that they reported that the banners appear to be in pretty bad shape and that we may want to contact the owners and see if they want to pick up the old banners and order new ones.

Administration

No report.

Public Works/MS4 .& Parks

Jeff reported that the Public Works crew has been taking down dead trees at the park. The work has been weather dependent. They have been trying to do the work when the ground is frozen so that the equipment does not rut the grass. He said that some trees need taken down professionally.

Jeff said that he also received a call from a representative from Hempfield Spartans Football who wanted to get their equipment out of the metal storage container at the park. Public

works employee, Anthony Bilesimo, was present on January 15th for the Spartan representatives to remove the equipment and the Spartans reimbursed the borough for Anthony's time.

Jeff said that the borough received a lot of compliments on the Christmas lights.

Community Betterment

Alex said that he did not have anything to report. Jeff said that the next event would be the Easter Egg Hunt.

Workplace Safety Committee

Jeff reported that the committee met earlier in the day. Barry Smith, representing the fire department, joined the meeting. The topic was the annual *Workplace Safety Committee Certification Renewal* webinar. Jeff said that the borough's safety committee was certified by the PA Department of Labor and Industry for 2022 and eligible for the workmen's compensation discount.

Finance Report

Todd reviewed the financial report: as of January 12, 2023, there was a checking balance of \$1,017,604.45; the total of all savings accounts was \$872,736.65 and the taxes remitted from December 30, 2023 through January 12, 2023 was \$1,028.76.

Personnel

Alex complimented the Public Works crew on snow removal.

Additional Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments.

Announcements

Alex reviewed the upcoming meeting agenda.

Adjournment

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to adjourn the meeting at 7:51. There were no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin
Secretary