

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2014

7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bevec

MOMENT OF SILENCE called by Mr. Bevec

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Rich Russo - Vice President - Present

Fran Coleman - Present

Joe McGarry - Present

Tim Bilsky - Present

John Severine - Absent

Paul Sharkady - Present

John Bevec - President - Present

Others Present: Solicitor Patrick Derrico, HMT Engineer Chalmers McCombs, Canonsburg

Borough Manager Mr. Robert Kipp, Mayor David Rhome

GUESTS:

Kerry Fox - Redevelopment Authority - Discussed the following:

1. Canonsburg Street and Sewer Improvement Projects from 2013 is complete. (1st Street from Euclid Avenue to Ash, Perry Como from McNary Avenue to Moore, Perry Como from Highland Avenue to McNary) Extra trench work was completed and will remain under budget on the project.
2. Handicapped Sidewalk Improvements - will be awarding the project to Excalibur Construction on Friday September 12th, 2014 with a bid of \$57,222. The project should begin in two weeks.
3. Code Enforcement Demolition Project - 3 properties: 29 West College Street, 135 East Pitt Street and 138 North Central Avenue. The contract was awarded to Gray Waste Management. Dave Woodhouse, with Gray Waste Management has completed other demolitions for Canonsburg. The project is split between Canonsburg and Bentleyville.
4. Forms for the 2015 projects - Mr. Fox has forms and would like to see in two weeks a project update. The Second Ward has the project this year, Mr. Russo will spear head the project. Mr. Russo stated they were looking at a block of West College and West Pitt. Mr. Fox stated there are more financial resources than that. Mr. Russo stated that Mr. Treschow could provide an estimate, Mr. Fox stated he would provide Mr. Kipp with the dollar amount of money available.
5. Home Rehabilitation Program - Still looking for more applications for the program. Must be low to moderate income in the Borough of Canonsburg, up to \$25,000 of improvements on the home. A forgivable loan. On the Borough level can get to residents within two years. The Program is advertised on the Borough marquee sign, website and in the newsletter. Discussion held if worthy of advertising in the newspaper, it was discussed to not advertise the program.

Mayor Rhome inquired if the property on 138 North Central Avenue could be the first priority due to the south side of the house continuing to shift. Mr. Fox stated that property could be first.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Michele Bruce addressed Council regarding the Cat Committee. She stated the Cat Committee was set up to work through code and they have been working through code. She was confused about the Borough no longer having a Cat Committee and that she was not called. She stated the Borough was going back to using Animal Control. She further stated there was a “gentleman's agreement” regarding the Cat Committee and she would have expected a meeting to discuss the committee before it was dissolved. Mr. Bevec stated his understanding that there is a committee, however, if it got to a certain point, Kim with Animal Control would be called. Mayor Rhome discussed there were five cat complaints that have gone through the process as discussed at the Cat Committee: the complainant registers through Mayor Rhome or Mr. Kipp, then they will generate the paperwork which goes on to code enforcement, code enforcement generates a report to Gina Nestor. Within a 72 hour response period, Ms. Nestor and company would respond to that issue. Mayor Rhome stated that up until last week, everything was working out well. Out of one of those issues, there was a complaint from a resident on Tannehill Street, the complaint was generated and sent to Ms. Nestor. Mayor Rhome stated he had documentation present but not in a public forum. Mayor Rhome met with Mr. Kipp to discuss the situation and felt it wasn't going to resolve. Mayor Rhome stated Mr. Kipp, as the Borough Manager made the decision to forward the complaint to Animal Control cat person. Mr. Kipp stated he did not make that decision, it was the Mayor's decision Ms. Bruce questioned why she nor the committee was not notified. Mr. Bilsky also stated the committee should have been notified. Mayor Rhome stated if that was made into policy, he would be happy to do it. Mr. Bilsky stated he would need to see the documentation/evidence as he understands she has traps on her property. Mayor Rhome stated there is more than what can be presented in ten minutes. Ms. Bruce stated she wanted this resolved as she has put money into this program. She stated she felt the committee should have met to

discuss this particular issue. Ms. Bruce visited the complainant, offered repellent and a trail camera, however, the complainant refused. Ms. Bruce stated she saw no evidence of cats. She stated the complainant did trap one raccoon. She stated neighbors are concerned for their pet cats being trapped. Mr. Bevec stated there is a committee, a new committee and the issue should be taken to the committee. Ms. Bruce stated the Council was not honoring the committee. Mr. Bevec again stated to take the issue to the committee. Mayor Rhome also stated to Ms. Rhome to take the issue to the Cat Committee. Ms. Bruce stated the reports are to go directly to code, it has worked very well and prevents "neighbor from neighbor stuff." Mr. Bevec stated he will have Mr. Bilsky set up the meeting, Mr. Bilsky stated that was fine. Mr. Bevec would like to see a procedure if there is a roadblock, what the steps will be to resolve the issue. Mr. Bevec also discussed the rights of property owners. Ms. Bruce stated that several options are provided. Mr. Bilsky asked if to be informed if there are any issues. Mayor Rhome discussed that Animal Control, who the Borough has a contract with, stated that property owners were permitted to put traps in their yard.

Gina Nester, 558 Tannehill Street, Canonsburg, Captain of the Canonsburg Citizen's Cat Complaint Committee. Her question was if the Borough has voted out the Cat Complaint Committee but heard it was not dissolved. She discussed the Animal Control euthanize or kills the cats. Stated the resident mentioned above traps neighbors cats by luring the cat with food. She asked about her right to property and that a pet is property. She discussed the history of cats in the Borough. Mr. Bevec stated the Borough cannot force residents. She stated she and the residents on her street were in an uproar due to this resident. She thanked Council for listening to her.

Dave White, 566 Tannehill, Canonsburg, approached Council. He lives next door to the resident where the trapping occurs. He is an owner of a domesticated cat, he was not aware that trapping was taking place next door. He is concerned that his cat is being targeted as the trap is facing his driveway and approximately 5- feet from his driveway. He stated there are sardines in the trap and bird feeders near

the trap. He asked Council to work through the Committee. He sated he had pictures of how close the traps were to his driveway, however, Council did not view the pictures.

No other public comments.

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:

None

VOTING ITEMS:

- 1. Motion to approve the Council Minutes of August 11, 2014 with corrections as per the September 2, 2014 Agenda Meeting.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to approve the Council Minutes of August 11, 2014 with corrections as per the September 2, 2014 Agenda Meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman. All in favor. Motion carries.

- 2. Motion to approve Engineer's report of September 2, 2014.**

Motion by Mr. Russo to approve Engineer's report of September 2, 2014. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman. All in favor. Motion Carries.

- 3. Motion to approve CHJSA report of September 2, 2014.**

Motion by Mr. Russo to approve CHJSA report of September 2, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky. All in favor. Motion Carries.

- 4. Motion to ratify Manager's Salary as per previously approved.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to ratify Manager's Salary as per previously approved. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

Roll Call:

Rich Russo - Yes

Fran Coleman - Yes

Joe McGarry - Yes

Tim Bilsky - No

John Severine - Absent

Paul Sharkady - No

John Bevec - Yes

4 Yes, 2 No. Motion Carries ratify Manager's Salary as per previously approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rhome reviewed the following.

-Police Report from August 2014 reviewed.

-Monthly Parking Report reviewed.

-Trick or Treat Night-North Strabane Township called Mayor Rhome to inquire if the borough and North Strabane could coordinate Trick or Treat Night on the same night, October 31st, 2014. Discussion held on the day of the week the 31st fell and the time. Mr. Bevec stated this could be ratified at the next meeting, the Mayor stated he would inform North Strabane that the Borough will celebrate Trick or Treat Night on October 31st, 2014. Mr. Bevec asked for the date and time to be on next month's agenda.

-Stop Signs- Mayor Rhome had discussion with Harvey Treschow from HMT regarding the stop signs asked for on Gladden Road at the two different locations (Martin and Gladden and Second and Gladden). Mr. Treschow spoke to several people regarding the traffic study that Council put on the stop signs. Mr. Treschow stated it will not pass the study and a waste of \$1,000 to make that happen.

Mayor Rhome read Mr. Treschow's recommendations if Council does not proceed with the study: "The only other method from the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code is to designate Martin and Second as your through streets. This will allow you an additional stop sign on Gladden and also studies have proven that traffic speeds actually increase between stops signs when installed on a main street." Mayor Rhome stated the residents in that area have requested it. Mr. Russo stated Council approved putting the stop signs in, so it seems logical to change the designation unless there is a downside to that. Mr. McCombs stated he would look into if there was a downside to changing the designation.

-September 27th, from 10am to 2 pm at the Canonsburg Shop N Save is the Fall National Take Back Drug Program. The program has been successful in the past.

-On Thursday of the past week, Mayor Rhome participated in the Washington County Hazardous Litigation Process. It is mandatory participation and can affect the grant program if not attended.

Mayor Rhome informed Council of a 20 page form that needs to be completed. HMT, Mr. Treschow has completed in the past; he would like to provide to Mr. Kipp and Mr. Treschow for completion by the middle of October. Mr. Kipp stated that was fine, however, Mr. Kipp asked that the new EMC do this as it is his responsibility.

-Josh Bell, the Director of Canonsburg Ambulance, candidate for new Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Bell has many years of experience with Canonsburg Ambulance as well as with emergency medicine and some experience in emergency management. Mr. Bell is looking for residency in Canonsburg, works approximately 14 to 16 hours a day in town. Mayor Rhome stated that if there was an emergency, while Mr. Bell was not a resident in Canonsburg, Mr. Bell would make it his priority. Mayor Rhome proposed Mr. Bell as the new Emergency Management Director.

Motion to approve Mr. Josh Bell as the new Emergency Management Director.

Mr. Russo made the motion to approve Mr. Josh Bell as the new Emergency Management Director.

Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Council congratulated Mr. Bell.

-About a year and half ago, worked successfully with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to put on the force weights and measures of trucks for safety. Mayor Rhome stated there is funding for scales. Mayor Rhome stated he wanted Council from all three wards to be aware of what is being done. Mayor stated many trucks come through town overloaded and with many infractions which could be hazardous to residents. Mayor asked Council if they would like to move forward with the program or stay where at. Mayor Rhome stated the Borough would need to purchase the scales. Discussion was held on the Borough assisting North Strabane. Mrs. Coleman inquired if the Borough is assisting another borough, does the Borough get paid for that. Mayor Rhome stated it was mutual aide and will not be a “steady diet” of assisting. Mr. Bevec inquired if it excluded state roads; Mayor Rhome stated can go anywhere in the Commonwealth. Council had no concerns with proceeding.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

None

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

None

FINANCE REPORT:

Mrs. Coleman reported all bills and invoices were reviewed and ready for approval. She stated there were three checks that she had questions. She will review the checks with Denise. Everything else is in order.

1. General Fund
2. Waste Water Plant Operations
3. Garbage Service

4. Fireman Allocation

5. I & I

6. Capital Projects.

Motion by Mrs. Coleman to approve the bills with the exception of the three checks. Mr. McGarry seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Rich Russo - Yes

Fran Coleman - Yes

Joe McGarry - Yes

Tim Bilsky - Yes

Paul Sharkady - Yes

John Severine - Absent

John Bevec – Yes

6 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. McGarry stated he still has the Fire Department Report. Mr. McGarry did review the Canonsburg Ambulance Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Personnel issue to be discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Russo inquired about the street listing. Mr. Kipp will finalize the listing and email to Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Held at 7:49 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Submitted by: Michelle LoBello