

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Milioto at 7:00 P.M.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

IV. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Richard Russo, Paul Sharkady, Joseph Graff, Joseph Milioto, Patricia Romano, Fran Coleman, George Coleman, and John Bevec

Others Present:

Borough Manager Terry Hazlett, Attorney Patrick Derrico, and Mayor David H. Rhome (who joined the meeting at 7:30 P.M.)

Absent:

Allen J. Williams, Engineer Harvey Treschow, and Police Chief R. T. Bell

V. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Presentation to Town Park Volunteers – Mayor Rhome

This was handled after Public Comments. SEE Page 5, Item VII-A.

B. Presentation to Main Street Organization – Representative Brandon Neuman

Mrs. Pat Milioto, Chief of Staff for Representative Neuman, read and presented to Ms. Nadeen Steffey, Main Street Manager, a citation for Our Town, Incorporated, the Downtown Revitalization Program, which has earned both state and county awards.

(Applause)

Ms. Steffey thanked Representative Neuman and staff for recognizing the organization for its good works. She also acknowledged the volunteers, the Borough, the Board of Directors, and community at large.

(Applause)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. Ms. Gina Mark, of 120 East Murdock Street, approached Council in reference to problems with a local establishment

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 2 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

on Murdock Street. She said that she and the neighbors do not want them to leave the neighborhood; they just want them to participate in policing the problem. Ms. Mark said they are asking that the management of the club take responsibility and be outside to police their own patrons instead of just escorting them out of the building. She requested that this be done on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

Problems mentioned were:

1. Gunfire
2. Littering (beer bottles)
3. Fighting and yelling at 3:00 A.M.

Other issues Ms. Mark brought up were:

1. Traffic on Murdock Street
Requested speed bumps to protect children.
2. Hutchinson Avenue
Requested that it not be blocked for safety reasons.

- B. Mr. Dan Briner, of 140 Murdock Street, informed Council that they have seen conditions at Canon Lodge deteriorate over the last couple years to the point that it has become intolerable. He said he gets tired of calling 911 to stop a fight on the street, picking up live ammunition from his front yard on Sunday morning, and pulling trash from his front yard.

Mr. Briner asked Council to work with Mayor Rhome to get more police presence in the Murdock Street area, to enforce parking issues in and around Hutchinson, and to examine Hutchinson to see if it should become a one-way street or if parking should be eliminated.

Mr. Briner shares Ms. Mark's concern for safety and emergency vehicles.

- C. Miss Hannah Wudkwyh, (Ms. Mark's daughter), who

(continued)

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

also resides at 120 East Murdock Street, voiced her concerns about what has been happening on her street. Miss Wudkwyh informed Council that there are many nights when she baby-sits on the street, and she does not feel safe any more. She stated that she is 17 years old, and it just doesn't seem fair that she doesn't feel safe in her own home or her neighbor's home.

Miss Wudkwyh added that she used to live in the country and felt safer there than she does in Canonsburg. She likes Canonsburg, but there is a problem with no one actively trying to fight it. She said that if she doesn't feel safe, then who will protect the older people (like her grandmother) who live on this street when it takes officers 10 – 15 minutes to get there when 911 is called.

Mr. Milioto informed the Murdock Street residents that there was a meeting last week when this issue was discussed extensively. He will ask Mayor Rhome to discuss what transpired when he joins the meeting tonight.

- D. Ms. Ruth Blackmon, of 303 McNary Street, a school crossing guard for Canon-McMillan School District at the four-way corner of North Central and College, informed Council that there is no school zone there and expressed concerns about vehicles speeding and the safety of the children. She asked Council to give her something that lights up or flashes.

Mr. Milioto said he would like to have the Public Safety Department work with Ms. Blackmon, the Borough Manager, the Mayor, and the Police Department to try to determine the best possible solution.

Mr. Milioto also asked the Public Safety Department to investigate the situation at Hutchinson and Murdock.

- E. Mr. Dane Cole, of 609 Homewood Drive, Penn Hills, is

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 4 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

the Exalted Ruler of Canon Lodge 186 on Murdock Street. He informed Council that about three weeks ago he went to the Police Department and asked if they could beef up the patrols around the lodge. He said he spoke with the Chief, the Mayor, and Inspector Coleman last Wednesday, and they said they would do it. Mr. Cole stated that the Chief did not know that the Lodge had requested this previously.

Mr. Cole informed Council that Canon Lodge has been in the neighborhood for over 100 years. He said they are very good to the neighbors. If anything happens within the yards, they police the area and clean it up. Mr. Cole stated that it's hard to control what's happening outside after hours, and this is why they asked for beefed up patrols.

Mr. Cole said he assured the Mayor at the meeting that the Lodge is hiring two state constables at the rate of \$20.00 per hour to patrol their area when they are having DJ nights, etc. In addition, they have purchased cameras to be posted outside of the Lodge to protect the neighbors.

Mr. Cole and other officers of the Lodge were present tonight to talk with Council and the neighbors. He said they are truly sorry for any problem that has come about, and they are working on this and will continue to do so. Mr. Cole stated that the elements they are having are not from Canonsburg, but that's an income they need to have in order to survive. They are trying to control this.

Discussion was held between Council members, Lodge members, and the residents.

Mr. Cole gave Ms. Mark his personal phone number where he can be reached.

- F. Mr. Aaron Serbak, of 330 Euclid Avenue, stated that he and his parents are requesting a delayed light at Weavertown Road turning left onto Morganza Road because there's not enough time for a sufficient number of cars to turn the light there from

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 5 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

the streets coming out by McDonald's and Pizza Hut. Three cars can get through, and the light turns red again. During rush hour there are about 50 cars lined up.

NOTE: Mayor Rhome joined the meeting at this point.

Mr. Milioto replied that, unfortunately, coming down Weaver-town Road and making a right onto Morganza Road is North Strabane Township. The Borough has had some discussions with them on this matter. This is a PennDOT issue. He said that all of Council agrees that there is a traffic problem in that location. The State Representatives and Senators have been approached about this, as well as PennDOT.

Mr. Hazlett added that he has personally called PennDOT at least three or four times this year but gets no response. A letter has been sent to them, but he would be glad to send them another letter and stress the urgency of getting something done.

Mr. Milioto suggested that the Serbak family also address North Strabane Township Supervisors regarding this matter, as it would help if both communities try to work together.

VII. PRESENTATION: (Continued from PAGE 1, ITEM V-A)

A. Presentation to Ruth Blackmon – Mayor Rhome

Mayor Rhome asked Mr. Milioto and Mr. Graff to join him. The Mayor honored Ms. Ruth Blackmon with a certificate for her outstanding service to the Borough of Canonsburg by going above and beyond the call of duty as a school crossing guard to help an injured student.

(Applause)

Ms. Blackmon expressed thanks to God and explained what transpired during the incident. She also thanked the Mayor and Council.

(Applause)

Ms. Blackmon also acknowledged a partner, Kathy, who stands down at the other corner at the school.

(Applause)

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 6 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Ms. Blackmon gave credit to all the other crossing guards.
(Applause)

VIII. OPENING OF OFFERS FOR TWO BOROUGH PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hazlett explained that these are both very small parcels of property that The Borough tried to sell three or four years ago, but there were no takers. These two offers came in the same week.

Mr. Hazlett read the following offers:

- A. 619 Chartiers Avenue, Lot Number 14
Ellen Kristen, Salem, Ohio -- \$2,500.00

Mr. Hazlett explained that this lot is adjacent to her property. The Borough maintains this property.

- B. 623 Adams Avenue
Ken Zolick -- \$500.00

Mr. Hazlett explained that Mr. Zolick owns 623 Adams, and he has been maintaining the lawn of the parcel next to his property because he thought he owned it. After looking at the survey, he realized the parcel belonged to the Borough. Mr. Hazlett stated that this is a piece of property that should have been maintained by the Borough.

Mr. Graff motioned to accept the offers of \$2,500.00 for 619 Chartiers Avenue and \$500.00 for 623 Adams Avenue and authorized the Solicitor to prepare the deeds.

Mrs. Romano seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

Richard Russo	Yes
Paul Sharkady	Yes
Joseph Graff	Yes
Allen J. Williams	Absent
Patricia Romano	Yes
Fran Coleman	Yes
George Coleman	Yes
John Bevec	Yes
Joseph Milioto	Yes

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 7 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Eight Yes, Zero No, One Absent.

Motion carried.

IX. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

- A. Mr. Milioto thanked Ms. Blackmon and her partner (Kathy) for their service to Canonsburg.
- C. Mr. Milioto said that coming together with the residents and the Lodge shows that the residents of Canonsburg can get along. He asked them to continue with the dialogue. He advised them to alert Council or the Police Department if there are still problems.

X. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rhome reported on the following:

- A. Parking Department Report – In Council's packets
- B. Police Department Report
The Mayor read the September report.
- C. Class for guards presented by AAA. Certificates will be presented in the near future.
- D. Incident involving a man who is living in McKees Rocks and is wanted by federal authorities. High speed chase and pursuit resulted in apprehension on interstate.
- E. Shots fired into 601 Marple Avenue Structure – Several people have been arrested.
- F. Reported on meeting held last week in his office with officers of Canon Lodge in reference to issues on Murdock Street. (Also in attendance at that meeting were the Police Chief and Deputy Chief,) Mayor Rhome discussed the situation with the Murdock Street residents and answered their questions.
Discussion was held.

XI. VOTING ITEMS:

- A. Approval of Minutes
Mr. Graff motioned to approve the September 19, 2011 minutes of the Canonsburg Borough Council Regular Meeting.
Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 8 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Remarks: Mr. Coleman stated that he will be opposing this motion, and he objects to the contents of Pages 4, 5, and 6. He said he didn't think some of those things were said. They certainly weren't meant to be taken out of context as they were. Mr. Coleman stated that it's a personal nature that doesn't involve Council. It involves two individuals, and he is taking steps to try to correct that.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

John Bevec	Yes
George Coleman	No
Fran Coleman	Yes
Patricia Romano	Yes
Allen J. Williams	Absent
Joseph Graff	Yes
Paul Sharkady	Yes
Richard Russo	Yes
Joseph Milioto	Yes

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Seven Yes, One No, One Absent. Motion carried.

B. Motion to Advertise Amendment

Mr. Bevec motioned to approve advertising an amendment to establish weight limit of 15 tons on Gladden Road and McEwen Avenue.

Mr. Graff seconded the motion.

Remarks: Mr. Sharkady made reference to a previous discussion when the number was between 15 and 18 tons. Because 18 tons only limited one year off the life of a roadway, he didn't see any difference between making it 18 tons instead of 15 tons.

Mr. Sharkady also felt that it would better serve some of our business people in town who deliver on those streets. .

Mr. Graff stated that it was said that the roads would be 20 years, and it would knock off one year. He stated that no road around here lasts 20 years.

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 9 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Milioto explained that in the discussion last week, with the vehicles that had been discussed, the heavy vehicles exceed both 15 and 18 tons.

Mr. Bevec said the recommendation of the engineer was to support 15 tons.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

Richard Russo	Yes
Paul Sharkady	No
Joseph Graff	Yes
Allen J. Williams	Absent
Patricia Romano	Yes
Fran Coleman	Yes
George Coleman	No
John Bevec	Yes
Joseph Milioto	Yes

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Six Yes, Two No, One Absent.
Motion carried.

C. Motion to Approve Tentative Contract

Mr. Russo motioned to approve a tentative contract with Canonsburg Police Department for 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Mr. Graff seconded the motion.

Remarks: Mr. Russo felt it would be fair to give Council an opportunity to review the document before making a motion because all of Council just received the basis of the tentative agreement that was discussed last week verbally and because the Police Department has not responded with their approval of the tentative agreement. He stated that it clearly spells out the changes the tentative agreement addresses. Mr. Russo said he would like to table this for another month.

Mr. Hazlett reported that he got comments from Mr. Coghill and Mr. Ledger who both verbally said that there was a tentative agreement with the police. However, nothing has been received in writing.

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 10 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Milioto asked Attorney Derrico, since Mr. Russo made the motion, if he could table it.

Attorney Derrico replied that he could, or the motion could be passed subject to receiving a written letter from the Negotiating Committee of the Police Department. If their authorization is never received, the motion would not go into effect. If the motion is tabled, Council would have to wait another month to vote on it.

Mr. Russo decided to amend his motion.

Mr. Russo motioned to approve a tentative contract with Canonsburg Police for 2012, 2013, and 2014 subject to written approval from the Canonsburg Police Department's Negotiating Committee.

Mr. Graff seconded the motion.

Remarks: Mr. Milioto asked if anyone on Council had any questions about any of the articles in the document in front of them.

Mr. Sharkady asked if what they have are excerpts from the tentative contract.

Mr. Russo confirmed this.

Mr. Sharkady stated that he would like to see the entire contract to review it before he votes on just a couple lines from the contract.

Mr. Milioto asked Mr. Russo (who had been on the Negotiating Team) if it was correct that the contract is exactly the same except for these changes.

Mr. Russo replied that this was correct. Each one of the articles and sections highlighted in this document have been changed as described. There are 14 articles and sections that have been changed.

Mr. Russo asked Mr. Hazlett if he had copies of the contract to give to Mr. Sharkady.

Mr. Hazlett replied that he has copies of the 2008 contract.

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 11 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The new one has not been written.

Mr. Russo added that the new one won't be written until these changes are in place.

Mr. Sharkady's response was that he has the old contract, but he won't vote on the new one until he sees everything that's in the contract.

Mr. Russo explained that the contract won't be written until Council tentatively agrees to the changes. Then Council will vote on the contract itself. The Police Department also agrees on a tentative agreement. Once both groups agree to a tentative agreement, a written document/contract will be in place, and both groups will vote on the final written document. The reason for this is due to the expense on the part of both groups. Mr. Sharkady has questions about some of the changes and would rather wait for the full contract so he can really go over the contract and see exactly what it says. He understands what Mr. Russo is explaining, but sometimes it doesn't really happen. Things that are on this document may not appear in the contract, and there may be some other things that aren't in the document that will appear on the contract.

Mr. Russo responded by stating that if the tentative agreements are not on the contract, Council won't approve it. If something new slides under the carpet, Council wouldn't approve it.

Mr. Milioto called for a vote on the motion.

Mrs. Coleman asked for clarification of number 5.

Mr. Russo explained that under the current contract, once an officer reaches the age of 65, the Borough would cover one-half of the medical expense for life. The change is that anyone currently under that coverage remains under that coverage.

Mr. Sharkady said that it doesn't state this.

Mr. Russo continued by saying that anybody who is non-eligible for Medicare who was hired prior to 1987 would continue to have that coverage, even if they're not retired now. Officers hired after

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 12 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1987 are eligible for Medicare.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

John Bevec	Yes
George Coleman	No
Fran Coleman	Yes
Patricia Romano	Yes
Allen J. Williams	Absent
Joseph Graff	Yes
Paul Sharkady	No
Richard Russo	Yes
Joseph Milioto	Yes

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Six Yes, Two No, One Absent. Motion carried.

D. Borough Manager's Report

Mr. Bevec motioned to approve the Manager's report of October 10, 2011.

Mr. Graff seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

E. Mr. Sharkady said he wasn't in attendance at last week's meeting and didn't know what was discussed in reference to the Borough borrowing \$400,000 for a matching grant of CDGB money of \$250,000 to renovate the Borough building.

Mr. Sharkady moved that the Borough borrow \$400,000 and add it to the CDGB money for a matching grant to get started on renovating the Borough building, bring it up to ADA standards, including entrances and bathrooms.

Mr. Coleman seconded the motion.

Remarks: Mr. Milioto reviewed for Mr. Sharkady what transpired at last week's meeting. This was tentatively to be on the agenda for a vote this week, but the Finance Director wanted it postponed to the budget hearings.

Mr. Milioto's comment was if you don't borrow it, you can't fix anything.

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Discussion was held pertaining to concern for the Police Department in their new quarters and the need for privacy of all parties involved, funding, the need to know terms and repayment of the loan, impact on next year's budget, wish lists, responsibility of Council, generator, music museum (handicap accessibility wouldn't work), command center, feasibility study, use of local share money, energy conservation, and the need for public restrooms.

Further discussion was held pertaining to the motion.

Mr. Coleman rescinded his second to the motion.

Attorney Derrico recommended taking the motion off the table, have someone refer it to the Budget Committee, take it up again two weeks from now, with the possibility of resolving it in November. He also advised, as Mr. Russo had suggested, the motion could also include looking into the possibility of the terms of a loan to finance the remodeling of the building. Attorney Derrico stated that Mr. Sharkady could make a motion to look into the terms of the possibility of a \$400,000 bond issue for the purpose of remodeling the building and refer this to the Budget Committee.

Further discussion was held.

Mr. Sharkady rescinded the motion.

Mr. Russo motioned that the Finance Chair investigate the feasibility of borrowing \$400,000 in order to move this project forward.

Mr. Bevec seconded the motion.

Remarks: Mr. Sharkady stated that this has been discussed for months with the Building Committee, and it isn't going anywhere. He said he doesn't look for this building to be renovated at all. Mr. Sharkady said he thinks everything is going to fall through the cracks, and Council isn't going to do anything.

Mr. Milioto remarked that he sympathizes with the people who

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 14 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

took the time to put into this Building Committee. There were a lot of hours and conversations. However, as everything in this world works, all the questions come after the meeting that nobody wanted to attend in the first place. He thanked Mr. Sharkady for his service.

Mr. Sharkady said that the whole committee, as well as Mr. Hazlett, did a lot of work on this. He felt that to be working on it for that long of a period and nothing coming to fruit from it is very disgusting.

Mr. Milioto again stressed that these questions should have been asked at the meeting.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

Richard Russo	Yes
Paul Sharkady	Yes
Joseph Graff	Yes
Allen J. Williams	Absent
Patricia Romano	Yes
Fran Coleman	Yes
George Coleman	Yes
John Bevec	Yes
Joseph Milioto	Yes

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Eight Yes, Zero No, One Absent.

XII. FINANCE REPORT:

A. Presentation of Bills for Approval – Richard Russo

Mr. Russo reported that he and Ms. Lesnock approved all the bills. A new line item has been started for the project. Mr. Russo motioned to approve the bills, which include the following:

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

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 15 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

5. I & I

6. Capitol Projects

Mr. Bevec seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

John Bevec	Yes
George Coleman	Yes
Fran Coleman	Yes
Patricia Romano	Yes
Allen J. Williams	Absent
Joseph Graff	Yes
Paul Sharkady	Yes
Richard Russo	Yes
Joseph Milioto	Yes

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Eight Yes, Zero No, One Absent. Motion carried.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Public Safety

Mr. Graff read the Fire Department reports for August and September.

August -- 11 Calls – Total Damages: \$- 0 -

September – 21 Calls – Total Damages: \$5,000.00

Mayor Rhome added that Fire Prevention Week started today. Firemen have been in the schools, and will be all week, to help educate the children.

B. Parks and Recreation

Mrs. Coleman reported on the Board's meeting. They're still trying to address the noise from the skate park. They are also trying to resolve the deficit.

Discussion was held.

C. Redevelopment

Mr. Russo asked about the status of Park and Church Way.

Mr. Hazlett reported that they started Franklin but not the other two.

(continued)

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG - 16 - MINUTES OF OCT. 10, 2011
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Discussion was held.

Mr. Russo asked for an update on the projects.

Mr. Hazlett will contact the Redevelopment Authority tomorrow.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Mrs. Romano asked about the status of Councilman Williams.

Mr. Milioto replied that he is still a Councilman until a letter of resignation is received.

Discussion was held.

B. Mr. Bevec requested an Executive Session.

C. Discussion was held pertaining to the new line item for renovation of the Borough building and handling of the project.

D. Mr. Sharkady stated that the No Parking from Here to Corner sign on Central has not been installed yet. The curb has been painted yellow, but it's not in good shape.

Discussion was held pertaining to this matter and the parking issue.

Mayor Rhome felt that a responsible solution can be reached between Mr. Graff, the Chief, and himself.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session was held from 9:25 P.M. to 9:34 P.M.

No action was taken after the Executive Session.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Russo motioned to adjourn.

Mr. Bevec seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Mary A. Solomon

ATTACHMENTS:

None

