

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 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:

Paul Sharkady, Joseph Graff, Allen J. Williams, Joseph Milioto, Patricia Romano, Fran Coleman, George Coleman, and Michael Kazmarski

Others Present:

Borough Manager Terry Hazlett, Assistant Borough Manager Denise Lesnock, Attorney Patrick Derrico, Mayor David H. Rhome, and Police Chief R. T. Bell

Absent:

Richard Russo and Engineer Harvey Treschow

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. Mr. Anthony Ross, of 831 Frederick Court in the Second Ward, Telephone Number 724-825-5538, stated that he couldn't find any information in the Borough budget concerning the sanitation account, such as the contract, bids, and number of households paying into it. On February 9<sup>th</sup> Mr. Ross spoke with the Tax Collector (Mr. Maceiko) who informed him that this is a separate account and would not give him any information.

Mr. Ross made reference to the outstanding arrearages of approximately \$100,000 in uncollected garbage bills and the balance in the fund and asked Council for consideration to possibly reduce the cost of citizens' pick up service. He also requested information pertaining to the amount of the bid and the balance in the sanitation account.

Mr. Milioto informed Mr. Ross that the account is separate and is not included in the General Fund. He asked Attorney Derrico if it is a requirement to disclose the balance in the account.

Attorney Derrico replied that this is covered under the Sunshine

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Act, and if Mr. Ross would make a written request, the Borough would have to give him the best available records within ten days after receipt of the request.

Mr. Milioto asked Mr. Ross if he had submitted a written request. He did not but is willing to do so.

Mr. Hazlett would be happy to comply with this request and said he can also give Mr. Ross a copy of the contract.

Further discussion was held.

Mr. Ross stated that his main concern is reducing the overall rate for the citizens.

Mr. Williams explained that there was an increase in garbage fees in this contract because the increase was not included in the previous contract. Waste Management is still the low bid, but it included the annual increase plus making up for the previous increase that they had not included.

Mr. Coleman added that what residents are charged comes from what the contractor charges the Borough for pick up. All the information is in the Borough office.

- B. Ms. Theresa Matusca, of 334 West College Street, informed Council that she was present as a representative for Strawberry Alley – the section between Bluff and Hutchinson. She said she is aware that the weather has taken a toll on the street. She prepared the following count of houses and dwellings that are directly related and serviced by the small alley:

There are 8 houses whose garages/driveways are directly accessed, and they face Hawthorne. 6 dwellings that access driveways and garage areas that face West College Street.

There are 5 apartment dwellings that also face West College Street and use Strawberry Alley to access their driveway and parking. 2 houses face Strawberry Alley and park on Strawberry Alley. One home faces Hutchinson, and the gentleman parks on Strawberry Alley. In addition, Frazier Heating and Plumbing has their 3-car garage on Strawberry Alley.

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Ms. Matusca stated that if everyone had one vehicle per dwelling, it would total 22 vehicles. There is a lot of traffic. This is also where Waste Management has to collect garbage. She informed Council that the condition of the road is the worst she has ever seen it in the 20 years she has lived there. One section is so bad that you have to drive around it to avoid damaging your vehicle. Mr. Kazmarski informed Ms. Matusca that he will look at the road tomorrow, but the best that can be done is to cold patch it as temporary asphalt. When the warm weather first comes around, they can put asphalt down at that time to make it permanent.

- C. Mr. Steve Lucas, of 708 Alpine Drive, was in attendance representing his father, who received a sidewalk notice. He asked what process is being used – if this is being done Borough-wide, or if certain people are being targeted.

Mr. Milioto replied that Council does not have a process. He asked if anyone on Council instituted this initiative.

Mr. Milioto asked Mr. Lucas about the fine listed on the notice. Mr. Lucas informed him that it's \$300 per day if not repaired by June 30, 2011.

Mr. Milioto asked again if anyone on Council initiated this.

Mr. Coleman said that all of Council is not present tonight. He said he was at a meeting last Tuesday when this surfaced, and he asked Mr. Hazlett if he was present. The Code Enforcement people brought it up

Mr. Hazlett confirmed that he was in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Coleman stated that the Code Enforcement people brought this up. There was some question on it, and answers were given.

Mr. Coleman explained that this initiative came from a Council person to the Borough Manager and the Code Enforcement people. The Code Enforcement people had those notices with them when they went around. Mr. Coleman suggested that perhaps Mr. Hazlett could shed some light on this.

Mr. Milioto informed Mr. Lucas that anyone who meets the income

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limits can put the sidewalk in and it can be put through Redevelopment.

Mr. Lucas asked what options the people have. He said they have no problem fixing the sidewalk as long as it's being handled uniformly across the board. Mr. Lucas asked what options senior citizens with limited funds have with Redevelopment.

Mr. Milioto replied that if they fall within income limits, the sidewalks can be fixed, and their forgiveness would be the time that they live there. For those who do not fall in the guidelines, Mr. Milioto suggested they go to the Code Enforcement office and get some answers from them. Then perhaps it can be brought back to Council to see what Council wants to do.

Mr. Lucas asked about the \$300 per day fine and whether extensions can be given.

Mrs. Romano informed Mr. Lucas she will look into this.

Mr. Hazlett addressed Mr. Lucas' questions. He informed him that the attempt is being made to make this Borough-wide. It was started last fall with College Street because the street was redone. It was advertised last November in the newspaper and the web site that the Borough was going to pursue this the second week of February by surveying the streets. In the past few days the streets that have been done are Blaine, Chartiers, Duquesne, Euclid, and Franklin. The attempt will be made over the next month to hit all of the Borough streets.

In reference to the question pertaining to extensions, Mr. Hazlett stated that they did give people on College Street some extensions. If people call and ask for an extension, they will get it. The Ordinance states \$300 per day. Mr. Hazlett said they will work with everyone.

Mr. Williams said it comes across to him that, for some reason, East End gets hit the hardest pertaining to Code Enforcement. Last summer it was the issue of the swimming pools in Apple Hill. Now we're starting in the oldest part of town. He said he didn't

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understand why they started on Adams Avenue. He asked how many sidewalks were passed from here to East End that were never marked. He felt the beginning should have been on Green-side, Pike Street, and all the streets in front of the Borough Building that are now being used by people on a daily basis. East End is the most elderly part of the community. Mr. Williams stated that he doesn't understand why we're citing people for a 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch of a gap or 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch raise on their sidewalks or spray painting sidewalks.

Mr. Milioto stated that the Ordinance needs to be revisited. Further discussion was held.

- D. Mr. Steve Lucas (708 Alpine Drive) thanked Mr. Hazlett, Mayor Rhome, and Chief Bell on the School District side pertaining to traffic issues on College Street/Central Avenue at the old Armory/Middle School. Two students were actually hit getting in and out of cars during school drop off and pick up. The Safety Committee from the School District met with Mr. Hazlett, the Mayor donated some time, and the Chief came down, and some very positive movement has been made on Central Avenue. The police have been up there, and Mr. Lucas said he has noticed some significant changes in the traffic patterns. Everything is working out better. Mr. Lucas again expressed his thanks.
- E. Mr. John Severine, of East End, addressed Council pertaining to the subject of sidewalks. He said they green painted his sidewalk, and there is nothing wrong with it at all. It could be raised from expansion from the cold in the winter. Mr. Severine said he looked at every street. They skipped Adams, went to Blaine, and they don't do every house. They skip and miss. If they're going to do their job right, they have to go to every single house. If they're going to do every house, they need to do the city also. Mr. Severine made reference to the playground on Franklin, Perry Como, and Giffin. He said that what is going to happen is the Borough will come to the citizens and say that

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they don't have money in the budget and can't do the sidewalks and the streets.

In reference to getting free money from the government (Redevelopment), Mr. Severine said the guideline is \$30,000 annually. He asked about the person who makes \$32,000, has a back mortgage he can't pay and can't get a loan at the bank, and the Borough is going to fine him \$300 a day. Mr. Severine stated that this is not right.

Mr. Milioto replied that he agrees with him.

Mr. Severine said he knows that Mr. Russo is the one who started with the Code Enforcement, as he checked into this. He said if you're going to show the people, you have to do it yourself. If you're not doing it yourself, you can't come after the people.

Mr. Milioto informed Mr. Severine that Council will take this matter up and talk about it.

- F. Mr. Matt Shire (?) of 404 Blaine Avenue presented a picture to pass around showing an example of what he said is nit picking. He said whoever is doing this is doing it pathetically. If they came by and spray painted his sidewalk and he was at home, he would have the police there. This is a form of vandalism. In reference to the \$300 a day fine, the web site states the deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup> – not June 30<sup>th</sup>. He said Council needs to let some things slide. If there's a sidewalk that's not exactly perfect, let it go. He stated that the picture he presented is of his sidewalk, and it just shows how pathetic they're trying to be. It is not right to go on someone's sidewalk and spray paint it. Mr. Milioto asked if that's what is being done – spray painting. Mr. Hazlett replied that it's not a permanent spray paint; it will come off in a day or two. It is to show the home owner where the damage is. Mr. Shire said if it's anything like what was put on the guard-rail at the steps the Borough abandoned, it's permanent – and

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it's hideous looking.

Mr. Milioto again informed the citizens who were present pertaining to the sidewalk issue that Council will be revisiting this matter. He said it would behoove the people who qualify to actually apply for the process.

VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Milioto wished the ladies in the audience a Happy Valentine's Day.

VII. VOTING ITEMS:

A. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kazmarski motioned to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2011 Regular Meeting of Canonsburg Borough Council.

Mr. Graff seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Appointment to Uniform Construction Code Board

Mr. Graff motioned to appoint Richard Russo to the Uniform Construction Code Board through January 1, 2014.

Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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

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

C. Amendment to Solid Waste Ordinance

Mr. Graff motioned to adopt an amendment to the Solid Waste Ordinance, Section 144-18, Paragraph B.

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Mr. Kazmarski seconded the motion.

Remarks: Mr. Hazlett explained that a change was made from occupant or occupants to owner or owners. (The “occupants” portion was removed.)

Mr. Williams asked if a copy of the bill is being sent to the occupants and expressed his concern about tenants getting a blind bill from the landlord.

Mr. Hazlett replied that this can be done. He said he talked with Mr. Maceiko after Monday’s meeting, and in some cases, both the landlord and the tenants are already getting the bills.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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

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

VIII. FINANCE REPORT:

A. Presentation of Bills for Approval

Mr. Hazlett informed Council that Mr. Russo was in the office today, checked all the bills, and okayed them all for approval.

Mr. Williams motioned to approve the bills, which includes the following:

1. General Fund
2. Waste Water Plant Operations
3. Garbage Service
4. Fireman Allocation
5. I & I
6. Capital Projects

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Mr. Kazmarski seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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

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

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Handicapped Sign Applications

Mayor Rhome reported on two applications:

1. Gene V. Centore – 515 Giffin Avenue

The Mayor visited with Mr. Centore, who is disabled, and found that there should be no hardship putting a sign at that location.

Mr. Williams motioned to approve a Handicapped Sign at 515 Giffin Avenue for Mr. Gene V. Centore. Mr. Coleman seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Lee Wilson – 227 Vine Street

Mayor Rhome mentioned the fact that there isn't enough parking on Vine Street and cautioned Council to keep an eye on this situation so everyone doesn't want his or her own private parking space. The Mayor reported that this person meets the criteria, and he recommends approval of this application.

Mr. Kazmarski explained the handling of the last one installed on Vine Street. A temporary spot was made

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which allows them to load and unload, and the vehicle then gets parked in the its normal parking space.

Mayor Rhome said that, from his observation, the same option is not available.

Mr. Kazmarski suggested that he could get together with Public Safety, the Mayor, and the Chief to investigate this situation.

Discussion was held.

Mr. Coleman motioned to approve the application of Lee Wilson of 227 Vine Street for a Handicapped Sign pending the findings of the investigation by Public Works.

Mr. Kazmarski seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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

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

X. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Intersections – Brought Up by Mr. Kazmarski

Mr. Kazmarski has observed a lot of people running red lights. He asked the Mayor and Police Chief if the police officers could start watching intersections for red light runners if their schedules permit doing so.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session dealing with personnel and personnel policy began at 7:45 P.M.

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No action was taken after the Executive Session.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 P.M.

Mary A. Solomon

ATTACHMENTS:

None