

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 14, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mr. Bevec asked that everyone remember Mr. Graff on the passing of his wife.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

IV. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Richard Russo, Paul Sharkady, Joseph McGarry, John Bevec, Patricia Romano, Fran Coleman, Timothy Bilsky, and Mont Miller

Others Present:

Borough Manager Terry Hazlett, Engineer Harvey Treschow, Attorney Patrick Derrico, Mayor David H. Rhome, and Police Chief R. T. Bell

Absent:

Joseph Graff

V. GUESTS:

A. Swearing In of New Part-Time Police Officers

Mayor Rhome introduced the new part-time Police Officers, Ashley Lynn Price and Thomas Emanuel O'Rourke, after which he performed the swearing-in ceremony.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. Mr. Robert Stopperich, of 450 Linden Road, Telephone Number 724-745-6909, registered a complaint about the conditions that exist at the Gardens on East Pike Street and urged Council not to approve any bills for the grass cutting at the Gardens because they look like they haven't been weeded, curbs haven't been trimmed front and back and parallel to the railroad track. There are papers, pop, beer cans, wood, and a lot of trash laying around, even though mowing was done today at the Gardens.

Mr. Stopperich added that the veterans and the American Legion Association would be very upset that the flags and

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markers that were there were laying on the ground. He said he realizes that the people who cut the grass there are not from this country and really don't know what to do with them, but he thinks it's a disgrace that the flags were laying on the ground. Mr; Stopperich stated that he picked them up and put them back where they belonged. He also informed Council that he noticed there was no supervision there for the people who were cutting the grass. There are also grass clippings laying on the road. This does not help in the beautification of Canonsburg. Mr. Stopperich had pictures on his cell phone and offered to let Council view them.

- B. Mr. William Missel, of 333 North Jefferson Avenue, approached Council in reference to vehicles being parked on the sidewalk in the 300 block of North Jefferson Avenue when there's a motorcycle already on the sidewalk and no one can get around the vehicles. He said they park both with and against traffic. His vehicle has been hit a few times. Mr. Missel informed Council that he asked the Borough forty years ago to open the back alleyway, but it still isn't done. People cannot walk on the sidewalks, and he felt that something should be done about this. Mr. Missel has talked with the Mayor and Chief of Police, who directed him to bring this matter to Council.

Mr. Bevec informed him that this matter will be referred to Public Safety and Mr. Graff when he returns.

Mayor Rhome will also work on this situation with Public Safety.

- C/ Mr. Joseph Milioto, of 151 Smith Street, informed Council that he was speaking on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Alvarez, Mr. Amorose, Mr. Chappo, Mr. DiPiazza, and himself – all residents in the vicinity of St. Genevieve's Church. Mr. Milioto made reference to Chapter 102 of the Canons-

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burg Ordinance pertaining to grading and excavating. He said a company came into town with 5 or 6 pieces of heavy equipment and started working on the St. Genevieve block. Calls were made to the Borough Office. Mr. Milioto said he talked personally with Dan, asked if they had a permit to do excavation and was informed they did. When Mr. Milioto asked him if the permit was in the office, Dan informed him it was not and referred him to the Engineer. A few of the other residents called also asking about the permit, but everything was "iffy". Mr. Milioto read a portion of the Ordinance pertaining to what must be done when landscaping is disturbed, and that a plan is required. He said that no one knows if there is a plan. Mr. Milioto stated that when Mrs. Alvarez called someone alerted her that they looked at it and it's okay with them. He said this couldn't have been an engineer. Mr. Milioto said there must be a 5 to 7 per cent slope where they asphalted or paved, and it looks good. However, it has broken loose. Now the water on the southeast corner overflows, goes through their grassy area, and deposits water on the Borough alleyway. Now there will be water and possibly damage to 6 properties. This will cause ice conditions in the winter. Mr. Milioto read from the Ordinance activities that require a grading permit: Drainage, drawings, where the water is going to go, and what is going to be done about it. He said there is a storm sewer there, and it would have been very easy to connect to it. However, this company decided to do what they want in Canonsburg. He read additional pertinent information from the Ordinance. Mr. Bevec asked Mr. Treschow for his input. Mr. Treschow explained that they got involved after this was already in motion. He said they told the contractor at

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the time that it probably wasn't going to be acceptable. They are not going to be able to get an Occupancy Permit until it's corrected, and a letter was sent out to the effect last week. They were given two weeks to correct it.

Further discussion was held pertaining to permits

- D. Mr. Robert Luksis, of 230 Belmont Avenue, informed Council that he was present to officially request tracking crime of owner-occupied rental properties after the unfortunate incident that occurred last week. This situation must be controlled. The Borough's number one expenditure is the police force. He said that we need to be able to say to the non-owner occupied properties that they represent 50 to 80 per cent of the police calls in this Borough. Mr. Luksis stated that the home owners are basically subsidizing police protection to the rental properties, and that's not fair. There's no way to justify this. Therefore, Mr. Luksis requested that it be documented in the police reports whether the properties are rental or owner-occupied. Hopefully, this problem will go away. If it does not, we'll be able to tell the landlords that 75 per cent of our police calls are going to rental properties, and we cannot afford to subsidize this police coverage moving forward. Mr. Luksis said all he is asking that everyone pay their fair share.

Mayor Rhome stated that if Council decides to go in this direction, the software must be checked to see if it is capable or if another file can be created for this.

Chief Bell said they had a staff meeting this morning, and he turned this over to Code. One of the things they discovered when they were on the call referenced by Mr. Luksis was that there was no rear exit to that apartment. When someone was breaking in their front door, there was no place for the occupants to run if they wanted to run. Code Officers are going to look at this.

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Chief Bell added that this was not a random home invasion; they knew where they were going.

- E. Ms. Rose Sokor, of 31 South Alley, Taylorstown, Phone Number 724-948-3670, approached Council in reference to rental property she owns on Highland Avenue in Canonsburg. There is a paper alley between this home and another house. Her tenant is handicapped and on oxygen. When they bring the oxygen, they can't bring it up the front street and need to use the alley. However, the lady in the other house won't let them in the alley. Ms. Sokor went to an attorney in 2007, who checked this out, drew up papers and sent a copy to the neighbor. She still insists the alley is hers and blocks it so no one can get through it. Attorney Derrico stated that this is a private issue, and Ms. Sokor's lawyer could do something with that alley without Council being involved. He said the Borough has no jurisdiction unless it's a public safety issue, and he (Attorney Derrico) does not deem it to be a public safety issue. He suggested that Ms. Sokor have her attorney contact him.

VII. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Bevec had nothing to report at this time.

VIII. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rhome reported on the following items:

- A. Police Report for April, 2012
- B. Parking Enforcement Department Report
- C. Incident at 603 South Central Avenue
The Mayor and Chief Bell both reported on this matter.
- D. Barr Street Issue – Seems to be under control
- E. Murdock Street Issue
- F. National Take Back Program from DEA
- G. Canon-McMillan School District – Teen Date Violence
- H. Mr. Russo commended Chief Bell, the Police Department,

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and Mayor Rhome for a job well done handling the incident on South Central Avenue. No shots were fired and there were no injuries.

IX. VOTING ITEMS:

A. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Russo motioned to approve the April 9, 2012 minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council.

Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Appointment to Uniform Construction Code Board

Mr. McGarry motioned to appoint Ken McWilliams to the Uniform Construction Code Board.

Mrs. Romano seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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|-----------------|--------|
| Richard Russo | Yes |
| Paul Sharkady | Yes |
| Joseph Graff | Absent |
| Joseph McGarry | Yes |
| Patricia Romano | Yes |
| Fran Coleman | Yes |
| Timothy Bilsky | Yes |
| Mont Miller | Yes |
| John Bevec | Yes |

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

C. Appointment to Uniform Construction Code Board

Mr. McGarry motioned to appoint Leon Strimel to the Uniform Construction Code Board.

Mr. Sharkady seconded the motion..

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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|---------------|--------|
| Richard Russo | Yes |
| Paul Sharkady | Yes |
| Joseph Graff | Absent |

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| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Joseph McGarry | Yes |
| Patricia Romano | Yes |
| Fran Coleman | Yes |
| Timothy Bilsky | Yes |
| Mont Miller | Yes |
| John Bevec | Yes |

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

D. Motion – Economic Development Plan

Mr. Bilsky motioned to hire 4Ward Planning of Pittsburgh to construct an economic development plan for Canonsburg Borough.

Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Richard Russo | Yes |
| Paul Sharkady | Yes |
| Joseph Graff | Absent |
| Joseph McGarry | Yes |
| Patricia Romano | Yes |
| Fran Coleman | Yes |
| Timothy Bilsky | Yes |
| Mont Miller | Yes |
| John Bevec | Yes |

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

E/ Motion – Street Improvements

Mr. Russo motioned to hire ProTech of New Castle for Street improvements on Woodland Road, Alpine Drive and Crosby Drive at a cost of \$68,078.90.

Mr. Sharkady seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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|---------------|-----|
| Richard Russo | Yes |
| Paul Sharkady | Yes |

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| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Joseph Graff | Absent |
| Joseph McGarry | Yes |
| Patricia Romano | Yes |
| Fran Coleman | Yes |
| Timothy Bilsky | Yes |
| Mont Miller | Yes |
| John Bevec | Yes |

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

F. Borough Manager's Report

Mr. Russo motioned to approve the Borough Manager's Report of May 7, 2012.

Mr. McGarry seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

G. Borough Engineer's Report

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the Borough Engineer's Report of May 7, 2012.

Mr. McGarry seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

X. FINANCE REPORT:

A. Presentation of Bills for Approval – Mont Miller

Mr. Miller motioned to approve payment of 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

Mr. Russo seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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|---------------|-----|
| Richard Russo | Yes |
| Paul Sharkady | Yes |

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| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Joseph Graff | Absent |
| Joseph McGarry | Yes |
| Patricia Romano | Yes |
| Fran Coleman | Yes |
| Timothy Bilsky | Yes |
| Mont Miller | Yes |
| John Bevec | Yes |

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

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Mr. Hazlett reported that Code Enforcement officers have completed tagging cars. It was very successful, and they will be doing this again in July or August.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Street Program – Brought Up by Mr. Russo
Discussion was held pertaining to College Street between Greenside and Central.
Mr. Hazlett will contact the School District to see if they might be able to help with the cost, as most of the damage to the road has been caused by the school buses.
Also discussed was Crosby Drive.
- B. Meterd Parking Downtown – Brought Up by Mr. Russo
Mr. Russo stated that the local merchants and Chamber of Commerce have brought up the subject of parking and the fact that patrons do not like having to put quarters in the meters. Mr. Russo suggested having a workshop after Mr. Graff returns to address changing to free parking and all the issues associated with this.
Mr. Hazlett reported that \$102,000 was budgeted as revenue from meters and parking permits. The costs are about \$44,000, which means that approximately \$60,000 is generated for the General Fund. He said that one of the things he has seen done in other towns is to specify a certain park-

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ing lot (not on the main drag) for free parking. To go to all free parking would cost the General Fund about a mill and a half.

Mr. Bevec suggested that Mr. Hazlett talk with Main Street Manager Nadeen Steffey to see if she would contact some of the other downtown organizations who offer free parking to see how they handle this.

Mr. Hazlett will gather information for Council and the workshop can then be scheduled for June or July.

C. Tour Buses – Brought Up by Mr. Hazlett

Mr. Hazlett reported that tour buses from New York will be coming tomorrow.

D. Perry Como Birthday Celebration – Brought Up by Mr. Bevec

Mr. Hazlett reported on the upcoming events of this weekend.

E. Street Department Openings – Brought Up by Mr. Hazlett

Mr. Hazlett reported that many interviews have been conducted, and it is now narrowed down to three candidates for the Public Works position and two candidates for the Public Works position in the building and Fire Department.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items to discuss in Executive Session format.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. McGarry motioned to adjourn.

Mr. Russo seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Mary A. Solomon