

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

IV. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Richard Russo, Paul Sharkady, Joseph McGarry, Patricia Romano, Fran Coleman, Timothy Bilsky, and Peter Lucas

Others Present:

Borough Manager Robert Kipp, Engineer Harvey Treschow, Attorney Patrick Derrico, and Mayor David H. Rhome

Absent:

John Bevec, Joseph Graff, and Police Chief R. T. Bell

V. CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

A. Ms. Tracy Whitcom, of 30 ½ West Pike Street, said that there are several nuisance bars in Canonsburg and expressed concerns about the following:

1. The number of people hanging around places like Rite Aid Plaza who have been drinking and/or are drunk, having to walk around or through them, and listening to their crude comments;
2. Bartenders do not seem to have a cut-off time.

Mr. Russo will meet with the Mayor and the Chief in reference to this matter.

B. A concerned citizen said he has been on record with the Mayor, the Chief, and plenty of officers about his neighbor across the street and the drug activity. He said he is also starting to see under-age people there. He has given the police descriptions of vehicles and license plate numbers. These cars come and go all night and park by the guard rails, making it almost impossible to maneuver around the bend. The citizen stated that this has been going on

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for over a year.

Mayor Rhome explained that the information has been given to the proper authorities. The problem is that they can't get in. The information is appreciated, but the other people have rights also. It has to be handled properly. The Mayor advised the citizen to call 911 at 4 o'clock in the morning when he sees this.

The citizen replied that they have done so, but the officers haven't done anything. The citizen said they respects and loves the police, but they are at his wit's end.

Mayor Rhome said the police are traveling over 4,000 miles a month in the areas all through town, he has two officers – sometimes three. They give as much as possible with what Council allows in their budget. The Mayor said they will try to give him more protection in that area and would welcome the citizen's help.

The citizen stated that they already know they are the enemy.

Mayor Rhome invited the citizen to meet with him, as well as the Chief and the Deputy.

The citizen replied that they have already done this.

Mayor Rhome asked the citizen to talk with him again after the meeting.

Further discussion was held pertaining to this matter.

- C. Ms. Carol Hayman, of 200 Second Avenue, stated that she would like the police to patrol her neighborhood more often because of robberies and drug activity.

In addition, Ms. Hayman felt that police officers should be directing school buses when school lets out at South Central Elementary due to all the congestion.

Ms. Hayman also had concerns about the drain at the corner of Crawford Street and East Street which the Street Department

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dug out. However, it looks more like a curb than a dip. She said they never did a proper job. Ms. Hayman stated that if you are coming down from East Street onto Crawford, it is a sheet of ice in the winter. Also, the residents have to wait much longer than they used to in the winter, and she didn't know if this was due to not having enough employees or not enough salt.

Mr. Russo asked Mr. Kipp to have Mr. Lawrence (Road Supervisor) look at Crawford and East.

Mr. Kipp will also check it out with Mr. Lawrence.

In reference to the neighborhood and the police, Mr. Russo said it's the same as what was talked about with Mr. Shirer.

Mr. Russo said this is the first complaint he has heard about the school buses.

Ms. Hayman suggested that if we don't have the police to do this, perhaps the crossing guards can direct the traffic.

Mayor Rhome replied that the crossing guards are not allowed to move the traffic at all. Their assignment is to protect the children. The Mayor said that there is a police officer at the corner of Greenside and Pike Street at 2:45 P.M., which leaves one other officer available for the other calls. This was put in place between the School District and the Police Department, as they felt it was the best place to utilize an officer to alleviate some traffic.

Further discussion was held.

Mr. Russo informed Ms. Hayman that Mr. Sharkady and Mrs. Coleman, along with Mr. McGarry, will work on this matter and be in touch with her. They will report on this at next month's meeting.

- D. Mr. John Severine, of 504 Franklin Avenue, addressed Ms. Hayman's question and explained why, to his knowledge, the police officer was assigned to Greenside and Pike.

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E. Ms. Agnes Lesniakowski, of Crawford Street, asked if the issue of Mr. Bove wanting to open up Crawford Street to his proposed development is dead.

Mayor Rhome replied that the first part is dead. Mr. Bove has since contacted the committee and has come back to have discussion with the committee as per the president's orders. All it is right now is discussion. The Mayor stated that Mr. Bove has another idea and has allegedly gone to North Strabane, but we have no additional information.

Ms. Lesniakowski said she has heard North Strabane has denied him twice.

Mayor Rhome said that Mr. Treschow has checked out the information that came to them, and the information was incorrect, He advised Ms. Lesniakowski and the other residents to continue to attend the meetings.

Ms. Lesniakowski asked if Mr. Bove can petition to have Crawford Street opened.

Mr. Russo replied that he would have to go through the Planning Commission.

Mr. Treschow agreed. He would have to go through the municipality, as it is a municipal street.

VI. GUESTS – CYPHER AND CYPHER:

Presentation of the 2012 Audit Report was made by Steve Cypher and Luke Grail of Cypher and Cypher.

NOTE: A copy of the information contained in the presentation is attached to these minutes.

VII. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Russo said he deferred this until either Unfinished Business or New Business.

VIII. VOTING ITEMS:

A. Approval of Minutes

Mr. McGarry motioned to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2013 Regular Council Meeting.

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Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.
The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Engineer's Report

Mr. Bilsky motioned to approve the Engineer's Report of September 9, 2013.

Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.
The motion was passed unanimously.

C. Franchise Fee Agreement with Comcast

Mrs. Coleman motioned to enter into a new ten (10) year Franchise Fee Agreement with Comcast – Resolution 04-13.

Mr. McGarry seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

Paul Sharkady	No
Joseph Graff	Absent
Joseph McGarry	Yes
John Bevec	Absent
Patricia Romano	Yes
Fran Coleman	Yes
Timothy Bilsky	Yes
Peter Lucas	Yes
Richard Russo	Yes

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

D. Handicapped Parking Space

Mr. McGarry motioned to place a Handicapped Parking space at 607 Giffin Avenue – Svitek family.

Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.
The motion was passed unanimously.

E. Assistant Manager Bonus

Mr. Lucas motioned to give a bonus to the Assistant Manager in November for performing manager's duties between the start of the current manager and the last day of the previous manager.

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Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.

Remarks: Mr. Sharkady asked what the amount of the bonus would be.

Mr. Russo informed him that it is \$2,000.00.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

Paul Sharkady	Yes
Joseph Graff	Absent
Joseph McGarry	Yes
John Bevec	Absent
Patricia Romano	Yes
Fran Coleman	Yes
Timothy Bilsky	Yes
Peter Lucas	Yes
Richard Russo	Yes

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

F. Appointment to Park Board

Mrs. Coleman motioned to appoint the following to a five (5) year term on the Borough Park Board ending 12-31-17:

- a. Jody Rhome
- b. Damon Skiles
- c. Anita Brechosky

Mr. McGarry seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

IX. MANOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rhome reported on the following items:

- A. Prescription Drug Take Back Day
To be held at Shop 'n Save on October 26, 2013 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
- B. Canonsburg Elks Issue
The Mayor gave an update on this matter.
- C. St. Patrick's Triathlon held August 16, 2013

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D. School Guards

School guards are in place but back up school guards are needed.

E. Police Department Report

F. Parking Enforcement Report has been given to Council members.

X. FINANCE REPORT:

A. Presentation of Bills for Approval – (Peter Lucas)

Mr. Lucas motioned to approve the August 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

Mrs. Romano seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

Paul Sharkady	Yes
Joseph Graff	Absent
Joseph McGarry	Yes
John Bevec	Absent
Patricia Romano	Yes
Fran Coleman	Yes
Timothy Bilsky	Yes
Peter Lucas	Yes
Richard Russo	Yes

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

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Apple Hill – Brought up by Mr. Treschow

Mr. Treschow gave an update on Apple Hill. He stated that his inspector was up there today and found that Cecil Town-

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ship has posted a sign that they are planning to close that connection tomorrow. He said that in 2005 Cecil Township approved that road, and in 2008 Canonsburg approved Phase 4 with that tie-in. The subdivision was recorded.

Mr. Kipp reported that he got a call this afternoon from the Cecil Township Manager telling him that they are shutting it down tomorrow, and he also got an email from Maronda's legal counsel that they are not opening it.

Mr. Russo asked if Cecil gave a reason.

Mr. Treschow replied that he thinks that they feel this is beyond the limits of the master plan which was approved in 2005, that a master plan is good for five years, and they now have an additional right. Canonsburg approved the subdivision by Council in 2008 and it is recorded.

Discussion was held pertaining to this matter.

Attorney Derrico felt that Council should stay out of this and let Maronda decide what they want to do.

Mr. Russo asked Mr. Treschow what problems the closing will create.

Mr. Treschow replied that it gives the residents another access out of Apple Hill instead of going back through Lucia Drive and coming out. It's probably convenient for someone going down to Route 980 and is probably faster than not going through the residential neighborhood to do that.

Mr. Treschow said that another 30 lots are being put in at this time, which is part of Phase 4.

Further discussion was held pertaining to access.

Attorney Derrico again advised Council that Canonsburg should not get involved at this time.

Mr. Sharkady asked how many of the 30 homes are in Canonsburg Borough.

Mr. Treschow replied that they all are.

B. The Book Store – Brought up by Mr. Russo

Mr. Bilsky will try to talk with Larry this week.

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Mr. Russo said his request is still on the table to send a letter to the owner of The Book Store advising of the intent to move Code Enforcement policies forward. He can give Code Enforcement instructions to do this or give Mr. Bilsky another 30 days to work on this.

It was decided to table this until the next meeting.

C. Electronic Devices – Brought up by Mr. Sharkady

Mr. Sharkady said he would like the Mayor to look into turning in electronic devices as well as medication. People are still putting items such as televisions out with the garbage, and they are remaining on the sidewalks.

Mayor Rhome said he's been talking with Senator Solobay and Representative Neuman to make this happen again, but the issue is the televisions. Six months ago they could have been taken to Goodwill, but that has changed. The Mayor stated that they are working on the other part for next spring.

Further discussion was held.

Mr. Kipp will check with the County Recycling Coordinator.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Parking Permits – Brought up by Mr. Russo

Mr. Russo was contacted by a constituent who asked if parking permits are issued for a specific space and if the permit is valid in any public parking lot.

Mr. Kipp replied that it is for a parking space and it is only good in designated areas.

Mayor Rhome stated that a permit is for a designated area (lot), and in some cases, a designated space.

Mr. Russo asked if the person with the permit is entitled to park outside of the lot for which the permit was given or a specific space in a lot.

Mr. Kipp stated that right now it is per lot, and it should not be a metered spot.

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Mr. Russo also asked if a person in a handicapped spot with a meter still has to pay

Mr. Sharkady replied that the handicapped person still pays but gets 30 extra minutes as a handicapped person if the meter expires. (This is according to State law.) The meter maid has to know that. In addition, if she sees a handicapped person put nothing in the meter, she can tag the vehicle.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGarry motioned to adjourn.

Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Mary A. Solomon

ATTACHMENT:

Borough of Canonsburg Auditor's Presentation by Cypher & Cypher
Dated September 16, 2013