

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting  
Monday, April 13, 2015  
7:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

A. **Moment of Silence** called by Mr. Russo

B. **Pledge of Allegiance-**

C. **Roll Call**

Paul Sharkady-Present

John Severine-Present

Tim Bilsky - Present

Rich Russo - Present

Fran Coleman - Present

Joe McGarry - Present

John Bevec - Absent

**Others Present:** Solicitor Patrick Derrico, Borough Engineer Mr. Harvey Treschow, Canonsburg Borough Manager Mr. Bob Kipp, Mayor David Rhome, Public Works Mr. Thomas Lawrence, Chief of Police Mr. Alex Coghill, Washington County District Attorney Mr. Eugene Vittone.

**GUESTS**

Eugene Vittone, Washington County District Attorney, honored Alex Coghill and the Canonsburg Police department for their aggressive police work with the drug task force, in particular, those selling heroin. Monies/properties that have been acquired through drug deals, come back to the community. Mr. Vittone presented Mr. Coghill with two checks; \$1,000 and another for \$1,446. Mr. Vittone again thanked Chief of Police, Alex Coghill and the Canonsburg Police Department for their efforts.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Gary Sladick, 417 Ridge Avenue, Canonsburg Pa, approached Council regarding parking. He discussed the speeding on the street. He stated he took 28 inches and made a parking pad on his property. Mr. Sladick stated the white lines on Ridge Avenue are no longer visible. Mayor Rhome stated the police respond to calls regarding parking and speeding. Discussion held that using the alley way is not an option. Mr. Coghill stated he will send an officer out to respond to calls within a day or so and will make a concerted effort to monitor speeding. Mr. Russo stated the Borough is in a major street campaign and that parking on the curb is a minor issue compared to the issue of parking on two sides. Mr. Russo also stated that parking on the curb is illegal. Mr. Russo further stated that he has not heard from other residents on Ridge Avenue regarding parking or speeding. Mr. Sladick thanked Mr. Coghill for his good job with the drug task force.

Ron Krusienski, owner of property 409 Franklin Avenue, Canonsburg Pa, addressed Council regarding parking on Franklin Avenue. He stated he is opposed to the proposal to limit parking to one side. Mr. Krusienski discussed the wedged curbs on Franklin Avenue, stating the curbs were installed for economical reasons. Mr. Lawrence stated the wedge curbs were installed as a continuation from Franklin Avenue, and a decision made to keep uniformity. Mr. Krusienski inquired if the Borough received Liquid Fuel Tax dollars from the Department of Transportation, stating the Department has standards. The pros and cons of wedge curbs discussed further. Mr. Krusienski discussed neighbors will have to fight for parking. He also stated it will affect the property value if a home owner cannot park in front of their home. Mr. Russo stated he personally looked at this a year ago and realtors stated that property values can be diminished with parking in front of their property. Discussion held that there is room in the alley for parking and that the Borough has allowed for concessions for zoning and

parking pads. Discussion also held regarding emergency vehicles and snow plows being able to fully operate when on the street. The fire department cannot open fire truck doors with parking on both sides. The snow plow is too wide to fit on the street with the current parking situation. Each home on Franklin reviewed as far as availability to park in back. Mr. Krusienski stated that home owners have more than one vehicle. Mr. Krusienski stated that parking on both sides has only been an issue for the last two years due to the wedge curbs taking away two feet of the road.

Debra Eubel, 409 Franklin Avenue, Canonsburg Pa addressed Council. She resides at this address and is cousin to the owner. She stated she agreed with Mr. Krusienski, she inquired why parking is not on the North Side of the street and not with the flow of the traffic. Mayor Rhome discussed the route of emergency vehicles and the ease of emergency vehicles being able to make the turn on the street. Discussion held on the number of fire trucks with roll up doors. Mrs. Eubel discussed the alley being unsafe at night as there is no light in the back. She suggested putting lighting in the alley. Mrs. Eubel inquired about diagonal parking. Further discussion held that it would be too difficult to maneuver in and out as there is not enough space for diagonal parking. The expense of changing the curbs was discussed. Mrs. Eubel has a driveway and a garage but was speaking for others on her street. She asked if there will be a limit of how many vehicles can be parked on the street. Mr. Russo stated that was discussed, however, it is difficult to manage and enforce. It was also stated that it is a 90 trial. Mayor Rhome stated that residents are able to unload groceries and assist the elderly/handicapped into their home without worry. Mayor Rhome reiterated the arrangements with A&S Landscaping and Yost Trucking for discounts and zoning fees waived for a parking lot/pad.

Wayne Valocik, 435 Franklin Avenue, Canonsburg Pa, approached Council. His question was the south side vs. north side. He stated he agreed with the need of emergency vehicles to have access to the streets. He stated he also agreed with the statement that parking in the front of a home can decrease the value of the home, he is a former real estate agent. Mayor Rhome and Mr. Russo stated if it needs to be changed back, it can be changed.

Sam Piazza, 431 Chartiers Avenue, Canonsburg Pa, addressed council. He stated he has a two car garage in his alley, however, due to potholes, alley not being plowed and the width of the road, he is unable to drive his Honda Civic in the alley. He stated the fire department had a difficult time making the turn on his street. He also inquired about who permitted a snap on trailer to park on his street. Mr. Coghill stated he will review the situation. Mr. Lawrence stated that most alleys in Canonsburg need work, however, as far as plowing, the alley has been plowed and salted. Mr. Lawrence stated a plow truck can drive in the alley. Mr. Severine discussed a neighbor building a parking pad for the snap on trailer. Mayor Rhome stated the landlord is willing to remove hedges and building a parking pad to have the snap on trailer off the road.

Christine Briceland, 503 Giffin Avenue, Canonsburg Pa, approached Council. She asked if changes to parking were going to be made and discussed safety issues, in particular ladder trucks. Mr. Lawrence stated he has a better chance setting up his ladder truck with parking on one side. Ms. Briceland disagreed to this. She stated residents are not using their parking spaces. She stated the residents do not have enough parking for visitors or to have guests on holidays. She stated there are open spaces on her street, however, when parking is moved to one side of the street, there will no longer be open spaces. Mr. Russo stated that it should work as there are open spaces and residents are being asked to use their spaces in the back. She stated the mentality is to park in the street and not in their garage in the back. She stated it is too costly to build a garage and keep the value of her home. Mr. Severine reiterated the discount for building a garage and/or a parking pad. Mr. Russo stated that not all of the parking is being taken away and there are residents that can park in the back.

Warren Briceland, 503 Giffin Avenue, Canonsburg, Pa, approached Council. He asked if there was consideration to look at the size of emergency equipment, the fire truck. Mr. Lawrence stated that the size of equipment is necessary to reach the roof of the senior high rise. Mayor Rhome stated that safety will not be compromised. Mr. Briceland stated the size of the fire truck is over kill. Mr. Russo stated

the Borough purchases what is needed and not excess and he needs to have that discussion with the fire department. Mayor Rhome and Mr. Russo stated it is a volunteer department and he is welcomed to volunteer. Mr. Briceland stated he was unable to volunteer.

Frank Tatano, 425 Chartiers Avenue, Canonsburg Pa, approached Council. He discussed that parking on side of the street is the Borough's way of not allowing parties, holiday celebrations and not allowing him to have guests. He stated he grew up in Canonsburg all his life and this was not an issue. He stated he wrote a letter to the editor about his feelings.

Tom Shinshasky, 410 Duquesne Avenue, Canonsburg, Pa approached Council. He stated he has lived on Duquesne for thirty years. He stated making parking on one side will not work. He stated there are too many cars due to apartment buildings and too many cars due to the size of families. He stated the street is bumper to bumper. Mr. Russo asked for the opportunity to try; Mr. Shinshasky was in agreement. He asked if Council, during the 90 day trial, will go to his street to view the parking situation. Mr. Russo informed him that Council always visit's the streets. Mr. Shinshasky's daughter asked for guidance when she has a note on her car about parking. She was informed to call 911 as this could be a form of harassment.

#### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Russo reminded of the April 20<sup>th</sup> workshop for procedures, zoning, planning and fees. Meeting at 7:00 pm. Mr. Russo also provided a clarification from an article in the Almanac. Mr. Russo stated the proposal for the new basketball court is to be moved to Caruso Avenue and not in the existing spot. Mr. Russo also wanted to add Lum's Electric proposal for updated lights to voting items.

#### **VOTING ITEMS:**

##### **1. Motion to approve Engineer's report of April 6, 2015.**

Motion by Mrs. Coleman to approve Engineer's report of April 6, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Severine. All in favor. Motion Carries

##### **2. Motion to approve CHJSA report of April 6, 2015.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to approve CHJSA report of April 6, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Sharkady. All in favor. Motion Carries.

##### **3. Motion to approve meeting Minutes of March 9, 2015.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to approve meeting Minutes of March 9, 2015. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman. All in favor. Motion Carries.

##### **4. Motion to appoint Joe McGarry, Fran Coleman and John Severine to the Sewer /Public Works/Clerical CBA Committee representing the Borough.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to appoint Joe McGarry, Fran Coleman and John Severine to the Sewer /Public Works/Clerical CBA Committee representing the Borough. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky. All in favor. Motion Carries.

##### **5. Parking on west side of Second Street was pulled.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to approve parking on west side of Second Street. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky. Motion pulled as this was completed.

##### **6. Motion to approve Chief of Police Contract.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to approve Chief of Police Contract. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman. No questions.

#### **Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-No

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mr. Bevec-Absent

5 Yes, 1 No, 1 Absent. Motion Carries.

**7. Motion to hire Cypher and Cypher to conduct an internal audit of the fiscal controls of the former Main Street Program.**

Motion by Mrs. Coleman to hire Cypher and Cypher to conduct an internal audit of the fiscal controls of the former Main Street Program. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

Mr. Severine asked that the Chambers and Renaissance be audited as well. Mr. Russo stated that the others are not in question. Mr. Severine discussed the contract and the finances in a bank account. Mr. Russo stated that the premise of the audit is to confirm that the Main Street Program was closed accurately, if any monies are to be returned to the state, it will be determined by the audit. Discussion continued about the monies left in the Main Street Program bank account. Mr. Severine questioned where the money went and who had authority to write checks from that account. Mr. Kipp stated he believes the audit will show that the Borough did not collect the local shares that the Borough should have received from the banks., therefore, the Borough spent the state's money. Mr. Russo explained that recipients do not need to be audited. Discussion held on a salary of an employee. Mr. Severine asked for copies of items needed for the audit as well as the audit. Mrs. Coleman stated the audit will show where the monies were distributed. Mr. Severine and Mr. Bilsky stated they felt the audit will show the same results as last time. Mr. Bilsky agreed with altering the motion to include all recipients of monies. Mr. Derrico stated the internal audit by Cypher and Cypher is the beginning point; Cypher and Cypher will outline who the recipients were. After the audit is completed, he suggested then to motion the recipients be audited. Further, Mr. Derrico stated the Borough did not have the authority to audit recipients until the audit reveals they received funds. Mr. Derrico stated that Cypher and Cypher may provide the documentation that funds were received. Mr. Russo stated the first audit states the Borough owes money, the second audit is to determine why the Borough owes money. Mr. Bilsky discussed a computer issue and receiving information from a hard drive. Mr. Sharkady stated there was discussion to hire Cypher and Cypher, but they did not vote on hiring them. Mr. Sharkady referenced a bill from another auditor that was not voted on. Mr. Russo stated that bill can be discussed later. Mr. Kipp stated that the state required the Borough to go outside of independent auditors and that is how Cypher and Cypher were utilized. Mr. Sharkady stated there were auditors in the Borough that could have been used. Mr. Russo stated Cypher and Cypher were used since they were familiar with the Main Street Program. Per the state, the Borough owes \$26,000. Discussion held on where the money was donated and the downtown facades that were improved.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mr. Bevec-Absent

6 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion Carries.

**8. Motion to approve Contract with Canonsburg PD from 1-1-15 through 12-31-17 including retro activity.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to approve Contract with Canonsburg PD from 1-1-15 through 12-31-17 including retro activity. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

No questions.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes  
Mr. Bilsky-No  
Mrs. Coleman-Yes  
Mr. McGarry-Yes  
Mr. Russo-Yes  
Mr. Bevec-Absent

5 Yes, 1 No, 1 Absent. Motion Carries.

**9. Motion to reappoint Dan Briner to Civil Service Commission retroactive to 1-1-15 until 12-31-19.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to reappoint Dan Briner to Civil Service Commission retroactive to 1-1-15 until 12-31-19. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

No questions.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

**10. Motion to have handicapped stall at 414 Duquesne Avenue.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to have handicapped stall at 414 Duquesne Avenue. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

No questions.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

**11. Motion to engage the law firm Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo and Miller for the Sewer/Public Works/Clerical CBA as per the engagement letter presented at the Agenda meeting last week.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to engage the law firm Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo and Miller for the Sewer/Public Works/Clerical CBA as per the engagement letter presented at the Agenda meeting last week. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

Mr. Sharkady inquired about the hourly rate. Mr. Kipp stated the rate has changed from \$150 to \$175.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. McGarry-Yes  
Mrs. Coleman-Yes  
Mr. Bilsky-Yes  
Mr. Severine-Yes  
Mr. Sharkady-Yes  
Mr. Russo-Yes  
Mr. Bevec-Absent

6 Yes, 0 no, 1 Absent. Motion Carries.

**12. Motion to approve the Derrico Subdivision as per the Planning Commission recommendations.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to approve the Derrico Subdivision as per the Planning Commission recommendations. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

Mr. Severine inquired about parking spaces, his questions was answered.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

**13. Motion to approve the Zoom Site Plan as per the Planning Commission recommendations.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to approve the Zoom Site Plan as per the Planning Commission recommendations. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

No questions.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

**14. Motion to approve the paving of the following streets/projects and Rainy Day Fund:**

**a. Munnell Street (Bottom to Tip Top) Summit to Morgan for \$54,230.**

**b. Strawberry Alley (Bluff to Belmont) for \$18,690.**

**c. Second Street (Weaver to Gladden) for \$7,500**

- d. Como Street (Giffin to Euclid) for \$20,800**
- e. Como Street (Gladden to Weaver) for \$12,200.**
- f. Cavasina Drive (sections) for \$19,697.**
- g. UP Church Alley/Lot- both sections- for \$7,750.**
- h. Gravel lot inside of the park for \$9,180.**
- i. Cecil Street-Valley to 980 for \$78,700.**
- j. North Central Extension to Stone Alley for \$23,000.**
- k. East Water Street for \$21,500.**
- l. Brook Street Extension for \$7,020.**
- m. Craighead for \$210,000.**
- n. Park Infrastructure Paving for \$192,000.**
- o. Basketball Court (b) at Town Park for \$25,000.**
- p. Rainy Day fund as per Cypher and Cypher Annual Audit (\$200,000)**

Motion by Mr. Severine to approve the paving of the following streets/projects and Rainy Day Fund:

- a. Munnell Street (Bottom to Tip Top) Summit to Morgan for \$54,230.
- b. Strawberry Alley (Bluff to Belmont) for \$18,690.
- c. Second Street (Weaver to Gladden) for \$7,500
- d. Como Street (Giffin to Euclid) for \$20,800
- e. Como Street (Gladden to Weaver) for \$12,200.
- f. Cavasina Drive (sections) for \$19,697.
- g. UP Church Alley/Lot- both sections- for \$7,750
- h. gravel lot inside of the park for \$9,180.
- h. Cecil Street-Valley to 980 for \$78,700
- i. North Central Extension to Stone Alley for \$23,000.
- j. East Water Street for \$21,500
- k. Brook Street Extension for \$7,020.
- l. Craighead for \$210,000
- m. Park Infrastructure Paving for \$192,000.
- n. Basketball Court (b) at Town Park for \$25,000
- o. Rainy Day fund as per Cypher and Cypher Annual Audit (\$200,000)

Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

**Roll Call:**

- Mr. Sharkady-Yes
- Mr. Severine-Yes
- Mr. Bilsky-Yes
- Mrs. Coleman-Yes
- Mr. McGarry-Yes
- Mr. Russo-Yes
- Mr. Bevec-Absent

6 Yes, 0 no, 1 Absent. Motion Carries.

**15. Motion to approve Lum's Electrical quote of \$14,000 to change out current lights to new LED lights to save \$3,200 per year with a 5 year warranty.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to approve Lum's Electrical quote of \$14,000 to change out current lights to new LED lights to save \$3,200 per year with a 5 year warranty. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

Discussion held regarding the details of the proposal.

**Roll Call:**

- Mr. McGarry-Yes
- Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-Yes  
Mr. Severine-Yes  
Mr. Sharkady-No  
Mr. Russo-Yes  
Mr. Bevec-Absent

5 Yes, 1 No, 1 Absent, Motion Carries.

**16. Motion to move one sided parking on Giffin from North to South.**

Mr. Severine made the motion to move one sided parking on Giffin from North to South. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

No questions.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Rhome discussed the following:

-Monthly report provided to Council for review

-Monthly Parking report provided to Council for review

-Civil Service Commission Report- Mayor Rhome read the report for Council

-Ride for Wreaths- Mayor Rhome discussed the motorcycle ride fundraiser by an individual group to provide wreaths for the military on their graves at Christmas. Event would be June 14<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 3 pm., with approximately 100 riders. Mr. Russo stated the Borough needed to know what organization as well as receive a certificate of insurance.

**Motion to pass proposal for the Ride for Wreaths Campaign June 14, 2015 at 8:00 am to 3:00 pm provided the Borough receives and is named on a certificate of liability of one million dollars.**

Motion by Bilsky to pass proposal for the Ride for Wreaths Campaign June 14, 2015 at 8:00 am to 3:00 pm provided the Borough receives and is named on a certificate of liability of one million dollars.

Seconded by Mr. Severine.

No questions.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mr. Bevec-Absent

6 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion Carries.

-Bid for Mo-ped presented to Council.

-Mayor Rhome complimented the organization that handles stray cats

-Mayor Rhome inquired about a private meeting with Public Safety and Cecil Township regarding Rose Avenue. Mr. Russo stated the first step is to attempt a meeting. Mr. Kipp to start a dialogue with Cecil Township. Mayor Rhome asked that he and the Chief of Police be included in any meetings.

**Engineer's Report:**

None to report

**Solicitor's Report:**

None

**Manager's Report:**

None

### **FINANCE REPORT:**

Mrs. Coleman reported all bills and invoices were reviewed and ready for approval.

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 excluding Murphy Family Incorporated and Murphy Tractor and Equipment . Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

Mr. Severine inquired about the reimbursement for mileage, which was addressed. Mr. Severine inquired about the Borough vehicle and why the Borough was keeping a vehicle that cannot be used for long distance travel. Mr. Bilsky and Mr. Sharkady inquired about a bill that may be a duplicate.

### **Roll Call:**

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Sharkady-No

Mr. Bevec-Absent

5 Yes, 1 No, 1 Absent. Motion Carries.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mr. Sharkady suggested to contact utility companies before reconstruction as many times a utility company has dug up the work of reconstruction. Mr. Treschow stated his firm does this, however, need to inform the utility companies two years in advance due to their planning.

### **-NEW BUSINESS:**

**-Motion by Mr. Severine to approve Chartiers, Duquesne and Franklin one sided parking on the South Side for all three streets.** Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

No questions.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

-Fourth of July Committee- the corporate sponsor for the Fourth of July celebration inquired about using the Borough marquee to list corporate sponsors for the Fourth of July celebration. This was approved.

- Adding Greenside to Central to list for one way street. Add to May's first meeting agenda.

-Renting Borough building space- Mr. Kipp working on this.

-Mrs. Coleman- businesses getting flooded out. Mr. Treschow stated this was first reviewed in 2002 with a proposal to the Borough to add a new storm line at the Borough's expense and letting the residents pay for having their lines tie into the Borough's line. The issue is where the line would go is private property. The hold up has been one of the owners not agreeing. Map reviewed by Borough members. Mr. Treschow estimated the Borough's expense about \$25,000. Mr. Russo stated the first step is to see if there is approval from 2002 from the owners. Mr. Russo stated the tenants need to go to their landlord and the landlord needs to sign the agreements.

### **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

A. Resolution number 2-15 Contributions to the Non-Uniform pension increased to 2%.

Motion by Mr. Severine to accept Resolution number 2-15 Contributions to the Non-Uniform pension increased to 2%. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

Mr. Kipp explained that this is to confirm to the state the current pension increase for non-uniform. All in favor. Motion Carries.

B. Resolution number 1-15 Destruction of files.

Motion by Mr. McGarry to accept Resolution number 1-15 Destruction of files. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

Mr. Kipp stated this is a standard Resolution that is voted on every year.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

C. Minutes from the Planning Commission 4/2/15

Mr. Derrico to review a letter from Tatano Law Firm regarding parking

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Severine made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 pm. Seconded by Mr. McGarry. Meeting adjourned at 10:23 pm.

**Submitted by: Michelle LoBello**