

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting  
Monday, May 11, 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 Mr. Patrick Derrico, Borough Engineer Mr. Harvey Treschow, Canonsburg Borough Manager Mr. Bob Kipp, Mayor David Rhome,, Chief of Police Mr. Alex Coghil, Public Works Mr. Tom Lawrence.

**GUESTS**

Holly Stabile, Solicitor for the Zoning Board was in attendance to listen to issues related to the Street Project. Ms. Stabile stated she could attend another meeting if needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ronald Pratton, 438 Duquesne Avenue, Canonsburg, addressed Council concerning resident only parking on Duquesne Avenue. Mr. Russo informed Mr. Pratton that the Borough has no plans for resident only parking. Mr. Russo thanked Mr. Pratton for serving our Country as Mr. Pratton is a veteran.

Frank Tatano, 145 Chartiers Avenue, Canonsburg, addressed Council regarding parking on his street and resident only parking. Mr. Russo reiterated there will not be resident only parking. Mr. Tatano also stated the neighbors are arguing now with the changes to his street. Mr. Russo reminded Mr. Tatano this is a 90 day trial and each street is being reviewed individually.

Marylyn Spilak, Director of Aging Services for Washington County, addressed Council regarding the Senior Center. Ms. Spilak stated it was brought to her attention there was discussion of moving the Senior Center. She stated her concern was the Senior Center has been in the same location since 1977. She stated the Department of Aging has had a long term relationship with the Borough. She continued to say the Department of Aging pays the utilities, small rental fee and a large insurance fee. She stated the Department of Aging is funding the replacement of one of the furnaces for \$24,000. Mr. Russo stated there was discussion last week to have a study conducted, due to the repairs needed, to determine if it is more advantageous to upgrade the Senior Center, find another location to build another Center, or build on the same site. Mrs. Spilak asked that the Borough include the Department Of Aging and seniors with any plans regarding the Senior Center. Mr. Russo stated they will be included in plans.

Margaret Bieber, 409 Chartiers Avenue, Canonsburg addressed Council. She asked when her alley will be paved. Mr. Treschow stated possibly in August. Mr. Russo provided Mrs. Bieber of a map indicating all the alleys on schedule to be paved.

Rob Luksis, 230 Belmont Street, Canonsburg addressed Council. Mr. Luksis is the Chairman for the Canonsburg Houston Joint Sewer Authority. Mr. Luksis stated that after 10 years, they are out of the Tap restriction from DEP. However, if the new plant is not under construction, there will be a hydraulic

overload in the next three to five years. He stated communications with North Strabane are open again with an agreement forth coming. The CHJSA solicitor has submitted a letter of resignation. A new solicitor has been hired that will handle the day to day operations and will assist with the Operating Authority paperwork. The new law firm, Dodaro, Matta and Cambest, specialize in Municipal law. The memorandum of understanding for CHJSA to become an Operating Authority is effective December 31, 2015. The new solicitor stated he can complete the paperwork in one month's time, in which Mr. Luksis will provide to the Borough. Mr. Luksis stated progress is being made. Mr. Luksis discussed the meaning of being hydraulic overload and the Tap restriction history.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Will be discussed with Unfinished Business.

**VOTING ITEMS:**

**1. Motion to approve Engineer's report of May 4, 2015.**

Motion by Mrs. Coleman to approve Engineer's report of May 4, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky. All in favor. Motion Carries.

**2. Motion to approve CHJSA report of May 4, 2015.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to approve CHJSA report of May 4, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Sharkady. All in favor. Motion Carries.

**3. Motion to approve the meeting Minutes of April 13, 2015.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to approve the meeting Minutes of April 13, 2015. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

**4. Motion to approve the 2015 Street Paving Program as provided by HMT in order for HMT to advertise for bidding, excluding Barr Street from paving as on HMT map.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry approve the 2015 Street Paving Program as provided by HMT in order for HMT to advertise for bidding, excluding Barr Street from paving as on HMT map. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

**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.

**5. Motion to allow Police Department to have a six (6) month probation period for officers who have already served as Part-Time in Canonsburg and have a minimum of 2080 hours on the force.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to allow Police Department to have a six (6) month probation period for officers who have already served as Part-Time in Canonsburg and have a minimum of 2080 hours on the force. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

Mr. Russo stated he asked Mr. Coghill to prepare a memorandum of understanding outlining the situation so it is made clear it is not part of the bargaining unit's contract talks. The memorandum of understanding was signed by the Bargaining Unit representative, Mayor Rhome, and Mr. Coghill. Mr. Bevec's signature is required.

**Roll Call:**

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

6 Yes, 1 Absent. Motion Carries.

**6. Motion to repay \$26,922.56 to the PA DCED for the Main Street Project.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to repay \$26,922.56 to the PA DCED for the Main Street Project. Seconded by Mr. Russo.

Mr. Kipp stated the audit is being completed by Cypher and Cypher. Their recommendation is to refund the state, payment due by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 until the audit is completed. Mr. Russo clarified the state felt funds were owed back to the state from the Main Street Project that ran from 2009 until 2014. This is the second extension on repaying the money. Mr. Russo stated the audit is still on-going. Discussion held regarding that at the end of the program, there was \$15,000 in a bank account; the money was donated among the Chamber of Commerce, the Town Park Board and the Music Hall of Fame. Another issue discussed was the pledges; however, Cypher, at this time, cannot prove that those who made pledges actually made the pledge. The insurance company determined an audit was needed to determine where the money went. Mr. Severine asked to see the bank statements from the Main Street Project; he stated he cannot vote until he sees the bank accounts. Mr. Russo explained that if the Borough decides not to pay, then the DCED can hold grant monies. The state needs reimbursed to protect the Borough's good standing with the state, with hopes the audit provides the answer to where the money went. Mr. Sharkady stated he cannot see the taxpayers being responsible.

Roll Call:

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

3 Yes, 3 No, 1 Absent.

In the event of a tie vote, the general practice is for the Mayor to have the deciding vote. Mayor Rhome stated that according to the testimony provided, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is to be repaid, allow the auditor to continue with their report and if there is any wrong doing it will be turned over to the police department.

Motion Carried.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Monthly report reviewed
- Walk Through Schools- worked with Cecil Township
- Monthly Parking report reviewed
- Handicap parking permit request from 412 Giffin Street. Mayor Rhome met with the applicants and reviewed the area. His recommendation is to move forward with the request.

**Motion to approve one handicap parking space at 412 Giffin Avenue based on the Mayor's recommendation.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to approve one handicap parking space at 412 Giffin Avenue based on the Mayor's recommendation. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

-Scott Way discussed.

**Motion to make Scott Way one way from North Central (East) to North Jefferson (West).**

Motion by Mr. Bilsky to make Scott Way one way from North Central (East) to North Jefferson (West).

Seconded by Mr. Severine.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

- April 19<sup>th</sup> on behalf of Mount Olive Church the Mayor attended a march

-Memorial Day Parade and Services- May 25<sup>th</sup> Commencing at the Middle School at 8:15 am followed by the parade.

-Bench- donated by a family. The family asked if the Borough would install. Mr. Lawrence to review.

**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.** Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

**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, 1No, 1 Absent. Motion Carries.

**Engineer's Report:**

None to report

**Solicitor's Report:**

None

**Manager's Report:**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

-Mr. Russo stated he was working with a resident through Mr. Kipp's office and Code Enforcement to remedy his situation with his driveway in his backyard. The resident did not receive a citation but a notice for debris and gutters being disconnected. Mr. Russo will continue to work with him which is every other day.

-Street Project Report- report for Council to review, any questions can be discussed next month.

-Mr. Russo discussed the pavers before the holidays, in particular July 4<sup>th</sup>. Also discussed was planning next section to be fixed.

-Senior Center Assessment-the expenditure was discussed and does not need to be voted on. Mr. Kipp to receive three bids.

-Checklist for Zoning-Mr. Kipp developed a checklist for residents. Mr. Russo suggested streamlining the checklist listing all the steps. Ms. Stabile was asked to review.

Mr. Russo asked Ms. Stabile if the Borough can have a blanket variance for a zone. Ms. Stabile stated this would cause problems. The hardship test was discussed, Ms. Stabile stated the Zoning Board would evaluate individually. Discussion held regarding the ordinances.

Ms. Stabile discussed a member of the Zoning Board that has not attended any meetings. Mr. Russo asked Ms. Stabile to send the Borough a request for another member.

-Scooter bids- highest bid was \$703.50.

**Mr. Bilsky made a motion to sell the Police Scooter to Mr. Rick Rohland for \$703.50.** Seconded by Mr. Severine.

**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.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Bilsky discussed a complaint from a resident on Cecil Street regarding the lights near the ball field. The lights shine on their property. Mr. Russo suggested sending a letter to the Canon Mac Youth Baseball Association to place a shield on the lights. Mr. Kipp to draft a letter. Mr. Sharkady discussed the length of the time the lights are on, well after the game is over.

Mr. McGarry read the following:

“I would like to have this statement on the record this evening.

As Public Safety Director, I would like to commend Mayor David Rhome and the Canonsburg Police Department for being proactive with their recent decision to provide the Canonsburg Police with Naloxone, better known as Narcan.

As we are aware, our community has been affected by the recent epidemic of overdose deaths that are occurring in society. I am proud of the fact that our community is one of the few in the State to have trained and equipped our officers with this first line of defense to prevent these deaths.

Given the criticism that many other departments are receiving around the country, our Mayor and our Police Department continue to be a shining example to other local communities on how to effectively provide for the safety and well being of our citizenry.”

Joseph E. McGarry, Public Safety Director.

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

4-15 Fee Schedule 2015

1321 Flood Plain

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McGarry made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm. Seconded by Mr. Severine. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

**Submitted by: Michelle LoBello**