

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting  
Monday, September 14, 2015  
7:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

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

B. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Boy Scout Troop 1378

C. **Roll Call**

Paul Sharkady-Present

John Severine-Present

Tim Bilsky - Present

Rich Russo - Present

Fran Coleman - Present

Joe McGarry - Present

John Bevec - Present

**Others Present:** Solicitor Mr. Patrick Derrico, HMT Engineer Mr. Kevin Wilmot, Canonsburg Borough Manager Mr. Bob Kipp, Mayor David Rhome, Chief of Police Alex Coghill, Public Works Tom Lawrence.

**GUESTS:**

1. A&S Landscaping, Jamie Harshman and Mr. Biers, property owner present.. Mr. Bevec reviewed points from a meeting held earlier in the day with the Sewer Authority and Mr. Kipp. An agreement was made to go through the manhole with a pipe down to Strabane Avenue with staying out of Pen Dot right away. The Sewer Authority is going to complete a Highway Occupancy Bridge permit. The Sewer Authority Solicitor will draw up an agreement for attorneys to review for the ownership and maintenance of the line. When the building is finished and the Highway Occupancy Bridge Permit and inspections are complete, an occupancy permit will be granted. Mr. Bevec if occupancy permit would be granted with just stone in the lot in case the lot cannot be paved. Mr. Wilmont verified the occupancy permit could be granted. Mr. Biers stated he would get the Tap tomorrow. Mr. Harshman thanked Council for their cooperation. Mr. Harshman summarized Mr. Wilmont's point that once the \$25.00 zoning fee is paid, then a zoning permit will be issued based on the site plan that was already approved. Then a sewer tap will be purchased.

2. Kerry Fox with Re-Development approached Council. He provided updates on the following projects:

a. The Streets Projects - when the gas company was doing some excavation for replacing a gas line on Archer Street they hit contaminated soil that smelled of gasoline. They had to go to Environmental Remediation training in order to work in the ditch. This delayed the project. The gas company finished up today. Mr. Kerry will get his pavers in ASAP to complete the project.

b. Code Enforcement Demolition had two properties:

-321 Euclid-there was an emergency in Washington, which caused a delay. Should be completed in two weeks. Mr. Kerry stated the logistics are very hard.

-712 Highland Avenue is completed

c. 2016 CDBG Program-handout provided to Council. There is an allocation of \$398,000 with \$100,000 used on Home Rehab. Mr. Kerry also stated there would be money left over from the 2014 Streets Program. The construction would begin in 2017, per normal procedure. \$50,000 left over from 2013/2014 allocation. Mr. Severine and Mr. Bevec to conduct surveys as it is their ward. Discussion held that Canonsburg is not a low mod community due to 2010 census. Blight removal and handicap ramps not applicable as Canonsburg is not a low mod community. Mr. Kerry stated to start surveys to

get qualified to take action in the November or December meeting. Mr. Bilsky inquired if the streets for this year would be completed. Mr. Fox stated the streets should be completed now that the Gas Company has completed their work.

3. Mr. Keith Evans, 127 Adams Avenue approached Council. He had an architect's drawing. Mr. Evans stated in 2013 he purchased redevelopment property and the first architect design was not affordable. A second architect was hired in October of 2014. Mr. Evans went through a Zoning variance process January 20, 2015 and Planning March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. He is currently revising exterior and interior details before a quote from a contractor can be obtained. Once a bid is obtained, Mr. Evans stated he would submit an application for a building permit. He stated financing needs to appraise the completed project to secure funds; he said could take up to 90 days. Mr. Evans stated he is looking at a spring ground breaking. He stated he apologized for delays and anything he can do to speed it up he will be all over it. Mr. Bevec inquired if contractors were selected; Mr. Evans stated, "yes". Mr. Bevec asked if he was pre-approved for financing. Mr. Evans stated he was with Northwest Savings and in the stages of being pre-approved.

4. Mayor Rhome, on behalf of the Canonsburg Borough Council, recognized five individuals with a certificate who rescued an individual who was unresponsive at the Canonsburg pool on July 31, 2015. The certificate recognized their life saving heroics and exceptional and professional efforts resulting in the preservation of life.

Cora Blodgett- Life Guard at Town Park

Andrew Krivanek-Life Guard at Town Park

Christopher Elish-Life Guard at Town Park

Jennifer Livolsi- Good Samaritan

David Buchta-Good Samaritan

Recess for photos with the Mayor and individuals.

Meeting called back to order at 7:27

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

It was noted Boy Scout Troop 1378 was staying for the meeting to earn two badge requirements: Leadership of the Community and Communication Merit Badge.

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

None

#### **Outstanding Committee Reports**

None

#### **VOTING ITEMS:**

##### **1. Motion to approve Engineer's report of August 3, 2015.**

Motion by Mr. Russo to approve Engineer's report of August 3, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Severine. All in favor. Motion Carries.

##### **2. Motion to approve CHJSA report of August 3, 2015.**

Motion by Mr. Russo to approve CHJSA report of August 3, 2015. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman. All in favor. Motion Carries.

##### **3. Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2015.**

Motion by Mr. Bilsky to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Russo. All in favor. Motion Carries.

**4. Motion to approve extended the lease at the Falconi Fields.**

Mr. Kipp reported there has been no progress as their Solicitor stated he would not place light shields on the field lights due to the lights being too high. That Solicitor stated to sue them. Mr. Bevec stated to continue to take action. Discussion held regarding citations. Mr. Derrico called the Solicitor with no response. Mr. Kipp received some email communication and phone calls stating it is too tall. Mr. Russo stated to send a letter with a copy to Council.

**Tabled**

**5. Motion to approve CHJSA to become an Operating Authority.**

Motion by Mr. Russo to approve CHJSA to become an Operating Authority. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

Mr. Derrico commented that in 1961 there was an operating agreement that the Borough would lease back the system. For the next 35 years, the Borough will eliminate the lease, as well as Houston, and allow them to operate directly. The Borough will have to guarantee the bonds when they redo their building. Right now, the Borough is entering into an operating agreement where they will take over all the responsibility and employees. Houston is to do it this Wednesday. Mr. Derrico stated it was a desirable move and he recommends passing the motion. Mr. Russo reiterated the Borough would have the responsibility of appointing members of the Authority. Mr. Derrico stated that was in state law. Houston would appoint 1 member and Canonsburg would appoint 4 members.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mr. Bevec-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. Motion Carries.

**6. Motion to hold Halloween Trick or Treat Night Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 6-8 PM.**

Motion by Mrs. Coleman to hold Halloween Trick or Treat Night Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 6-8 PM. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

**7. Motion to approve HMT to advertise for McBurney Flood Control Program.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to approve HMT to advertise for McBurney Flood Control Program. Seconded by Mr. Russo.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

**8. Motion to approve Strinisha Contracting Flood Control Program bid of \$17,000 (not to exceed \$17,000) for the removal of debris in Chartiers Creek.**

Motion by Mrs. Coleman to approve Strinisha Contracting Flood Control Program bid of \$17,000 (not to exceed \$17,000) for the removal of debris in Chartiers Creek. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. Motion Carries.

**9. Motion to approve HMT to advertise for Water Alley Flood Control Program.**

Motion by Mr. Bilsky to approve HMT to advertise for Water Alley Flood Control Program. Seconded

by Mrs. Coleman.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

**10. Motion to approve the hiring of Brian DaPra as a full-time police officer.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to approve the hiring of Brian DaPra as a full-time police officer. Seconded by Mr. Coleman.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-No

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mr. Bevec-Yes

6 Yes. 1 No. Motion Carries.

**11. Motion to conduct the 90-day trial one-sided parking on the north side of Highland Avenue in the 500,600 and 700 block.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to conduct the 90-day trial one-sided parking on the north side of Highland Avenue in the 500,600 and 700 block. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

6 Yes. 1 Opposed-Mr. Sharkady. Motion Carries.

**12. Motion to grant a handicapped parking space at 420 Duquesne Avenue.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to grant a handicapped parking space at 420 Duquesne Avenue. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

All paperwork in order, Public Safety approves. Mr. Kipp to complete an audit of handicapped parking for the next meeting, how many and where they are at. Mayor Rhome stated a letter will be sent or a phone call to make sure the resident is still there and that they have a valid driver's license.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

Mr. Severine inquired to how many handicap parking spaces are on the street and if there was a limit on the number of handicap parking places per street. Mayor Rhome stated there are four handicap parking spaces. Discussion held if there is a regulation on how many handicap parking spaces can be provided on a given street. Mr. Kipp stated there are ADA regulations. Mr. Kipp to check on guidelines.

Discussion held on parking spaces granted for those that have a driveway. Mayor Rhome stated they are turned down.

**13. Motion to apply for 300K line of credit.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to apply for 300K line of credit. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

Discussion held this is for the completion of the Street Project.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

Mr. Bevec-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. Motion Carries.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. Police Department report provided for review.

2. Parking Enforcement report provided for review

3. Mayor Rhome stated he would like to discuss a personnel issue during the Executive Session.

4. Payne A.M.E Church Cemetery. Buffalo and black soldiers are buried in the cemetery. 28 community volunteers on August 15<sup>th</sup> removed high weeds and the cemetery is now in presentable condition. Another community event is scheduled in October.
5. Backpack program for the Middle School was a success with over 100 backpacks provided to Middle School students. The event was initiated by McDonalds, Jeffries Pharmacy and Mayor Rhome. A gym bag was provided as well.
6. Monthly Coffee with Cops at Canonsburg McDonalds is a way to find out the needs of the community. The last two months, community members have been waiting for the officers.
7. August 21, 2015 was the Triathlon with St. Patrick's Church at Canonsburg Town Park. The fourth annual event was held with success.
8. The Neighborhood Watch meeting held and continues to grow
9. Mayor Rhome attended the Buffet Concert at Town Park
10. Canonsburg Civil Service Board was publicly recognized at a conference for their efforts. They were recognized as one of the best to work with.
11. Oktoberfest begins this weekend.
12. Hopefest for the Youth Center is the following Saturday.
13. August 31, 2015 was a major drug bust on West Pike Street, this will be discussed next month. The arrest was made on West Pike Street.
14. Fourth Street stop sign continues to be monitored. Mr. Bevec and Mr. Severine agreed.
15. Police patrol has been beefed up in 6 hot spots.
16. Officer Bashman and Eckles working as a team to recognize truck violations. Chief of Police, Mr. Coghill discussed their teamwork. Mr. Coghill stated a joint taskforce is being looked at.
17. DEA drug officers have been very active.
18. A letter from Girl Scouts was reviewed regarding use of Sarris Library conference room reviewed. Mr. Russo stated a letter from Sarris Library was requested.
19. AGA Bike run for a resident of the area was pulled off.

**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. Sharkady-No
  - Mr. Severine-Yes
  - Mr. Bilsky-Yes
  - Mr. Russo-Yes
  - Mrs. Coleman-Yes
  - Mr. McGarry-Yes
  - Mr. Bevec-Yes
- 6 Yes, 1 No. Motion Carries.

**Engineer's Report:**

None

**Solicitor's Report:**

None

**Manager's Report:**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. 11 acre parcel in Cecil owned by Canonsburg-there has been some interest
  2. Flood Control Grants Update (HMT)-on-going
  3. Puskar Lane Paving Update (HMT)remove from unfinished business, their only concern was snow removal which as taken care of.
  4. Apple Hill Manhole raising update (HMT)-not certain
  5. Water issue on 100 block of West Pike Street- on-going
  6. Zoom update-leave on until groundbreaking date
  7. Street millings (HMT)-remove from unfinished business as decided to use at Town Park
  8. Bookstore-on-going
  9. Light Shields at Falconi Fields-update provided earlier in the evening
  10. Holding Tank Ordinance discussion-taken care of with an agreement into sewer system. Remove from unfinished business.
- Mr. Bilsky inquired about a water issue on Reagan Avenue. Mr. Lawrence stated he believed it was repaired; however, the issue with water run-off is not remedied.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

#1323 (Fire Ordinance to adopt IFC)

Chapter 4, Part 4 of the 2009 International Fire Code. This will give the Fire Department the tools they need to conduct safety inspections in the Borough for commercial and multi family residential structures.

**Mr. McGarry made a motion to approve resolution #1323 (Fire Ordinance to adopt IFC).**

Seconded by Mr. Russo.

Mr. Severine inquired about the older buildings in town, in particular the Morgan building. Mr. Wilmont stated he did not know if grandfathering was an option. Discussion held that it has to meet code of when the building was built. If renovations, it must meet current code. Mr. Severine inquired if an older building was sold would that change the codes. It was answered that it would not.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-No

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

Mr. Bevec-Yes

6 Yes. 1 No. Motion Carries.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Held at 8:09

Meeting resumed at 8:44

**Motion to approve the recommendation of Mayor Rhome and Chief of Police, Mr. Coghill, the one-day suspension of police officer James Saiva.**

Motion by Mr. Bilsky to approve the recommendation of Mayor Rhome and Chief of Police, Mr. Coghill, the one-day suspension of police officer James Saiva. Seconded by Mr. Russo.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady-No

Mr. Severine-Abstain

Mr. Bilsky-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. McGarry-Abstain

Mr. Bevec-Yes

4 Yes. 1 No. 2 Abstain. Motion Carries.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McGarry made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

**Submitted by: Michelle LoBello**