

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting

Monday, December 8th, 2014

7:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** Called by Mr. Bevec

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

Rich Russo - Vice President - Present

Fran Coleman - Present

Joe McGarry - Present

Tim Bilsky - Present

John Severine - Present

Paul Sharkady - Present

John Bevec - President - Present

**Others Present:** Solicitor Patrick Derrico, HMT Engineer Harvey Treschow, Canonsburg Borough Manager Mr. Robert Kipp, Mayor David Rhome, Chief of Police RT Bell and Public Works Director Thomas Lawrence.

**GUESTS:**

Mayor Rhome presented RT Bell, Chief of Canonsburg Police with a historical recognition for 48 years servicing the Canonsburg Police Department. Mr. Bell's family was present as Mayor Rhome presented the distinguished plaque of recognition as well as many members of the Canonsburg Police Department and Fire Department. Mr. Bell is retiring effective December 31, 2014. Mr. Bell expressed his gratitude.

Mayor Rhome also recognized Harold Coleman, Deputy Chief of Police, for his 40 plus years of service on the Canonsburg Police Department. Mr. Coleman was unable to attend the meeting; however, Mr. Coleman was recognized with a plaque. Mr. Coleman is retiring effective December 31, 2014.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Charles Ferricks, 109 South Jefferson, Canonsburg, approached Council. He presented Council with a petition signed by residents of South Jefferson to have the signs changed back for safety of children and people in the neighborhood. He stated that South Central is a through street and not South Jefferson.

Juliana Shubel, 115 South Jefferson, approached Council. She discussed the speed of drivers, the safety of children playing and the parking issues. She stated it is always her side that gets moved to the other side. She stated there are not enough parking spaces for the number of vehicles owned by residents. Mr. Bevec stated that it is still being reviewed and that several Council members have been on the street for observation. Mayor Rhome stated that it is under a 90 day trial. Over the next 60 days, the area will be observed with results presented to Council.

Raylene Thompson, 321 Greenside Avenue Apt 2, Canonsburg. She addressed Council regarding the parking on her street. She did provide Council with a picture via her telephone of the parking on her street. She stated the parking is a problem at times and she has to park in the "yellow" as no other parking is available. Mr. Bevec inquired if Public Safety has observed the area and if there are any recommendations. Mayor Rhome stated that Mr. Severine and Mr. McGarry looked at the street. Mayor Rhome also spoke to Public Works as well. The opinion of Public Works is that to make a left or right turn is not possible. Currently, Public Works has to go down Smithfield and angle to get onto the alley. Mayor Rhome and RT Bell have looked at the area. In light of the safety for getting an emergency vehicle on the street, Mayor Rhome stated he cannot recommend shortening the area. Further

discussion held regarding the street and the site distance. Mr. Bilsky discussed the idea of a mirror on the pole. Mr. Lawrence stated that taking 2 feet off would be okay but not five or more feet. Mr. Derrico stated there are no legal issues regarding a mirror. Agreement to take off 2 feet for parking, no motion needed per Mr. Derrico.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Bevec congratulated Chief of Police, RT Bell and Mr. Coleman for their years of service to Canonsburg.

**VOTING ITEMS:**

**1. Motion to approve Engineer's report of December 1, 2014.**

Mrs. Coleman made the motion to approve Engineer's report of December 1, 2014. Mr. Severine seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Carries.

**2. Motion to limit parking to the West side of Second Street from Adams Avenue to Gladden Road for a ninety (90) day trial.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to limit parking to the West side of Second Street from Adams Avenue to Gladden Road for a ninety (90) day trial. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

Discussed held that this is specifically the 800 block. Mayor Rhome stated that the notes are out there and the only comment was to see more Police for slowing down traffic.

**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.

**3. Motion to approve the CHJSA report of December 1, 2014.**

Motion by Mr. Russo to approve the CHJSA report of December 1, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

All in favor. Motion Carries

**4. Motion to approve the meeting Minutes of November 10, 2014.**

Mr. Severine made the motion approve the meeting Minutes of November 10, 2014. Seconded by Mrs.

Coleman. All in agreement. Motion Carries

**5. Motion to ratify the 2015 General Fund and Sewer Operations Budgets.**

Two separate motions:

**5 (a) Motion to ratify the 2015 General Fund Budget.**

Motion by Mr. Russo to ratify the 2015 General Fund Budget. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

Mr. Bilsky had a question pertaining to the three meal allocation for the Fire Department. Mr. Derrico stated he reviewed the definition for the three meals for the fire department. Mr. Bilsky asked if there is a ledger for the fire department pertaining to their three meals. Mr. Lawrence stated there is a ledger that is kept month by month and available for review. Mr. Severine had a question regarding the legal expense increase. Mr. Bevec stated the increased legal expense was due to the lawsuit against the Borough of \$14,000 to \$15,000. The lawsuit was filed by Mr. Sharkady, Mr. Severine and Mr. Bilsky against the Borough. Mr. Bevec stated the Borough was successful. Mr. Severine stated the lawsuit should have been against Mr. Bevec and Mr. Russo. Mr. Bevec stated the Borough was sued. Mr. Bevec also stated negotiations, health care issues and other issues were part of the legal expense as well.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady- No

Mr. Severine-No

Mr. Bilsky-No

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mr. Bevec-Yes

4 Yes, 3 No. Motion Carries.

**5. (B.) Motion to ratify Sewer Operations Budget for 2015 with no sewer rate increase.**

Mr. Russo made the motion to ratify Sewer Operations Budget with no sewer rate increase. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

(Comment to add to the motion no sewer rate increase.)

**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 hire Lori Sheldon as Police Clerk effective 1-1-15.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to hire Lori Sheldon as Police Clerk effective 1-1-15. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady- No

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-No

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mr. Bevec-Yes

5 Yes, 2 No. Motion Carries.

**7. Motion to allow for Free parking during holiday season to aid businesses on Pike Street as per email from Mr. J. Mohr.**

Discussion held on the effective start and end date and hours of free parking. Further discussion held on how to mark free parking such as red plastic bags over meters. Anyone illegally parked will receive a citation. It was decided to red bag the meters. It was decided free parking will occur from December 18<sup>th</sup> until January 2, 2015, which will be advertised.

Motion by Mr. Severine to allow for Free parking during holiday season (December 18, 2014 until January 2, 2015) to aid businesses on Pike Street as per email from Mr. J. Mohr. Seconded by Mr. Russo. All in favor. Motion Carries.

**8. Zoning Hearing Board requests to change their meeting date to the last Thursday of each month, beginning January 2015.**

Mr. Kipp explained that some Zoning board members had conflicts with meeting on the last Thursday of the month.

Motion by Mr. McGarry to allow the Zoning Hearing Board requests to change their meeting date to the last Thursday of each month, beginning January 2015. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

Discussion held that the last Thursday of the month would conflict with the CHJSA meeting as well as the meeting place. Discussion held to review other possible days of the week for the Zoning Hearing Board to meet that would not conflict with other meetings. Mr. McGarry withdrew his motion and Mr. Severine withdrew his second motion. Motion tabled.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Mayor Rhome reviewed the November Monthly report.
- Mayor Rhome reviewed the Parking Department Monthly report
- The Mayor asked to review an employee issue in an Executive Session
- Resident has requested a 25 MPH speed sign on White Way.

The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Bevec thanked the Police Department for their service, especially with the large volume of calls in November.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

None

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

None

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Mrs. Coleman reported all bills and invoices were reviewed on December 5th 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. Mr. McGarry seconded the motion.

No questions regarding the payment of bills.

**Roll Call**

Mr. Sharkady - No

Mr. Severine - No

Mr. Bilsky - No

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Coleman – Yes

Mr. McGarry - Yes

John Bevec – Yes

4 Yes, 3 No. Motion carried.

Discussion held regarding those that voted “No,” when they do not have any questions on the bills. Mr. Sharkady stated he would not vote on anything that he does not get to see. Mr. Russo stated Council receives the warrant report every meeting. Mr. Sharkady stated he would like to see the actual invoices for all bills. Mr. Russo invited Mr. Sharkady to join the Finance Committee. Further discussion held to ask to see invoices and that Council members are welcomed to review bills with the Finance Committee. Mr. Sharkady stated he would not review bills and also stated that there only has to be one item for him to vote “No,” although, there was not a specific item at this time. Mr. Bilsky would like to see invoices scanned when received. Mrs. Coleman stated due to the volume of bills and the hardware that this would be difficult. Mr. Bilsky stated that some bills do not have invoice numbers or any identifiers. Mrs. Coleman and Mr. Russo stated there is an invoice and documentation for every check. Further discussion held that the warrant report is provided every month. Discussion held on responsibility of Council members to “do their job” and exercise their right to review invoices if they have questions.

**OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mr. McGarry reviewed the monthly Fire Department Report.

Mr. Bevec thanked the Fire Department for their service.

Mr. Russo inquired about the Sewer Authority’s Engineer’s report regarding a letter to DEP requesting additional Taps. Mr. Russo asked if DEP had responded to the request. Mr. Bevec stated a response was



received with no additional Taps being released as the project is on hold. Mr. Kipp to email Council members a copy of the DEP response.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mr. Bilsky wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. McGarry reviewed that Zoom was given until the end of March, if nothing by the end of the March, then the property can be repurchased. Mr. Severine stated that he would like to see a business on the property versus a warehouse. Mr. Kipp stated the new Zoning workshops will begin next month and encouraged Mr. Severine to attend the workshops; Mr. Severine stated he would attend.

Mr. Severine discussed if a certain resident purchases a property that there is a stipulation to have the property functional and not desolate. Mr. Kipp discussed looking into Act 90.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

1. #14-14 2015 CDBG Program

Motion by Mr. Russo to adopt #14-14 2015 resolution. Seconded by Mr. Severine. Mr. Russo thanked Mayor Rhome, Mr. Severine, Mr. Bilsky and Mrs. Coleman for the assistance with the surveys. All in favor. Motion Carries.

2. #1319 2015 Salary Ordinances

Motion by Mr. Russo to adopt #1319 2015 Salary Ordinance. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. No questions.

**Roll Call**

Mr. Sharkady - No

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Bilsky - No

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Coleman – Yes

Mr. McGarry - Yes

John Bevec – Yes

5 Yes, 2 No. Motion Carries

3. #1320 2015 Tax Ordinances

Motion by Mr. Russo to adopt #1320 2015 Tax Ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

No questions.

**Roll Call**

Mr. Sharkady - No

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Bilsky - Yes

Mr. Russo -Yes

Mrs. Coleman – Yes

Mr. McGarry - Yes

John Bevec – Yes

6 Yes, 1 No. Motion Carries.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Held 7:53 to 8:05

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McGarry made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Submitted by: Michelle LoBello**