

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting

Monday, November 10, 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 and Thomas Lawrence.

**GUESTS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ryan Anthony, 235 Grace Avenue Canonsburg, approached Council. He provided handouts and pictures for Council regarding Coal and Lotus Alley. The handouts included comments from residents living along the alley. Mr. Anthony stated he and his wife approached council over 90 days ago regarding safety concerns of the alley. He stated the alley was visited by Mayor Rhome, Police Chief

Bell, Detective Coghill, Mr. Lawrence and other members of Council. Mr. Evans stated they concluded to make the alley one way for the safety of the residents. Mr. Evans stated that changing the alley to one way has eliminated safety issues. Further discussion held regarding the cemetery having an issue with the one way alley due to a piece of equipment, with limited use, that is unable to make a turn on the alley. Mr. Evans reviewed the suggestion from a previous Borough Meeting for the cemetery to use a cone when using this one piece of equipment. Discussion continued describing the alley's landscape, weather conditions of the alley during the winter, and the number of children that play in the alley. Mr. Evans was asking Council to follow Mayor Rhome, Police Chief Bell, Detective Coghill and Mr. Lawrence's decision to make these alleys safe for the residents and their children.

Gina Nester, Vice President of Oak Springs Cemetery, approached Council. She stated the cemetery is purchasing a backhoe that will not be able to make the left turn. She discussed the volume of business. She stated it was difficult for the employees to put numerous cones in the road and also stated Mayor Rhome stated the police could provide a police escort, however, she stated that could not always be feasible. Discussion held on the number of times the cemetery exits the property, approximately 45-50 times a year. Per Mrs. Nester, the current equipment can make the left turn but not the new piece that is ordered. Mr. Russo stated Council would make a decision on what is current. She stated the cemetery has not obeyed the one way signs for the last three months. Discussion held that the alley is the same as other alleys and there are many alleys in Canonsburg. Mr. Russo stated that when exceptions are made (police escorts for example) they seem right at the time, however, there are huge costs associated with exceptions. Mr. Russo stated the comments from residents, presented by Mr. Evans, totaled four with two of the signatures having the same last name, resulting in limited concerns. Mr. Bilsky stated that Mr. Evans made very good points; however, he is not aware of any incidents in the alley prior to the one way change. Mr. McGarry inquired about the cemetery using cones. Mrs. Nester stated that it would take about six cones.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Canonsburg was not awarded the grant for the Town Park basketball courts.

**VOTING ITEMS:****1. Motion to return Lotus and Coal Alley back to its original state, to remove the one way sign.**

Mr. Russo made the motion to return Lotus and Coal Alley back to its original state, to remove the one way sign. Mr. Sharkady seconded the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady- Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-No

Mr. McGarry-No

Mr. Bevec-Yes

5 yes, 2 no. Motion carries.

**2. Motion to approve tentative 2015 General Fund Budget.**

Motion by Mr. Russo to approve tentative 2015 General Fund Budget. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

**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.

**3. Motion to approve the CHJSA budget for 2015, with no sewer rate increase on the tentative budget.**

Motion by Mr. Russo to approve the CHJSA budget for 2015 with no sewer rate increase. Seconded by Severine.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-Yes

Mr. Russo-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-No

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mr. Bevec-Yes

6 yes, 1 no. Motion carries.

**4. Motion to approve Council Minutes with corrections of October 13, 2014.**

Mr. Severine made the motion approve Council Minutes with corrections of October 13, 2014.

Seconded by Mrs. Coleman. All in agreement. Motion Carries

**5. Motion to approve Engineers Report of November 3, 2014.**

Motion by Mr. Bilsky to approve Engineers Report of November 3, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

All in favor. Motion carries.

**6. Motion to appoint Manual Pihakas to the Canonsburg, Cecil, North Strabane, Public Library Association Board or a three (3) year term ending 12-31-17.**

Motion by Mr. McGarry to appoint Manual Pihakas to the Canonsburg, Cecil, North Strabane, Public Library Association Board or a three (3) year term ending 12-31-17. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

6 Yes, 1 No (Mr. Sharkady). Motion carries.

**7. Motion to hire Mackin to complete the new ZO and SALDO for \$39,730.00 to begin in January 2015.**

Motion by Mr. Bilsky to hire Mackin to complete the new ZO and SALDO for \$39,730.00 to begin in January 2015. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

**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.

**8. Motion to limit parking to the North Side of Duquesne Avenue in the 400 to 500 block for a ninety (90) day trial period.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to limit parking to the North Side of Duquesne Avenue in the 400 to 500 block for a ninety (90) day period. Seconded by Mr. Bilsky.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Sharkady-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Bilsky-Yes

Mr. Russo-No

Mrs. Coleman-No

Mr. McGarry-No

Mr. Bevec-No

3 yes, 4 no. Motion fails.

Mr. Severine questioned the reasoning of the “no” vote. Mr. Bevec stated he received phone calls against it.

**9. Motion to limit parking to the West Side of South Jefferson Avenue for a ninety (90) day trial.**

Motion by Mr. Bilsky to limit parking to the West Side of South Jefferson Avenue for a ninety (90) day trial. Seconded by Mr. Russo.

**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.

**Motion corrected to include the West Side of Jefferson from Archer to Elm. (Move parking on South Jefferson to the west side-South Jefferson corner of Archer and South Jefferson to Elm.)**

No change in vote. Mr. Derrico confirmed the clarification of the motion was permissible.

**10. Motion to limit parking to the West side of Archer Street for a ninety (90) day trial.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to limit parking to the West side of Archer Street for a ninety (90) day trial.

Seconded by Mr. Russo. Mr. Sharkady pointed out that Archer is east and west, therefore parking has to be on the north or south side. Mr. Severine and Mr. Russo withdrew their motions.

**11. Motion to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation for the Canon Mac parking lot at 5 Iron Street.**

Motion by Mr. Severine to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation for the Canon Mac

parking lot at 5 Iron Street. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

6 yes, 1 no (Mr. Sharkady) Motion Carries

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

-Mayor Rhome reviewed the October Monthly report.

- 3 individuals certified to do parking meter certifications, 2 are out of the police department and one out of the Public Parks Department.

-Thanked Veterans for serving as Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day

-Officer Bailey returned to work after being injured during a call last week

-An arrest has been made in regards to a stolen car by Walgreens, East end of town.

-Hiring of 2 new police officers for the Canonsburg Police Department due to retirements. Four names have been submitted to the Mayor for consideration. The candidates are: Thomas O'Rourke #1 on the test, Anthony Cancilla #2 on the test, Kenneth Gluth #3 on the test, Roger Frazee #4 on the test.

Background checks were performed on all four candidates.

Per Civil Service recommendation, the Mayor recommended the hiring of Thomas O'Rourke effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 to the Police Department. **Mrs. Coleman made a motion to accept the Mayor's recommendation of the hiring of Thomas O'Rourke effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 to the Police Department.** Mr. McGarry seconded the motion. Mr. Sharkady inquired about the hiring effective December 1<sup>st</sup> when the retirements are not until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Bevec stated that in public and private sector it makes for a smoother transition as well as a better situation for Canonsburg. The Mayor stated there are funds available for the transition. Mr. Severine inquired if the candidates were part time status, in which the Mayor responded "yes".

**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 and 2 no. Motion carries.

The Mayor recommended the hiring of Anthony Cancilla as the next full time office for the Canonsburg Police Department.

**Mr. McGarry made the motion to accept the Mayor's recommendation of the hiring of Anthony Cancilla effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 to the Police Department.** Mr. Severine seconded the motion.

Mr. Sharkady inquired if Mr. Cancilla is a part-time officer, the Mayor responded "yes." Mr. Bevec inquired if the two hired are at equal seniority. The Mayor responded it was presented based on seniority.

**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 and 2 no. Motion carries.

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

None



**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Three grants received for the flood mitigation. Mr. Bevec signed the necessary papers regarding the grants.

**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. Mr. McGarry seconded the motion.

**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 carried.

**OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Still no response from Mr. SanPietro or his attorney in regards to the Ebay store or the next steps. The Borough requested a response from Mr. SanPeitro's attorney on April 29, 2014.

Mr. Severine inquired if the Borough owned the property. Mr. Derrico responded that the Borough owns the property subject to paying some monies to Mr. SanPietro. Mr. SanPietro objects to a judgment that is on record, therefore, any monies paid may go to pay off the judgment.

From Re-Development:

-West College Street, 300 block, will qualify, 2 homes

-West and East Pitt Street, 6 listed and possibly another two more

-Mr. Lawrence has provided 10 more intersections to do handicap, \$50,000 worth of intersections.

-3 homes for demolition have been demolished with two more to be demolished. The addresses are 321 Euclid Avenue and 411 Duquesne. These are to be demolished by the spring of next year. A third home could be added to the list, on Highland Street.

-Discussion held on fee schedules. Mr. Lawrence provided Council with a copy of the fee schedules.

Mr. Lawrence discussed the request for a full time firefighter, stating the fireman could be a fire inspector. Mr. Lawrence stated there are between 230 and 280 commercial building in Canonsburg. If the average inspection cost is \$100 and conduct 220 to 250 inspections, this would generate \$22,000-\$25,000 in revenue per year. Mr. Severine discussed a visit to the Carnegie fire department stating they have a separate fire department building which they maintain strictly from their budget. Mr. Severine stated Carnegie has 22 active volunteers and no full time employees. Mr. Lawrence stated his proposal was not for him but was to move Canonsburg to a new millennium, he stated he honestly believes this is for the betterment of the fire department. He stated there are buildings in town that nobody knows what is in them or if the buildings are safe. He also commented he did not want to burden the tax payers. Discussion held on the 1 mill proposed for the full time fireman. Mr. Lawrence stated they are also looking into a revenue fund for this. Mr. Lawrence stated the money is for the fire department, the

best equipment for them to be safe. Mr. Severine stated a mill in Carnegie is worth the same as in Canonsburg. Discussion held on Carnegie mills and accuracy of information provided to Council regarding Carnegie taxes. Mr. Treschow stated there is an independent agency that conducts an audit. Their findings on the audit can affect insurance rates. A main question is “Do you inspect your commercial properties?” In Canonsburg, the answer has been “no.” Mayor Rhome inquired to whom Mr. Severine spoke to in Carnegie, he stated, “the lady at the Borough building.” Mayor Rhome stated the person he spoke to may not know the workings of inter-departments. Mayor Rhome stated he didn’t think 1 mill of tax is too much to pay for the safety of residents and safety of fire fighters. Mr. Severine discussed changing the parking meters to 25 cents for 1 hour. He stated the parking meters are not supposed to be revenue. Mr. Bevec stated that it is revenue for the budget. Mr. Russo stated that parking meters have brought in about \$53,000 a year. Mr. Russo stated that there has to be a plan to replace the revenue. Further discussion by Mr. Russo on the revenue needing to be replaced. Mr. Bevec stated on numerous occasions the business owners had chance to discuss the meters. At the first meeting, there was no one in attendance. The second meeting consisted of 2 people, one being the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Russo stated the Council supports it, there just has to be a way to replace the revenue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Held 7:01 to 7:16

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McGarry made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Submitted by: Michelle LoBello**