

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** This meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Joseph A. Pompa.

**PRESENT:** A quorum was present including members of Council as follows: Joseph A. Pompa; Sean Burke; Jeffrey Ketner; Brady Leahey, and James Mielnik. Also participating: Borough Manager James Gehret; Mayor Joseph Dodson; Borough Secretary Patricia J. Duron; Solicitor Nathan Karn; Sgt. Richard Oldham; Director of Community Relations and Events Melanie Ramsey; and Building Code Official Gerald Harbison. Walter Kalista, III participated by telephone. Councilwoman Michelle Baker and Mayor Dodson were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** President Pompa led the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented for Council's approval. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Mr. Leahey and was seconded by Mr. Burke. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved, six votes to zero votes.

**MANAGER'S REPORT & MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Gehret advised that his reports were in the agenda binder

**PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT:** Mr. Harbison's reports were in their meeting agenda binders.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EVENTS:** Melanie reminded all about the September Downtown LIVE! Concert scheduled September 16<sup>th</sup>. She reported that the Farmers Market were going well.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Carol Dannenberg from Hollidaysburg Watchdog, 511 Allegheny Street, 1321 Country Club Terrace: Ms. Dannenberg spoke negatively about the GRETKA rezoning request. She also spoke about the comprehensive plan update process.

Richard Latker, Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog, 703 Allegheny Street: Mr. Latker spoke with approval about the hire of Melanie Ramsey as the new Director of Community Relations & Events. He spoke about recent retirement of Chief Estep. He spoke negatively about the Phoenix Volunteer Fire Department's fire siren and expressed concerns about the current situation with the Phoenix Volunteer Fire Department. He spoke positively about the appointment of Jeffrey Ketner as Ward 7 representative.

Regis Nale, 210 Jackson Street: Mr. Nale spoke negatively about the GRETKA Real Estate rezoning request. He also discussed the comprehensive plan update and the residents of Blair Street's request to rezone from several years ago. He spoke about the search for a new Chief of Police.

**OPEN AGENDA:** No one had anything for the next agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-21: CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Gehret asked for Council's consideration of Resolution No. 2021-21 for bill list number 9 totaling \$102,648.00 and the Minimum Municipal Obligations for the uniformed and non-uniformed employees' pension plans. A motion was made by Mr. Ketner and was seconded by Mr. Mielnik to approve Resolution No. 2021-21. A vote was taken with the motion carrying, six votes to zero votes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-21  
A RESOLUTION APPROVING CONSENT AGENDA**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg, Blair County, Pennsylvania, that:

- 1) **Bill List No. 9** dated September 9, 2021 authorizes payment of expenses totaling \$102,648.00 consisting of accounts payable and owing the Borough of Hollidaysburg from duly appropriated moneys is hereby approved.
- 2) The **Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)** for the Uniformed Pension Plan for 2022 has been duly filed and is hereby accepted.
- 3) The **Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)** for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for 2022 has been duly filed and is hereby accepted.

**DULY** adopted by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

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Joseph A. Pompa, President

ATTEST:

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Patricia J. Duron, Secretary

**ABCD MANAGING THE REVOLVING LOAN FUND:** The group discussed the proposed agreement. A motion was then made to approve an agreement with ABCD and the Borough by Mr. Burke. This motion was seconded by Mr. Leahey. A vote was taken and the motion carried six votes to zero votes.

**DISCUSSION: PHOENIX VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The Borough Manager gave an update on the status of the fire department with respect to the annual contribution from the Borough. The payment was made to the department's CPA.

**CDBG APPLICATION:** Trina Illig, CDBG Coordinator for Blair County was there to discuss the Borough's application for 2021 funding in the amount of \$112,690.00. A motion was made by Mr. Burke to use the funding toward housing rehab. This motion was seconded by Mr. Ketner and a vote was taken. The motion carried six votes to zero votes. There was discussion about sidewalks for some areas that would require an income survey to determine eligibility. If the areas qualify the sidewalk project can be added as a modification to the application later.

**APPOINT A FIRE MARSHAL:** A motion was made by Mr. Ketner to appoint Amy Hazlett as the Borough of Hollidaysburg Fire Marshal. Mr. Mielnik seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with six votes in favor and none against.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-22 SIDEWALK MODIFICATION:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Council went into an executive session at 8:10 PM to discuss personnel and will not return to the regular meeting. A motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-22 for a sidewalk modification was made by Mr. Leahey and was seconded by Mr. Burke. A vote was taken and the motion passed six votes to zero votes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-22  
GRANTING A MODIFICATION TO THE 4' MINIMUM SIDEWALK WIDTH  
REQUIREMENT OF THE BOROUGH OF HOLLIDAYSBURG OF CHAPTER 21  
STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, PART 2 - SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAYS, SUB PART A  
- SIDEWALK & DRIVEWAY CONSTRUCTION, SECTION 201A.7 FOR THE  
REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALK SECTIONS ADJACENT TO TREE PLANTING PITS  
AT 715 GARBER STREET, HOLLIDAYSBURG**

**WHEREAS**, Karl and Jutta G. Lorensen ("Applicants") are the owners of 715 Garber Street, a residentially zoned property; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Applicants have submitted a permit application to replace certain sidewalk slabs and to replant at least one shade tree and possibly a second tree along the Garber Street frontage of their property (herein referred to as the PROJECT); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Applicants in consultation with the Borough Shade Tree Commission, desire a larger planting area than the current narrow width of twenty-three (23) inches between the curb and sidewalk so as to provide a better environment for the replacement shade tree(s) to thrive; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Applicants propose to replace the current four (4) foot wide sidewalk slab(s) adjacent to the tree pit(s) at a width not less than three (3) feet to provide a wider planting area of two and one half (2½) feet between the curb and new sidewalk; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Hollidaysburg Streets and Sidewalk Ordinance requires all sidewalks constructed or reconstructed within the Borough to be not less than four (4) feet in width in areas zoned residential unless modified by Borough Council to a lesser width of not less than three (3) feet

due to unnecessary and undue hardship; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the opinion of Borough Council, the proposed sidewalk width modification is justified for this PROJECT only for the slabs adjacent to shade trees so as to provide for a wider planting area of two and one half (2½) feet between the new sidewalk and curb and furthermore, all other reconstructed sidewalk is to be a width that is consistent with the existing sidewalks in the immediate area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ADOPTED AND RESOLVED** that for the PROJECT, the Borough Council of Hollidaysburg hereby grants a modification to the 4' Minimum Sidewalk Width Requirement Of The Borough Of Hollidaysburg In Chapter 21 Streets And Sidewalks, Part 2 - Sidewalks And Driveways, Sub Part A - Sidewalk & Driveway Construction, Section 201a.7 For The Replacement Of Sidewalk Sections Adjacent To Tree Planting Pits At 715 Garber Street to a lesser width of not less than three (3) feet.

**DULY** approved by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg this 9th day of September, 2021.

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Joseph A. Pompa, Council President

ATTEST:

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Patricia J. Duron, Borough Secretary

**FIREWORKS PERMIT APPROVAL:** An application was presented or review to approve a fireworks permit for Epic Pyrotechnics LLC. A motion was made by Mr. Burke and was seconded by Mr. Ketner. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously, six votes to zero votes.

**ACCEPT RETIREMENT OF CHIEF RODNEY ESTEP:** A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to accept the retirement of Chief Estep effective August 31, 2021. This motion was seconded by Mr. Burke and a vote was taken. The motion carried with a vote of six in favor.

**ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM KEN PARKS, WWTP:** A motion was made by Mr. Burke to accept the resignation of WWTP Pretreatment Coordinator Ken Parks. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed six votes to zero votes.

**APPROVE THE HIRE OF BRADY WERTZ AS THE PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATION/CLASS C OPERATOR:** A motion was made by Mr. Ketner and was seconded by Mr. Mielnik to approve the hire of Brady Wertz. A vote was taken and the motion passed six votes to zero votes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** President Pompa announced an executive session to discuss personnel at 7:40 pm and that Council would not return to their regular meeting.

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Patricia J. Duron, Borough Secretary