

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024
7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER: This meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Burke.

PRESENT: A quorum was present including members of Council as follows: Sean Burke; Brady Leahey; Jeffrey Ketner; David Jacobs; Clay Gingrich; Walter Kalista, III, and William Kitt. Also participating: Borough Manager Ethan Imhoff; Borough Secretary Patricia J. Duron; Attorney Calvin Webb; Mayor Joseph Dodson; Director of Community Development Andrew Holodnik; Director of Community Relations and Events Melanie Ramsey; Fire Marshal Amy Hazlett; and Sgt. Richard Oldham. Absent: Chief Christopher Storm and Solicitor Nathan Karn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Burke led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on September 9, 2024 were presented for Council's review and approval. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Mr. Leahey and was seconded by Mr. Jacobs. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously with seven votes in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. GREAT COMMISSION SCHOOL PETITION TO REZONE: ORDINANCE NO. 913:

Attorney Calvin Webb conducted a hearing regarding a petition to rezone from the Great Commission School with respect to property that they own and that they wish to have rezoned from Traditional Neighborhood District to Conservation Recreation. Following the hearing and discussion, Borough Council considered the adoption of Ordinance No. 913. A motion was made by Mr. Kitt to adopt Ordinance No. 913. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mr. Jacobs – yes
Mr. Kalista – yes
Mr. Leahey – yes
Mr. Burke - yes
Mr. Gingrich – yes
Mr. Kitt – yes
Mr. Ketner – yes

Ordinance No. 913 was adopted with seven votes in favor and zero votes against.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Imhoff advised that the design phase of the Stowell Farm stormwater mitigation project is close to finalization and that a November meeting with residents will be scheduled. He advised that the County of Blair had reassessed the retention pond property that is now owned by the Borough as tax exempt.

FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT: Ms. Wert advised that the monthly reports were in Council's packet.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT: Mr. Holodnik presented his department's September report. He also advised that the month of October is National Code Enforcement Month. He reported that two new businesses would open soon in the Borough: Bookshop and Neon Touch Tattoo. He advised that a community volunteer is needed to serve on the Blight Committee.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS REPORT: Ms. Ramsey presented her monthly report and highlighted the upcoming Pumpkinfest and the need for volunteer help.

FIRE MARSHAL: Ms. Hazlett reported she had made school visits with fire prevention materials and information. She reminded everyone that October is Fire Prevention Month and to check the batteries in their smoke detectors, etc.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT: Sgt. Oldham presented the department's August report.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Dodson reported that the American Legion Post 516 had made a \$1000.00 donation to Winterfest. He invited Borough Council to the Citizen of the Year Ceremony to be held on Wednesday, October 16th at 4:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gerald Corbin, 1300 Walnut Street: Talked about the need to continue to allow open burning on Saturday mornings.

Mark Ickes, Explore Altoona: Spoke about the hospitality tax and the attempt to decertify the Explore Altoona entity from receiving funds from that tax revenue.

Dustin Delozier, U.S. Hotel; 116 Quince CT: Requested that Borough Council support Explore Altoona and not vote to decertify the organization.

Patrick Schurr, Explore Altoona: Requested support for Explore Altoona.

Shawn Leydig, 407 Beaver Street: Thanked Borough Council for the work on the comp plan and the public comp plan meetings.

Elda Boose, 141 Bedford Street: Thanked Borough Council for their help with stormwater mitigation in Gaysport.

Steve Albright, 421 Bedford Street: Thanked the Police Department.

OPEN AGENDA:

Mr. Kitt: East side stormwater mitigation project.

Mr. Gingrich: Stormwater retention pond in Gaysport.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-30: CONSENT AGENDA:

- a.) Resolution No. 2024-30 for bill list number 10 totaling \$403,559.63
- b.) Three Certificates of Appropriateness – 210 ½ Allegheny Street; 111 Allegheny Street; and 615 Blair Street

A motion was made by Mr. Kalista and was seconded by Mr. Leahey to approve Resolution No. 2024-30. A vote was taken with the motion carrying, seven votes to zero votes.

UPDATE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: There had been three public workshops for the comp plan in October. Work continues with the Blair County Planning Commission to finalize an updated plan.

BOROUGH SIDEWALKS GRANT PROGRAM: The Borough is continuing to accept grant applications and the grant monies will be available in 2025 as well.

EAST SIDE STORMWATER MITIGATION: The design phase is completed. No new updates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-31 APPROVING THE CDBG 2024-1 APPLICATION: A motion was made by Mr. Kalista and was seconded by Mr. Kitt to adopt Resolution No. 2024-31. A vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously with seven votes in favor.

BLIGHT COMMITTEE: A full slate of volunteers will be named at the November Borough Council Meeting.

SPEEDING REMEDIES: Data from the digital speed monitoring devices was provided for Bel Aire Road and Bedford Street. After a review of the data, Council agreed that the deployment of digital signs is effective to deter speeding on these roadways. The manager will meet with Chief Storm to discuss using more of such devices.

STOP EXCEPT RIGHT TURN SIGN AT NEWRY AND BEDFORD STREET: Mr.

Gingrich discussed this item, reporting that he felt that the stop sign is sufficient as it is.

STREET LIGHT MOVED ON BEDFORD STREET: This item will be kept on the agenda for further discussion in November.

CDBG COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF BLAIR: A motion was made by Mr. Ketner to approve the execution of this agreement. Mr. Gingrich seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with seven votes in favor to zero votes against.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-33 FAIR HOUSING: Mr. Kalista made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-33 Fair Housing. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed, seven votes in favor to zero votes against.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH AFSCME FOR A PART-TIME FINANCE CLERK: Mr. Leahey made a motion to accept the MOU with AFSCME. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion and a vote was taken. This motion passed unanimously with seven votes.

APPROVE A WORKERS COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT WITH JAMES ZIMMERMAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000: A motion was made by Mr. Gingrich to approve the settlement and the motion was seconded by Mr. Jacobs. A vote was taken and the motion passed with seven votes in favor and zero votes against.

ORDINANCE NO. 910: A motion was made by Mr. Kalista to adopt Ordinance No. 910. Mr. Ketner seconded it and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mr. Jacobs – yes

Mr. Kalista – yes

Mr. Leahey – yes

Mr. Burke - yes

Mr. Gingrich – yes

Mr. Kitt – yes

Mr. Ketner – yes

Ordinance No. 910 was adopted unanimously with seven votes in favor.

2025 BUDGET: A budget workshop was held at 5:30 this day. The proposed budget will be available for the public in November.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A short executive session to discuss real estate was announced at 8:30 PM. Borough Council will not be returning to their regular meeting.