

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024
7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER: This meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President Burke.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Burke announced that Borough Council had conducted an executive session at 6:50 pm regarding real estate. He advised that this item would be discussed later in the agenda.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Burke the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on January 2 and continued until January 11, 2024 were presented for Council's review and approval. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Mr. Kalista and was seconded by Mr. Jacobs. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT: *No report was given at this time.*

FINANCIAL REPORT: *No report until after the annual audit.*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT: Mr. Holodnik was not in attendance at this meeting.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS REPORT: Ms. Ramsey thanked all for their support for the recent events and updated them on what is to come in 2024. She advised that it is Black History Month and that the kiosk on Allegheny Street celebrated such.

FIRE MARSHAL: Ms. Hazlett reported that she is participating in a dangerous fire escape investigation in the Borough. She advised residents to keep the fire hydrants shoveled out in times of snow fall and to check the batteries in their smoke detectors.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Dodson was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard Latker, 703 Allegheny Street, Community Watchdog: Spoke negatively about the Comprehensive Plan Update process and the recent rezoning petition.

Kerry Leydig, 315 Bedford Street: Spoke about the increases that residents are seeing in their homeowner's insurance policy fees. Wants to know why and how the Borough will fix it.

Mark Slonaker, PVFD: Gave the year-to-date fire company report.

Elda Boose, 141 Bedford Street: Thanked Borough Council for support for stormwater mitigation in Gaysport and also for work on the comprehensive plan and the purchase of property in Gaysport for stormwater detention.

Eric Schmidt, PVFD: Requested Council's support toward a grant of \$60,000 toward the purchase of a fire engine.

Joel Seeley, 104 Quince CT: Advised Borough Council that the residents do not have a problem with the current parking status at Jackson Farm Drive and do not want it changed.

Don Delozier, 401 S. Juniata Street: Spoke in support of the comprehensive plan update proposal. Thanked the Borough for their continuing support of businesses and the Hollidaysburg Community Partnership.

Steve Albright, 421 Bedford Street: Advised that a vehicle hit and damaged his home on Bedford Street, thanked the police for their investigation and thanked Borough Council. Discussed parking and transparency and about identification signs on the Borough's vehicles. Requested that Borough Council conduct two meetings per month.

Regis Nale, 202 Spruce Street; Community Watchdog Group: Spoke about Jackson Farm Drive.

Seth Smith, 304 Quince CT: Advised that there is no parking issue on Jackson Farm Drive.

Morgan Williams, 309 Quince CT: Advised that there is no parking issue on Jackson Farm Drive and to change the parking would be a waste of money.

Gerard Nale, 109 Bedford Street: Thanked Borough Council on the behalf of Bedford Street and Gaysport neighbors for their continuing efforts towards stormwater management in Gaysport.

OPEN AGENDA:

Mr. Kalista: Referring to an article in *The Town Crier*, he thanked Jimmy Carson on his upcoming retirement from the Borough.

Mr. Leahey: Reflectors on Bedford Street and the grant for the PVFD's fire engine purchase.

Mr. Gingrich: Flooding in Gaysport. Why the ISO changed. Vehicle signage and transparency.

Mr. Ketner: PVFD's request for a grant from the Borough to purchase a fire engine.

Mr. Burke: Expressed sympathies to the family of John Little, former Borough Manager.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-7: CONSENT AGENDA: Resolution No. 2024-7 for bill list number 2 totaling \$433,298.96. A motion was made by Mr. Leahey and was seconded by Mr. Kalista to approve Resolution No. 2024-7. A vote was taken with the motion carrying, seven votes to zero votes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-7
A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 1) **Bill List No. 2** dated February 8, 2024 authorizes payment of expenses totaling \$433,298.96 consisting of accounts payable and owing the Borough of Hollidaysburg from duly appropriated moneys is hereby approved.

DULY adopted by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg this 8th day of February, 2024.

Sean Burke
Council President

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Duron, Secretary

APPOINT AN INTERIM BOROUGH MANAGER: Mr. Leahey made a motion to appoint Patricia J. Duron as the interim borough manager effective Friday, February 9, 2024 until the day that a newly hired manager may begin work at a rate of \$550.00 weekly. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.

STORMWATER UPDATE/GAYSPORT/PROPERTY PURCHASE: Solicitor Karn presented an update on the purchase of property identified as the Stowell Farm. He advised that BC holdings, owner, would not honor an extension to their existing purchase agreement with the Borough. He advised that council wishes to move forward with an eminent domain claim of the property and taking by condemnation. At the March 14, 2024 meeting there will be a resolution presented for Borough Council to consider regarding the compensation of the owner and the taking of the property. Borough Council voiced their consensus of the decision to the condemnation.

SIDEWALKS: No new applications for the grant at this time.

DISCUSSION: UPDATE PARKING ON JACKSON STREET: Mr. Leahey made a motion to table this discussion. Mr. Kitt seconded the motion and the item was tabled.

DISCUSSION: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – ACCEPT/DENY THE FINAL DRAFT: Mr. Kitt made a motion to not accept the final draft of the comp plan. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion failed with three in favor and four opposed. Mr. Leahey made a motion to accept the final draft of the comp plan. Mr. Kalista seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with four votes in favor and three votes opposed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-8 APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE COVID ARPA H2O PA GRANT CONTRACT: Mr. Leahy made a motion to approve the execution of the contract for the COVID ARPA Grant. Mr. Gingrich seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: CHANGE A PARKING PROHIBITED AREA TO A PARKING AREA ON JACKSON FARM DRIVE: Mr. Kalista made a motion to remove this item from the agenda for any discussion. Mr. Kitt seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION: PERMIT PARKING ON WAYNE STREET: Mr. Leahey made a motion to remove this item from the agenda for any discussion. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously with seven votes.

APPROVE A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH CLEVELAND BROTHERS FOR THE GENERATOR: Mr. Kalista made a motion to approve the agreement. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed with seven votes in favor.

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF A PART-TIME PUBLIC SAFETY CLERK AND APPROVE THE HIRE OF A NEW CLERK: Mr. Kalista made a motion to accept the resignation and approve the hire of a new clerk. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was passed with seven votes in favor.

APPROVE THE USE OF AN OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR THE TAX COLLECTOR: Mr. Kalista made a motion to allow Tax Collector Donna Carson to use a small office on the first floor and pay \$100.00 each month as rent. Mr. Gingrich seconded this motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: LIMIT MUNICIPAL PURCHASING WITHIN THE BOROUGH LIMITS: Mr. Gingrich had requested this agenda item. At this time, he announced that he was satisfied that the purchasing was done in an acceptable manner.

PROPERTY BLIGHT IN THE BOROUGH: Following discussion, a motion to table this item was made by Mr. Leahey and Mr. Gingrich seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the agenda item was tabled.

APPROVE THE HIRE OF A PARKS MAINTENANCE CUSTODIAN/CLASS C OPERATOR: Mr. Kalista made a motion to approve the hire of a Parks Maintenance Custodian Class C Operator. Mr. Leahey seconded this motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed with all seven members voting in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-9 APPROVING LAND DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR 271 LOOP ROAD – BLAIR SENIOR SERVICES: There was a motion by Mr. Leahey to table this resolution. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed and this item was tabled.

DISCUSSION: CONSTRUCT A LOCKER ROOM IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING:
ADJOURN: Following discussion, Council came to a consensus to move forward with the renovation to build a locker room for the police department.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10 FIRST NATIONAL BANK CERTIFICATION OF NEW SIGNERS: A motion was made by Mr. Leahey and Mr. Kalista seconded it to certify new signers for the bank accounts.

APPOINT A COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE BLAIR COUNTY GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: President Burke volunteered to serve on the Blair County Government Advisory Committee.

APPROVE THE BLACK BALLOON CAMPAIGN REQUEST FROM THE FAMILIES UNITED FOR CHANGE: Mr. Leahey made a motion to permit the Families United For Change to place black ribbons and cards on the parking meters in the Business District during March. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion and with all voting in favor, their request was approved.

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ADJOURN: President Burke adjourned this meeting at 8:50 pm.

Patricia J. Duron, Borough Secretary