

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023, 7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

**PRESENT:** A quorum was present including other members of Council as follows: Michele Baker; James Mielnik; Sean Burke; Brady Leahey; Jeffrey Ketner and Walter Kalista, III. Also participating: Borough Manager James Gehret; Borough Secretary Patricia J. Duron; Attorney Jeffrey Murceak; Police Chief Chris Storm; Director of Community Relations and Events Melanie Ramsey; and Planning /Zoning Administrator Andrew Holodnik. Mayor Dodson and Fire Marshal Amy Hazlett were absent.

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

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the meeting held on October 12, 2023 were presented for Council's review and approval. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Mr. Leahey and was seconded by Mr. Kalista. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved with seven votes to zero votes.

**MANAGER'S/FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Gehret advised that he had nothing to add to his manager's report that was in the agenda binder. He advised that the finance report showed that the Borough was in sound financial shape.

**PLANNING/ZONING:** Mr. Holodnik presented the monthly report for the department's activity.

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS REPORT:** Ms. Ramsey reported on upcoming Winterfest events and thanked all for their support.

**FIRE MARSHAL REPORT:** No report as Ms. Hazlett was absent.

**CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:** The Chief presented the department's October report. He advised that trick or treat night went well. He advised that the Civil Service Commission had conducted interviews for police candidates.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Dodson was absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Aaron Andrews, HALAS:** Discussed the Hollidaysburg American Legion Ambulance Service's application for a grant to purchase an ambulance.

Stan Neal, 142 Beaver Street: Spoke against the rezoning of the Stowell Farm property.

Elda Boose, 141 Bedford Street: Spoke about CDBG funds and the grant to build a retention pond in Gaysport.

Regis Nale, 202 Spruce Street; Hollidaysburg Sewer Authority Chairman: Spoke about sewer issues in the Borough.

Andre Holsey, Blair County NAACP: Spoke about the Comprehensive Plan Update Process and about the Planning Commission.

**OPEN AGENDA:**

Ms. Baker: Flooding in Gaysport and the purchase of the property to build a detention pond.

Mr. Burke: The zoning issue regarding sales of merchandise on Scotch Valley Road.

Mr. Leahey: Report on the NAACP's issues with Borough Council.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-29: CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Gehret requested Council's consideration of Resolution No. 2023-29 for bill list number 11 totaling \$116,899.39, the approval of three Certificates of Appropriateness, and a revised MMO for the uniformed pension plan. A motion was made by Mr. Burke and was seconded by Mr. Kalista to approve Resolution No. 2023-29. A vote was taken with the motion carrying, seven votes to zero votes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-29  
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. 11** dated November 9, 2023 authorizes payment of expenses totaling \$116,899.39 consisting of accounts payable and owing the Borough of Hollidaysburg from duly appropriated moneys is hereby approved.
- 2) **Certificates of Appropriateness** are to be Approved and Council Authorizes the Zoning Administrator to issue Certificates of Appropriateness/Zoning Permits as follows:
  - A. **314 CLARK STREET – NEW WINDOWS – SAINT MARY CHURCH**
    - To replace three broken windows in the social hall
    - The windows will be the same size as the broken windows

- The new window will have Muntins
  - No structural changes will be made
  - A zoning permit will be required
  - The structure is classified as a Contributing Structure within the Historic District
- B. 215-217 BLAIR STREET – FOUNDATION & PORCH REPAIRS - SCOT MCAFEE**
- Replace the foundation on the left side of the structure (215)
  - Replace block wall supports on the front porch with footers (217)
  - The structure is a Contributing Structure within the Historic District
- C. 424 ALLEGHENY STREET, SUITE 103 – SIGNAGE – KATIE FIORE**
- Install a 11.75” by 24” double-sided carved sign on a shingle
  - The sign will read “Katie Fiore/LMFT Licensed Therapist”
  - The colors will be white, navy, and gold
  - The structure is a Contributing Structure within the Historic District
- 3) Revised MMO for Uniformed Pension Plan**

**DULY** adopted by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

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Joseph A. Pompa, President

ATTEST:

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Patricia J. Duron, Secretary

**UPDATE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** Mr. Holodnik advised Borough Council that the Hollidaysburg Planning Commission had moved the plan to public comment period and then it will move forward to Borough Council for adoption after 45 days.

**STORMWATER/BEDFORD STREET UPDATE:** Mr. Gehret advised that he will consult with Senator Ward’s office regarding the grant status. He will check about the steps to purchase the ground outright. He will request that Solicitor Karn look at the agreement.

**BOROUGH SIDEWALKS:** Sidewalk grant applications have slowed down this fall.

**STREET SWEEPER:** Mr. Gehret advised that the new street sweeper had been ordered.

**SELECT A DESIGN PLAN FOR THE SPRING STREET STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT:** Council was requested to choose from three different design plan proposals and associated fees prepared by Stiffler McGraw Engineers. Mr. Leahey made a motion to select design plan # 3 (Condron Street). Ms. Baker seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with seven votes in favor.

**SPEEDING ON BEL AIRE ROAD (Tabled):** Mr. Ketner made a motion to remove this agenda item from the table for discussion. Following discussion, the consensus of Council was to keep signage, etc. as it is on Bel Aire Road and to monitor the area for enforcement during high volume traffic times.

**APPROVAL TO HIRE A PART-TIME PUBLIC SAFETY CLERK: (TABLED):** A motion to remove this agenda item from the table was made by Mr. Leahey and was seconded by Mr. Kalista. Manager Gehret advised that at a meeting with the AFSCME Union Representative Gerald George and AFSCME Union Local President Amy Hazlett; Mr. George had advised that the union will not support the flex shift as suggested. The employee is to work a regular shift, daylight. Following discussion about overtime and the need to hire another public safety clerk for the department; Mr. Leahey made a motion to hire a part-time public safety clerk. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed with all seven members voting in favor.

**FINAL BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Manager Gehret advised that there is no tax increase for 2024. He also recommended a \$7500.00 salary increase for the Director of Community Relations and Events. He indicated that staff members would get a 4% salary increase and that healthcare rates would be increased by 5%. Mr. Leahey made a motion to accept this final budget, as presented, for 2024. Mr. Burke seconded the motion and a vote was taken. All members voted in favor and the motion passed.

**DISCUSSION: ZONING ISSUE ON SCOTCH VALLEY ROAD:** Mr. Burke made a motion to table this item until the December meeting. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**DISCUSSION: BLIGHTED PROPERTIES:** Mr. Holodnik discussed the Borough's property maintenance and dangerous structure ordinance as well as enforcement procedures.

**DISCUSSION: NAACP:** Mr. Leahey made a motion to table this discussion until the December meeting. Ms. Baker seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**DISCUSSION: SPEED MONITORING:** Mayor Dodson was not present and as he had requested this agenda item to be placed on the agenda; Mr. Burke made a motion to table the discussion. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and all members voted to table the discussion.

**APPROVE THE HIRE OF A WWTP TECH II:** Mr. Kalista made a motion to approve the hire of a WWTP Tech II. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion and all present voted in favor.

**AUTHORIZE A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE ALLEGHENY SPAY AND NEUTER CLUB FOR A GRANT:** A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to authorize a support letter for the Allegheny Spay and Neuter Club to apply for a grant. Mr. Ketner seconded this motion and a vote

was taken. The motion was passed with seven votes in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-28 ISC AGREEMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to approve Resolution No. 2023-28 extending the ISC Agreement for two more years. Ms. Baker seconded the motion and a vote was taken. All members present approved the resolution unanimously.

**APPOINT DAWN HARPSTER AS THE ALTERNATE ON THE HOLLIDAYSBURG ZONING HEARING BOARD:** A motion was made by Mr. Burke to appoint Dawn Harpster as an alternate on the Hollidaysburg Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Kalista seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**DISCUSSION: STREET PARKING NEAR THE PRESBYTERIAN HOME:** Mr. Leahey made a motion to eliminate the first on street parking space closest to the entrance/exit of the home's parking garage. Mr. Kalista seconded the motion and a vote was taken. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**APPROVE THE HOLIDAY METER PARKING PROGRAM NOVEMBER 25, 2023 – JANUARY 1, 2024:** Mr. Kalista made a motion to approve the Holiday Meter Parking Program from November 25, 2023 – January 1, 2024. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

**APPROVE THE EXECUTION OF THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE HOLLIDAYSBURG POLICE ASSOCIATION:** Mr. Kalista made a motion to approve the execution of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of Hollidaysburg and the Hollidaysburg Police Association to be effective January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The motion passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-30 AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION ON THE BEHALF OF THE HOLLIDAYSBURG AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR A LOCAL SHARE GRANT APPLICATION:** Mr. Burke made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-30. Ms. Baker seconded this motion and a vote was taken. President Pompa abstained from the voting due to a conflict. The motion was approved with six votes in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-30  
AUTHORIZING THE HOLLIDAYSBURG AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE  
LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

**Be it RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Hollidaysburg of Blair County hereby request a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$111,801 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for a new ambulance.

**Be it FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Applicant does hereby designate Council President Joseph A. Pompa and Vice President Brady Leahey as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Hollidaysburg and the Commonwealth Financing Authority

to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

**DULY** adopted by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

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Joseph A. Pompa, President

ATTEST:

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Patricia J. Duron, Secretary

I, Patricia J. Duron, duly qualified Secretary of the Borough of Hollidaysburg, Blair County, Hollidaysburg, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Borough Council at a regular meeting held November 9, 2023 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Hollidaysburg Borough Council and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of the Borough of Hollidaysburg, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

Borough of Hollidaysburg Blair County

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**Secretary**

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CGI DIGITAL FOR A WELCOME VIDEO FOR THE BOROUGH WEBSITE:** A motion was made by Mr. Kalista to approve the execution of an agreement with CGI Digital for a welcome video on the Borough Website. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion passed.

**ADJOURN:** At 8:10 PM, President Pompa adjourned the meeting.

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Patricia J. Duron, Borough Secretary