

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 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; and Walter Kalista, III. Also participating: Borough Manager James Gehret; Borough Secretary Patricia J. Duron; Solicitor Nathan Karn; Mayor Joseph Dodson; Police Chief Chris Storm; Director of Community Relations and Events Melanie Ramsey; Planning /Zoning Administrator Andrew Holodnik; and Fire Marshal Amy Hazlett. Councilman Jeffrey Ketner was absent.

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

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on September 14, 2023 were presented for Council's review and approval. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Mr. Leahey and was seconded by Ms. Baker. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved with six votes to zero votes.

MANAGER'S/FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Gehret advised that there was a sample Christmas decoration hung at the Blair County Courthouse as the Borough is purchasing new seasonal decorations this year. The Finance Report through the end of September was in their agendas. He also discussed the bond rating that the Borough had achieved this year.

PLANNING/ZONING: Mr. Holodnik advised that there are some building/zoning projects happening in the Borough without the proper permits. He cautioned that it is necessary to obtain a permit before starting any work in the Borough.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS REPORT: Ms. Ramsey reported on the success of the Tuesday Farmers Markets and concerts this year and invited everyone to attend Pumpkinfest on October 14th.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT: Fire Marshal Amy Hazlett advised that October is fire prevention month and reminded residents to have their house number displayed.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT: The Chief presented the department's September report. He advised that there are 14 candidates for police officer testing to take place on October 21st.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Dodson thanked the police department and Ms. Ramsey for a good job. He presented a check to Ms. Ramsey for a sponsorship from the American Legion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Fitch, 109 Bel Aire Road: Spoke about a speeding on Bel Aire Road, and the distress status of municipalities.

Richard Latker, 703 Allegheny Street, Community Watchdog: Spoke against the Phoenix Fire department's grant application, and the connector bridge project with respect to the option to buy Diamond Supply.

Shaun Leydig, 407 Newry Street: Spoke about the police budget and suggested a stipend for the police officers. Discussed the ISO rating.

Andre Holsey, Blair County NAACP: Spoke about the lack of transparency of the Borough Council.

Greg Werstil, 767 Scotch Valley Road: Requested that Borough Council consider a zoning change to include a provision for surplus sales.

Mark Slonaker, PVFD: Presented the department's monthly report.

Elda Boose, 141 Bedford Street: Spoke about the flooding in Gaysport. She also spoke about CDBG funds and asked that Borough Council not rezone the Stowell Farm.

Regis Nale, 202 Spruce Street: Spoke about the comprehensive plan update and criticized the process.

Bill Kitt, 625 Hawthorne Drive: Spoke about the blighted properties he has noticed in the Borough.

OPEN AGENDA:

Ms. Baker: Flooding in Gaysport.

Mr. Kalista: Blighted properties.

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

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

Mayor Dodson: The purchase of speed monitoring devices such as speed humps and signs.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-24: CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. Gehret requested Council's consideration of Resolution No. 2023-24 for bill list number 10 totaling \$674,257.78, the approval

of seven Certificates of Appropriateness. A motion was made by Mr. Leahey and was seconded by Mr. Kalista to approve Resolution No. 2023-24. A vote was taken with the motion carrying, six votes to zero votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-24
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. 10** dated October 12, 2023 authorizes payment of expenses totaling \$674,257.78 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. **309 ALLEGHENY STREET– BUSINESS SIGNAGE - BECKI HOLLEN**
 - Hang a shingle sign from a bracket measuring 12 in. by 18 in.
 - The structure is classified as a Contributing Structure within the Historic District
 - B. **208 N. MONTGOMERY STREET – DECK TOP AND RAILINGS – KENNETH & ELLEN ESTEP**
 - Replace the deck top
 - Replace the railings
 - The replacement material will be composite (currently wood)
 - The structure is a contributing structure within the Historic District
 - C. **616 MULBERRY STREET –RAILING – KIRK & KAYLA DURBIN**
 - Replace the rusted cast iron railing with a wood railing
 - The structure is a significant structure within the Historic District
 - D. **807 WALNUT STREET – GARAGE – DAVID FOREMAN**
 - Construct a new garage to be 25 ft. x 21 ft.
 - Remove a stone wall
 - Install a new driveway to the garage where the wall was
 - The structure is a contributing structure within the Historic District
 - E. **912 WALNUT STREET – WINDOW REPLACEMENT – DAVID MONTRELLA**
 - To replace six existing windows with vinyl windows
 - The structure is a Contributing Structure within the Historic District
 - F. **407 WALNUT STREET – WINDOW REPLACEMENT – MATTHEW MATHIAS**
 - Remove two vinyl windows on first floor in the west end of structure in the kitchen
 - The openings will be bricked to match existing bricks and mortar
 - Remove and replace a window on the north side of the kitchen with a smaller vinyl window to match an existing north kitchen window

- The opening from the larger window that will be removed will be bricked in with the same brick and mortar as was used on the west end
 - The structure is a Contributing Structure within the Historic District
- G. 408 FRONT STREET – REPAIR EXTERIOR STEPS – BRIAN SMITH**
- Replace exterior steps with in kind materials
 - The steps will have a riser with an opening
 - The structure is a Contributing Structure within the Historic District

DULY adopted by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg this 12th day of October, 2023.

Joseph A. Pompa, President

ATTEST:

Patricia J. Duron, Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-25 AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION PVFD GRANT

APPLICATION: Mr. Leahey made a motion that Borough Council authorize the submission of a grant application for a Local Share Account Grant on the behalf of the PVFD. Mr. Kalista seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with six votes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-25
AUTHORIZING THE PHONEIX VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT LOCAL SHARE
ACCESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

Be it RESOLVED, that the Borough of Hollidaysburg of Blair County hereby request a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$936,841.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for a new fire engine.

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 12th day of October, 2023.

Joseph A. Pompa, President

ATTEST:

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 October 12,

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 12th day of October, 2023.

Borough of Hollidaysburg
Blair County

Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-26 APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE 2023 CDBG

APPLICATION: A motion was made by Mr. Burke to adopt Resolution No. 2023-26 for the execution of the CDBG application for 2023. Mr. Kalsita seconded this motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with all six members in attendance voting in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-26
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE
HOLLIDAYSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Pennsylvania Act 179 of 1984, Hollidaysburg Borough, is eligible to apply for and receive an annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) with said funds to be used to undertake housing and community development projects, which primarily benefit person of low-to moderate-income; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hollidaysburg has specifically designated the County of Blair to apply for and administer their Community Development Block Grant for Fiscal Year FY2023; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hollidaysburg has selected project(s) to be included within the application for Community Development Block Grant funds for Fiscal Year FY2023 and concur with the program contained therein; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hollidaysburg in cooperation with the County of Blair have conducted the required public hearings to obtain citizen input as well as to formulate a Community Development Plan, which identifies and prioritizes needs along with the activities to be undertaken with CDBG funds to address such needs; and

WHEREAS, the County of Blair on behalf of Hollidaysburg Borough have prepared an application for Community Development Block Grant Funds for Fiscal Year FY2023 including all Understandings and Assurances contained within the application for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the person identified as the Chief Elected Official of the County of Blair may act in regards to the application for Community Development Block Grant for FY2023 funds and to provide such information as may be required; and the officers of the Borough, the President and Secretary, are hereby authorized to affix their signatures to the application for FY2023 funds.

DULY, adopted by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg during a scheduled public meeting held on Thursday, October 12, 2023.

HOLLIDAYSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

Joseph A. Pompa, President

Patricia J. Duron, Secretary
(SEAL)

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-27 ADOPTING A FAIR HOUSING POLICY: A motion was made by Mr. Burke to adopt Resolution No. 2023-27 to adopt a fair housing policy. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion and a vote was taken with all six members present voting in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-27
BOROUGH OF HOLLIDAYSBURG
FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION**

LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS of the Borough of Hollidaysburg that discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, religion, familial status(families with children), or handicap (disability) is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Act) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act adds the additional protected classes of age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals. It is the policy of the Borough of Hollidaysburg to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, religion, familial status, handicap, age, ancestry and use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals. Additionally, it is illegal to retaliate against a person who has filed a fair housing complaint or assisted in a fair housing investigation. Therefore, the Borough of Hollidaysburg does hereby pass the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that within available resources the Borough of Hollidaysburg will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against because of race, color, sex (including

gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, religion, familial status, handicap (disability), age and ancestry, use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals to seek equity under federal and state laws by filing a complaint with the local Fair Housing Officer, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, whichever is chosen by the person filling the complaint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough of Hollidaysburg shall make publicly known this Resolution and through this publicity shall cause owners of real estate, developers, and builders to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Federal Fair Housing Law, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, and any local laws or ordinances.

FURTHER ACTION will at a minimum include, but not to be limited to:

- (1) Publicizing the name and contact information of the local Fair Housing Officer, which will include the process to file a complaint if a person feels they have been discriminated against in housing in any manner and other applicable fair housing information through local media and community contracts; and
- (2) Conduct at least one fair housing activity annually to better inform the public of their rights under the Fair Housing Law and Pennsylvania Human Relations Act; and
- (3) Use the fair housing logo on all materials dealing with housing programs such as but not limited to:
 - a. Public advertisements for vacancy or discussing the program
 - b. Applications for assistance
 - c. Contracts
 - d. Municipal letters dealing with the federal programs
- (4) Provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities and persons with Limited English Proficiency by providing access or translation to any public notifications by contacting the Borough's business offices at: Borough of Hollidaysburg 401 Blair Street, Hollidaysburg Pa 16648.



I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the Borough of Hollidaysburg during a regularly scheduled meeting held on Thursday, October 12, 2023.

Signature: HOLLIDAYSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

Chief Elected Official Joseph A. Pompa, President
(SEAL)

Date_____

APPROVAL OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH BLAIR COUNTY FOR CDBG FUNDS: A motion was made by Mr. Kalista to approve the cooperative agreement with Blair County for the CDBG funds. Ms. Baker seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with six votes.

UPDATE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Mr. Holodnik advised Borough Council that the Hollidaysburg Planning Commission had tabled their discussion of the comprehensive plan until their November meeting.

STORMWATER/BEDFORD STREET UPDATE: Mr. Gehret advised that there was no update to the status of the grants for this project.

BOROUGH SIDEWALKS: The Borough is continuing to approve sidewalk grant applications.

STREET SWEEPER: Mr. Gehret advised that the new street sweeper had been ordered and that the current sweeper is in for repairs.

SPEEDING ON BEL AIRE ROAD: Mr. Ketner was not in attendance so this discussion will be postponed until the November meeting.

APPROVAL TO HIRE A PART-TIME PUBLIC SAFETY CLERK: (TABLED): This item remained tabled.

APPROVAL TO HIRE A PRE-TREATMENT COORDINATOR AT THE WWTP: A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to hire for this position. Mr. Kalista seconded the motion and all six members present were in favor.

DISCUSSION: UPDATE ON THE PEOPLES GAS COMPANY: An update on the Gas Company and PennDOT projects was reported by the Borough Manager.

DISCUSSION: MINI DITCH: There was discussion about who is responsible to maintain the mini ditch in Gaysport. The owners of the properties that are adjacent to the mini ditch were advised of a DEP booklet that outlines what type of work can be done to the ditch without and with a permit.

OPTION TO PURCHASE PROPERTY: A motion was made by Mr. Burke to approve the option to purchase the property on S. Juniata Street known as Diamond Supply in the case that a grant is awarded and Borough Council accepts the funding toward the Canal Basin Park Connector Bridge. Mr. Kalista seconded this motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried with six votes in favor.

COHEN LAW GROUP CABLE FRANCHISE AUDIT AGREEMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Kalista to enter into an agreement with the Cohen Law Group to audit the cable franchise

agreement. Mr. Leahey seconded this motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed with six 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.

DISCUSSION: THE PUBLIC AGENDA FOR BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS: This agenda item was tabled with a motion by Mr. Leahey, seconded by Mr. Burke 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.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2024: Mr. Gehret advised that the preliminary budget was presented at the advertised Borough Council Work Session on October 4, 2023; and had been recommended for Borough Council's final consideration. The final numbers for the budget will be ready for the November Council Meeting.

ADJOURN: At 8:00 PM, President Pompa adjourned the meeting.

Patricia J. Duron, Borough Secretary