

**BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2020
60 N. Washington Street**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Thomas Jr., Council President Steven Miller, Councilmembers: Larry Faight, Joel Amsley, H. Duane Kinzer, Matthew Smith, Jeremy Layman, and Wade Burkholder. Also present was Borough Manager Lorraine Hohl, Finance/HR Manager Emilee Little, Chief of Police John Phillippy, and Salzman & Hughes legal counsel Sam Wiser.

President Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

An invocation was given by Mayor Ben Thomas.

President Miller led the Council, staff, and audience in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

President Miller noted the meeting was being recorded and that Council held a prior executive session.

On an Amsley/Faight motion the Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed agenda for the August 3, 2020 regular Council meeting.

Opportunity to be Heard

President Miller invited Borough citizens to address Council with specific issues of concern, reminding them of the public comment policy.

Eddie Baxter of 117 Carowinds Drive thanked the Chief Phillippy and the Borough police officers for their service, reiterated his question about sidewalk planning on Williamson Avenue, and expressed disagreement with the public comment policy.

Jane Shafer of 142 Carowinds Drive questioned the stormwater budget and total amount of money to be refunded, requesting a breakdown of expenses.

Banning Burning & Single Trash Hauler Discussions

Amsley stated that the Public Facilities committee discussed various topics regarding burning and trash hauling and have recommended several key points including; the lowest possible price must be negotiated, choice for opt-out, and the single trash hauler must also pick up yard debris if burning is banned.

Hohl posed to Council if the current ordinance should be more stringent in eliminating burning practices and discussed the enforcement of a burning ban.

Mayor Thomas suggested the public be educated about the burning ordinance and how the implementation of a single trash hauler will translate into cost savings and expanded services for residents.

Chief Phillippy stated that a clearly defined burning ordinance, would not be difficult to enforce.

Sam Wiser, legal representative from Salzman & Hughes, questioned what regulations Council would need included within its amended burning ordinance.

Burkholder stated that Chambersburg Borough has its own trash collection services and questioned if Greencastle could implement a similar system.

Amsley stated the trash services and all related billing would be transactions between the waste hauler and the individual residents, eliminating any additional costs or liabilities to be incurred by the Borough.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Borough Council Meeting July 6, 2020.

At Councilmember Kinzer request, the minutes from the July 6, 2020 Borough Council Meeting were moved out of the Consent Agenda and discussed with the Regular Agenda.

Accept an anonymous donation in the amount of \$2,000.00 to be used for labor costs associated with the deployment/removal of the Hometown Heroes Banners.

Approve Trick or Treat to be held on Thursday, October 29, 2020 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Consider the approval of the Greencastle Christmas Parade to be held at 9:21a.m. on November 21, 2020 and authorize no parking and road closures as outlined in the correspondence received July 9, 2020.

On an Amsley/Burkholder motion the Council voted 6-1, Amsley opposed, to approve the consent agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

Previous Meeting Minutes

On a Faight/Burkholder motion, the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the Regular Borough Council Meeting on July 6, 2020.

Kinzer questioned if the public comment policy was documented.

Miller stated this policy is on page 8 of the public participation section of Council's Rules of Order and can be discussed by the Admin & Finance committee for further recommendations.

Smith requested that a copy of the public comment policy be emailed to all Councilmembers.

Kinzer questioned pigeon control at the Antrim House building and votes on previously approved minutes.

Kinzer questioned Councilmember Faight's use of the term "grandfathered", related to his previous comments on the Conrad properties.

Sam Wiser stated this topic could be further discussed in an executive session following the regular meeting.

Payment of Bills

On a Faight/Smith motion the Council voted unanimously to approve disbursements listed on the July 2020 Disbursement Report in the amount of \$316,823.85

Burkholder requested why an individual the Borough has a municipal lien against was given a SPIF refund.

Legal counsel, Sam Wiser stated Council's directive was to "across the board" return money that had been collected and specifically restricted to use for Stormwater purposes.

Reports from Elected Officials

President's Report

President Miller reminded citizens of several upcoming meetings including a joint meeting with Antrim Township to discuss the funding request from the Rescue Hose Company. Miller thanked the public and Council for their involvement.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thomas encouraged Greencastle business to apply for the Small Business Recovery Grant. Thomas also discussed flooding on South Antrim Way, the Borough's mental health field counselor Kay Martin, and regional strategic planning.

Chief's Report

Chief Phillippy outlined calls for service and summarized cases of note. Phillippy cited an increase in vehicle accidents on South Antrim Way and Williamsport Pike. Phillippy also stated that PennDOT bridge construction will cause significant impacts to the Borough with interstate level traffic being detoured through Greencastle.

Manager's Report

Borough Manager Hohl updated Council and citizens on the progress of MS4 refunds, stating an end date of September 30, 2020 for the completed distribution of refund checks. Hohl also discussed work on North Carlisle Street, pension plan updates, and current positions that are open for volunteers.

Committee Action

Personnel:

No new business.

Public Safety:

On a Faight/Amsley motion, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Borough Solicitor to draft an ordinance to place stop signs at the intersection of Elm Lane and Spruce Lane.

On an Amsley/Faight motion, the Council voted 6-1, Kinzer opposed, to authorize the Borough Manager to cease further action regarding 455 E. Baltimore Street related to all historical code enforcement matters as previously declared compliant specifically with regard to fencing and gate closures meeting code requirements as of the date of this meeting.

Kinzer provided photos to Council showing the back gate surrounding the property at 455 E. Baltimore Street to be open. Kinzer stated his concern relates to the safety of children and their access to the pool. Kinzer questioned if Clem Malot visited the property.

Miller summarized the rationale for the motion, stating that this matter has been scrutinized several times by staff, Council members, and outside parties including inspector Clem Malot and legal counsel.

Sam Wisner clarified that this motion is to confirm that the Borough is not going to spend any further time or money on this specific matter.

Faight stated that every time he has inspected this property the gate has been locked, the pool is not visible from outside the fencing, and there is no safety violations on the property.

Layman requested the motion be more specific to ensure any future violations are not allowed. The motion was amended to include, "specifically with regard to fencing and gate closures meeting code requirements as of the date of this meeting."

Community Development:

Kinzer expressed his concern for downtown businesses. Kinzer stated the ELM’s sidewalk sales event helped the downtown and encouraged citizens to spend money locally.

Administration & Finance:

On an Amsley/Kinzer motion, the Council voted unanimously to accept the bid of \$16,200.00 for the sale of the 2003 Ford Super Duty F350 Pickup Truck.

On a Faight/Smith motion, the Council voted 6-1, Kinzer opposed, to authorize the Council President to sign an agreement approving Cunningham’s Body Shop & Towing to remove remaining nuisances affiliated with the Court Order dated February 21, 2020 in the amount of \$2,500.00 pending final review of Borough Solicitor and Contractor.

Layman questioned if the Borough has a definition of storage container.

Sam Wisner stated that the court order clearly states what is to be removed from this property and it only applies to the addressed properties specifically.

Miller stated that this motion authorizes the Borough to spend \$2,500.00 to get this violation abated and that the money will be reimbursed.

Kinzer stated he is on record as being against this action because the court order does not apply to all the owner’s affected properties.

Public Facilities:

No new business.

Correspondence

On a Faight/Smith motion, the Council voted 5-2, Amsley and Kinzer opposed, to reject the sewer reduction request of 753 Lohman Avenue.

Hohl stated the customer knew of Borough policies and decided to fill a pool without following those policies.

Sam Wisner stated that granting forgiveness in this situation would create precedent and would allow customers to have a “free pass” to have sewer bills reduced under similar circumstances.

No action was taken of the proposal for traffic routing on South Ridge Avenue.

Final Comments

Layman: Stated he would like to see the Stormwater budget and refund calculations on the Borough’s website.

Burkholder: Questioned the status of the transition to LED lighting for Borough street lights.

Smith: No further comment.

Amsley: Stated that the Admin & Finance committee needs to be very clear with Stormwater related budget expenses and ensure that all expenditures are justified.

Kinzer: Questioned if the state is required to clean drains along East Baltimore Street, requested a letter be submitted to Norfolk Southern about trees by railroad bridge bolsters, and expressed his appreciation of Chief Phillippy and his staff for their 24-7 hard work.

Mayor: Reflected on the beauty of Greencastle, thanking the volunteers who plant and maintain all the town flowers. Mayor Thomas stated he would like to have the emblems on Veterans Memorial be repainted by Greencastle-Antrim art students.

Faight: No further comment.

On a Burkholder/Faight motion, the Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine K. Hohl
Borough Manager