

**BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 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.

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

An invocation was given by Councilmen Duane Kinzer.

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 a Smith/Burkholder motion the Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed agenda for the September 8, 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.

Albert Miller of 171 Apple Drive cautioned Council to not silence themselves by eliminating the current practice of allowing each Councilmember an opportunity for final comment. Miller stated that his prior questions pertaining to Stormwater and his letter submitted in July have been unanswered and the Stormwater discussion has ceased.

Pat Fridgen of 781 S. Allison Street stated that Council's opportunity for final comments has always been an important feature of the Council and encouraged the Council to not eliminate this practice. Fridgen questioned the reasonable timeframe allowable for addressing questions posed during public comment.

Eddie Baxter of 117 Carowinds Drive thanked Chief Phillippy and the Borough police officers for their service. Baxter stated that by not allowing dialogue with the public, Council is silencing themselves. Baxter questioned taxes in the Greencastle community, Stormwater fees, and the 2021 budget.

Brian Harbaugh of 501 S Cedar Lane thanked Chief Phillippy and his officers for their efforts. Harbaugh reminded Council that the Stormwater waiver is not a complete exemption and offered his assistance with obtaining an exemption. Harbaugh discussed the Fire Tax and the Borough's contribution to the Rescue Hose Company.

Robert Wertime of 207 Leitersburg Street stated the glare from LED street lights are a distraction and dangerous to drivers. Wertime stated that appropriate side shielding should be installed on all LED lights. Wertime addressed concerns regarding the Council's progression towards a single trash hauler.

Kendra Phiel of 30 Baumgardner Drive expressed her concern with Council limiting it's interaction with the public, stating that Council should not eliminate the opportunity for Councilmembers to make final comments. Phiel addressed the implementation of a Fire Tax.

Fire Tax Discussions

Hohl clarified that the Borough can implement up to a 3 mil Fire tax to be used only for operational expenditures and the Borough is capped at an additional 1 mil Fire tax for personnel expenses. The Rescue Hose Company's current \$31,000 request is for only personnel costs. Hohl stated that staff's recommendation is to implement a 1 mil Fire tax, which would equate to revenue of \$41,479.49. Hohl posed to Council if the historical donation of \$17,500, currently supported by the General Fund, is still necessary.

Councilmen Burkholder stated that the budget does not allow for additional donations and that he believes the Fire

Company should provide documentation outlining how contributions are being spent.

Councilmen Kinzer questioned the motion that was passed at the Fire Hall. Kinzer stated that a 1 mil Fire Tax would generate more revenue than the Rescue Hose Company is requesting. Kinzer stated that the Rescue Hose Company's 990 shows \$3 million in investments.

Mayor Thomas stated that the total donation request from the Rescue Hose is the historical \$17,500 donation plus the additional \$31,000 for personnel costs, totaling \$48,500. Thomas estimated a 1 mil Fire Tax would generate \$40,000 leaving the Borough \$8,500 to pay out of the General Fund. Thomas suggested a Memorandum of Understanding to be submitted to the Rescue Hose Company outlining that all revenue received from the 1 mil Fire Tax could only be used for personnel costs.

Councilmen Amsley stated that a Fire Tax allows the Borough to be more transparent. Amsley added that a 1 mil Fire Tax could be entered as a placeholder for budgeting purposes and suggested that only the revenue received from the Fire Tax would be given to the Rescue Hose and no additional annual donation.

Council President Miller summarized and stated that Council would like staff to include a 1 mil Fire Tax in the 2021 budget with no additional donation.

Eddie Baxter of 117 Carowinds Drive suggested a flat fee be implemented to procure exactly the amount of money that the Rescue Hose requested.

Kendra Phiel of 30 Baumgardner Drive questioned if the Rescue Hose uses incentive to increase volunteerism.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Borough Council Meeting: August 3, 2020

Joint Meeting with Antrim Township: August 12, 2020

Borough Special Council Meeting: August 19, 2020

Accept the 2019 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by Boyer & Ritter LLC.

Accept the Police Department and Non-Uniform 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation Memorandum as prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Accept the Act 44 Disclosure for the Borough's Non-Uniform and Police Department Pension Plans as presented.

Approve the joint request from the Greencastle American Legion, Post 373 and the Greencastle VFW, Post 6319 to close the block of 60 N. Washington Street on November 11, 2020 from 10am to 12pm for a Veterans Day Celebration. Authorize the use of electric and Borough office public restrooms.

Authorize the deployment of pink ribbons on parking meters and utility poles in the downtown of Greencastle from October 1st through November 2nd for Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Authorize the Halloween Parade to take place on October 30th beginning at 7:00p.m. using the traditional route.

Approve the Chamber of Commerce's Heritage Christmas request as follows:

Usage of square electricity and lights throughout heritage Christmas

Authorize free parking downtown from November 27th through December 31st.

On a Faight/Smith motion the Council voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

Payment of Bills

On a Faight/Amsley motion the Council voted unanimously to approve disbursements listed on the July 2020 Disbursement Report in the amount of \$181,928.75.

Reports from Elected Officials

President's Report

President Miller thanked the Admin and Finance Committee for their work during his vacation. Miller stated his prayers are for our Nation, state, and town during these challenging times.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thomas commended the Greencastle Police Department for their continued efforts and recent arrests of several citizens in connection to a drug related death earlier this year. Mayor Thomas outlined the potential of partnering with the Greencastle-Antrim School District for several community projects. The Route 11 bridge closure, local economic development, and Council Resolution 2020-06 were also discussed.

Chief's Report

Chief Phillippy outlined calls for service and summarized cases of note. Phillippy discussed the overdose death of Trevor Witmer and thanked Det. King of the Franklin County Drug Task Force for his assistance with the investigation. Phillippy encouraged any citizen struggling with addiction to contact the Greencastle Police Department for resources to help.

Manager's Report

Borough Manager Hohl updated Council and citizens of bridge repainting, the progress of MS4 refunds, and potential CARES funding. Hohl also discussed Waste Water Treatment Plant and Public Works cooperation to replace sewer laterals. Hohl encouraged drivers to be more cautious and aware while driving now that school is in session.

Committee Action

Personnel:

No new business.

Public Safety:

On a Smith/Faight motion, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the adoption of ordinance 2020-02 for a stop intersection at Elm Lane and Spruce Lane.

Community Development:

No new business.

Administration & Finance:

On an Amsley/Faight motion, the Council voted unanimously to approve a lease renewal with Dice Imaging for the Police Department copier.

On a Faight/Smith motion, the Council voted unanimously to approve and award a bid from PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$353,900 for the rehabilitation of the North Carlisle Street pumping station as reviewed by WM Hill Engineering.

On a Faight/Smith motion, the Council voted unanimously to approve the West Penn Power proposal to transition all remaining non-LED street lights to LED for \$7,344.40.

Councilmen Amsley questioned the safety issues associated with brighter LED lighting.

Hohl stated she could discuss the appropriate side shielding options with West Penn Power.

Amsley amended the motion to include that staff will confirm with West Penn to ensure that the LED light will not create a sight hazard, Kinzer seconded the amendment.

The Council voted individually on each item amending the Borough Council's Rules of Order as originally adopted on March 5, 2018. The following amendments are effective October 5, 2020:

- a. On an amended Amsley/Faight motion the Council voted 6-1 with Kinzer opposed, to limit public comment will be no more than 5 minutes per person with no yielding of time and with no interruption. The Council President will use a device visible to the public to objectively monitor the time.
- b. On an Amsley/Smith motion, the Council voted unanimously to table the motion of during public comment, all Councilmembers and Borough staff will not engage in dialogue with the presenter. All questions will be recorded and addressed in a reasonable timeframe after the public meeting.
- c. On an amended Kinzer/Faight motion the Council voted 6-1 with Layman opposed, to approve the President asking Councilmembers for final comments before adjourning the meeting. Final comments will be limited to 1 minute and shall not pertain to any new or old business matters.

On an Amsley/Faight motion the Council voted unanimously to authorize a budgeted donation of \$1,800.00 to the Chamber of Commerce to help with the deployment and removal of the town Christmas tree.

Public Facilities:

No new business.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Final Comments

Layman: No further comment.

Burkholder: No further comment.

Smith: No further comment.

Amsley: No further comment.

Kinzer: Thanked to Council for revising the Admin & Finance motions presented on the agenda stating, "The motions were not in the best interest of Council or the people we represent."

Mayor: Encouraged citizens to subscribe to the Chesapeake Bay Journal.

Faight: No further comment.

Miller: Reminded Council of the executive session.

Council held an executive session to discuss a legal matter.

On a Faight/Layman motion, the Council voted unanimously to go into executive session at 9:07pm.

On a Faight/Layman motion, the Council voted unanimously to return to regular session at 9:35pm.

On an amended Amsley/Faight motion the Council voted unanimously to approve and award a bid from PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$353,900 for the rehabilitation of the *South* Carlisle Street pumping station as reviewed by WM Hill Engineering.

On a Faight/Layman motion, the Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:38p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine K. Hohl
Borough Manager