

**Borough Council Workshop Meeting
Minutes – April 10, 2024**

Call to Order - Mrs. Dekar called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Roll Call - The following members of the Borough Council were present; Cori Belles, James Daly, Gabriel Felt, Derrick Hall, Dan Wayman, Jessica Meyer, and Jessie Dekar. Also present; Gil Crossett, Christopher Kaiden, Blane Lathrop, Robert Repasky, Dan Reynolds, and David Jarrett.

Citizens to be Heard - There were none.

Approval of Bills List – March 28 thru April 10 - A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Miss Meyer to approve the bills list and supplemental bills list. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mr. Daly, Mr. Felt, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.**

Finance Report - There were no questions or comments.

Correspondence Report - Mr. Jarrett explained that a park use request was distributed but not listed on the agenda. He stated that the request will be added to the regular meeting agenda for approval.

Elected & Appointed Officials – Mrs. Belles asked if the Public Works employees were advised that the garbage collection proposal for Athens Township residents was withdrawn. Mrs. Dekar stated that she would like the solar project added to the regular meeting agenda. Mr. Wayman stated that the purchase of renewable energy credits would not reduce the amount of electricity that the Borough is purchasing annually. Mr. Hall stated that if the concern is to utilize a renewable energy source, purchasing renewable energy credits results in 100% of the Borough's electricity being generated by a renewable energy source. The solar panel project would require 93% of the Borough's electricity being generated from a non-renewable source. Mrs. Dekar stated that the Borough is eligible for a 40% tax credit making it possible to recover the investment of the solar panel project in thirteen years. Mrs. Belles stated that the solar panel project is the start of a strategy to offset the burden of electricity costs in the future.

Mrs. Belles asked that State Representative Tina Pickett be invited to a meeting with the Borough Council to discuss the legalization of marijuana that is begin proposed by the state legislature.

Mrs. Belles asked if there would be interest from the Borough Council to establish a Citizen of the Year program that would recognize a citizen's contribution to the community. Mayor Farley suggested that Cy Morris be the first recipient of the award in conjunction with the request submitted by Engine Company #1.

Solar Project – The proposal submitted by Paradise Energy Solutions will be placed on the regular meeting agenda for approval.

Park Use Requests – Mr. Jarrett explained that there were two park use requests submitted by Guthrie and one from the Valley Storm Softball Team for approval. Mr. Wayman stated that the Valley Storm Softball and the Guthrie employee picnic had a conflicting date. Mr. Jarrett stated that the softball team would be advised that the park would not be available on the date of the picnic.

Engine Company #1 Request – The organization submitted a request is to install a couple of the plaques on the wall outside of the elevator on the third floor to recognize the years of service that Cy Morris provided to the fire department. The request also includes designating the intersection of West Lockhart Street and Desmond Street in honor of Cy Morris. Mr. Wayman stated that additional signage at the intersection could be confusing to motorists, and Mr. Jarrett stated that the Borough would work with the County 911 to make sure that the signage doesn't conflict with the County's sign regulations and that the designation would be done in a tasteful manner. Mr. Jarrett also stated that a military banner for Mr. Morris will be installed near the intersection and small version of the banner would be added to the wall in the third floor meeting room.

School Resource Officer Agreement – Mrs. Dekar asked if there were any changes to the agreement and Mr. Jarrett explained that the District edited the agreement to reflect the current responsibilities of the SRO. Mr. Jarrett explained that the per diem rate that the District is charged will be based on the salary and health insurance cost of the officer that will be assigned to the District after Officer Burlingame retires later this year.

Conference Attendance Request – Mr. Jarrett explained that he had previously attended the annual GFOA-PA conference for several years but stopped attending a few years so that he could attend other conferences. Mr. Jarrett explained that the conference schedule is not completed yet, but the sessions listed so far are pertinent to him and Ms. Landis' professional development. Mrs. Belles stated that she supports providing training and educational opportunities for the staff.

Department Reports – The following items were discussed;

- Fire Department – Chief Repasky stated that he submitted the first quarterly report to the Borough Treasurer. Mrs. Dekar asked how the Department handles electric vehicle fires and Chief Repasky stated that Tesla™ sells blankets that can be used to suppress fires. Mrs. Belles thanked Chief Repasky and the Fire Department for their invitation to the Department's annual banquet.
- Police Department – Chief Reynolds stated that he discussed potential recognition options with the officers and asked for their suggestions. Chief Reynolds explained that the officers requested gym membership rather than a luncheon and officers asked to be allowed to workout while on duty. Chief Reynolds reported that the officer's Union (Teamsters Local 118) offers a wellness program to members and that the Department will be receiving up to \$100,000 in grant funds from the Northcentral Task Force to purchase equipment.

Mrs. Dekar stated that she would like to see the Department's Sergeant position reinstated due to the level of leadership on shifts when Chief Reynolds and Assistant Chief Hoffman are not scheduled. Chief Reynolds explained that he and Assistant Chief Hoffman do have the opportunity to interact with officers during shift changes and he stated that the Department's most senior patrol officers are assigned to the evening and overnight shift. Chief Reynolds suggested that the Borough Council re-evaluate the need for the position after his retirement. Mrs. Dekar asked Chief Reynolds to provide the cost of re-instating the sergeant position.

- Borough Manager – Mr. Jarrett reviewed the items listed in his report and explained that the Request for Proposals for health insurance and payroll services will be accepted until May 1st.
- Code Enforcement – Mr. Kaiden reported that Richter Timber LLC. had provided a proposal to the Borough to remove the dead trees and mow the area between the highway and eastbound exit off of Route 17/I-86 at no cost to the Borough. Mr. Kaiden explained that he contacted the New York Department of Transportation to discuss the matter and that NYDOT will require the contractor to submit proof of insurance before the work can begin. Mrs. Belles thanked Mr. Kaiden for kicking-off his annual neighborhood inspections in the Milltown neighborhood.
- Public Works – Mr. Lathrop reported that the PA 199 project has started back up and has moved into the Athens Borough portion of the project. Mr. Lathrop stated the contractor will also be completing some minor work in the Borough this year. Mr. Lathrop also reported that four (4) department staff members will be attending a training course at the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority facility in Burlington Township.
- Emergency Management – Mr. Daly reported that he attended a training course recently at the Bradford County Public Safety facility.
- Planning Commission – Mr. Daly reported that he had recently met with Attorney Foster to discuss revisions to the Borough Code and they are scheduled to meet again later this week. Mr. Daly explained that once the code revisions are completed, they will be reviewed by the Planning Commission prior to being approved by the Borough Council.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Mrs. Belles and seconded by Mr. Daly to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm. There were no objections.

