

Borough Council Workshop Meeting

Minutes – June 14, 2021

Call to Order – Mr. Daly called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Roll Call – The following members of the Borough Council were present; Cori Belles, Jessie Dekar, Jessica Meyer, Jason Serfas (**via Telephone**); Irene Slocum, and James Daly. **Excused:** Patrick Gillette. Also present; Henry Farley, Mayor; Gil Crossett, Assistant Fire Chief; Elizabeth Fice, Borough Treasurer; Jonathan Foster Jr., Borough Solicitor; Blane Lathrop, DPW Foreman; Christopher Kaiden, Code Enforcement Director; Robert Repasky, Fire Chief, Daniel Reynolds, Police Chief; and David Jarrett, Borough Manager.

Citizens to be Heard – There were none.

Presentation – Valley Fireworks Task Force - Tressa Heffron, Chairperson of the Athens Township Board of Supervisors addressed the Borough Council on behalf of the Valley Fireworks Task Force to seek their support to develop a uniform ordinance in the Valley communities to address fireworks. Ms. Heffron explained that legislation passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate allows citizens to purchase fireworks legally, which has resulted in numerous incidents of fireworks being shot off in close proximity to homes throughout the summer months. Ms. Heffron stated that House Bill 998 is currently being considered by the PA House of Representatives to repeal the current law. JoAnn Sabatura, 105 North Elmer Avenue stated that she supports the efforts of the fireworks task force and asked the Borough Council to support the efforts of the group.

Presentation – Derck & Edson Executive Summary – Chris Brown of the Central Bradford Progress Authority and the Sayre Revitalization Initiative presented the executive summary of the masterplan prepared by Derck & Edson. Mr. Brown explained that the masterplan was funded by a cooperative effort between the Borough, Guthrie, and Bradford County and that the plan evaluated the need and feasibility of a variety of factors including but not limited to new restaurants, creation of a test kitchen facility to support smaller independent cooks and bakers, clothing stores, housing, downtown food market, and projects to enhance the community. Mr. Brown stated that survey information showed that nearly 900 residents live and work in the Borough while more than 4,500 people travel to Sayre daily to work in the Borough. A complete copy of the summary is available at the Borough Hall and on the Borough's website.

Downtown Streetscape Project - Mr. Jarrett explained that the project was awarded \$375,000.00 in grant funds that will be matched with \$225,000.00 in local funding provided equally by the Borough, Guthrie, and County and that grant contract has been executed which allows the Borough to start the project. Mr. Jarrett stated that the project scope of work had to be reduced and completed in phases.

The first phase of the project will focus on Desmond Street between Hayden and Lockhart and North Lehigh between Lockhart and Cross and that quotes are being solicited to complete a bump-out area in front of the Desmond 1882 restaurant to be an example of the overall streetscape project. Stiffler-McGraw has already completed the survey work on Desmond between Lockhart and Packer which is needed to complete curbing and road reconstruction. Mr. Jarrett also stated that the Borough is working with Penelec to replace the metal poles on Desmond Street. Resolution 2021-05 authorizes the submission of a grant application seeking approximately \$500,000.00 to complete the second phase of the project which will include improvements on West Packer Avenue, West Lockhart Street, South Elmer Avenue, and the area around Howard Elmer Park. The grant will require a local match which has already been secured. **A motion was made by Miss Meyer and seconded by Mrs. Belles to recommend adoption of Resolution 2021-05.**

Fund Transfers – Mr. Jarrett asked the Borough Council to consider re-allocating approximately \$26,884.00 in Local Services Tax revenue that was originally allocated for the firehouse project be transferred to the Borough Hall Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund for future projects. Mrs. Dekar asked why the funds would not be used for the fire truck purchase, and Mr. Jarrett explained that more than \$150,000.00 is available in the Capital Reserve budget for the new truck and that firehouse project LST funds will be used for future improvements in the truck room area. **A motion was made by Mrs. Slocum and seconded by Mrs. Meyer to recommend transfer of the funds.**

Park & Facility Use Requests – The Borough Council reviewed the two request received for events at Island Pond and Riverfront Park.

- Kid’s Fishing Derby - Sayre Business Association – July 3rd Island Pond
- Sheshequin Path Half Marathon – October 2nd Riverfront Park

Attorney Foster will ask the County to hold the Borough harmless as they have in previous years. **A motion was made by Mrs. Belles and seconded by Mrs. Dekar to recommend approval of the requests.**

Impound Vehicle Garage – Mr. Jarrett explained that he and Chief Reynolds have been discussing the possibility of constructing a garage area adjacent to the salt shed that would store vehicles that are impounded by the Police Department while they are waiting for a search warrant. Chief Reynolds explained that the Department recently impounded a vehicle and had to wait for a search warrant because they could not get one until the morning. Chief Reynolds stated that it is possible that someone jumped the fence at the property and removed evidence from the vehicle before the search warrant was issued. Chief Reynolds explained that the Department has been extremely busy in 2021 and has impounded about 20 vehicles, confiscated a substantial amount of drugs, several guns, and arrested individuals for a variety of other crimes. Mrs. Belles expressed concern with an increase in expenses that have not been budgeted. Mrs. Dekar asked if a two bay garage would be big enough, and Chief Reynolds stated that it would be because the vehicles could be removed from the garage once the search warrant is secured. Mr. Jarrett stated that at he is soliciting estimates to see what the project would cost and that other options to secure vehicles are being considered.

Sign Ordinance Amendment – Mr. Jarrett explained that the ordinance has been advertised and that it will be presented for adoption at the regular Council meeting.

Department Reports – The following reports were provided to the Borough Council;

- a. Administration – Mr. Jarrett reported that two additional trail segments will be developed with grant funding. The first segment will be along South Thomas Avenue and the second will be near the Higgins/Holly trail head. The work will be completed in conjunction with the annual street paving project.
- b. Code Enforcement – There were no questions or comments.
- c. Emergency Management – Mr. Daly reported that he will be attending a training session at the Wysox Fire Hall on Wednesday and participating in an online PEMA training.
- d. Fire Department – There were no questions or comments.
- e. Police Department – Chief Reynolds presented a Conference Training Request to send two officers to be recertified at an upcoming simunitions instructor training course at Mansfield University. Chief Reynolds explained that the recertification process is necessary and enables the Department to continue to train with simunition devices. **A motion was made by Miss Meyer and seconded by Mrs. Belles to recommend approval of the request.**

Chief Reynolds and Mr. Jarrett reported that Officer Casey Shiposh's probationary period ended at the start of 2021, however Council was not advised of the anniversary date. **A motion was made by Mrs. Slocum and seconded by Miss Meyer to recommend re-classifying Officer Shiposh from Patrol Officer-Probationary to Patrol Officer I for the remainder of 2021.**

Mrs. Belles asked Chief Reynolds if there was a reason for the uptick in the number of calls the Department has responded to, and Chief Reynolds explained that the increase can be associated to a variety of factors including warmer weather, people being more active, and mental health calls. The increase in public relations is associated with DARE program which concluded in the Sayre School District at the end of the school year.

Mrs. Belles asked if the Department has the opportunity for additional training opportunities, and Chief Reynolds stated that making time to send officers to training is difficult especially during the summer months due to vacations.

- f. Public Works – Mr. Lathrop reported that work will begin on the next phase of the project (Stage 10) on June 21st and the contractor will have 53 calendar days to complete the work. Stage 10 consist of Mohawk Street between Lehigh Avenue and Wilbur Avenue. Mr. Jarrett stated that he asked Mr. Lathrop to ask PennDOT at the next project meeting about the curbing and parking in front of Clare Printing and Original Italian Pizza on South Keystone Avenue. Mr. Jarrett explained that a business on Spring Street was allowed to keep the parking in front of their building and that a sidewalk was not installed which is contrary to what PennDOT intends to do in front of the South Keystone Avenue businesses.

Elected & Appointed Officials – Questions & Comments

- Mayor Farley suggested that the Borough Council release a statement similar to the one issued by South Waverly Borough asking residents to be considerate of their neighbors.
- Miss Meyer asked if it would be practical for the Borough to pursue solar power options for street lights and buildings. Mr. Jarrett stated that the Borough signed a 10 year agreement with Penelec for the LED streetlights, but solar power at Borough owned buildings could be pursued.
- Chief Reynolds asked the Borough Council to think long and hard about the long range impacts of enacting a fireworks ordinance as it pertains to enforcement. Chief Reynolds explained that complainants are very vocal at the time of the incident but often become unwilling to follow through during the court process.

Recess – Mr. Daly recessed the meeting at 6:35pm before going into executive session.

Executive Session - The Borough Council went into executive session at 6:40pm to discuss the non-uniform employee contract negotiation process. The session ended at 7:40pm, and no further action was taken by the Borough Council.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Mrs. Dekar and seconded by Mrs. Slocum to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David M Jarrett
Borough Manager/Secretary