

**Borough Council Meeting
Minutes – August 28, 2024**

Call to Order – Mrs. Dekar called the Council Workshop 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, Jessica Meyer, Jessie Dekar, and Dan Wayman.

Also present; Henry Farley, Mayor; Jonathan Foster, Jr., Solicitor; Bruce Hoffman, Assistant Police Chief; Blane Lathrop, DPW Forman; Robert Repasky, Fire Chief; Dan Reynolds, Police Chief; and David Jarrett, Borough Manager.

Citizens to be Heard – The following citizens addressed the Borough Council;

- Charles Bingham, 204 Cypress Street addressed the Borough Council regarding the chicken ordinance that was adopted by the Borough Council on August 14, 2024. Mr. Bingham explained that prohibiting him and other residents in the Borough from owning chickens is an infringement on his rights and takes away his autonomy. Mr. Bingham stated that he will now not be able to grow his own food that provide him and his family with healthy options that are not otherwise provided. Mrs. Dekar stated that healthy food alternatives are available to individuals because they are able to purchase items at local farms and directly delivery services. Mrs. Dekar also stated that under the previous ordinance, residents were not allowed to own chickens and that the new ordinance allows them in the Borough's Rural Residential District which is the Milltown neighborhood. Mr. Bingham stated that people who own chickens in Sayre need to be responsible and that he is not aware of any complaints by his neighbors about his chickens. Mr. Bingham stated that he will return to Borough Council meetings if future ordinances under consideration impede on the autonomy of the residents.
- Jason Bailey, 105 Austin Street addressed the Borough Council in support of Mr. Bingham and stated that he does not have any issue with residents owning chickens in his neighborhood or other parts of the Borough.
- Samantha Bingham, 204 Cypress Street addressed the Borough Council regarding the right to own chickens and that residents should be able to grow their own food. Ms. Bingham stated that Sayre Borough is considered to be a food desert and the autonomy of residents is the bigger issue.
- Gerald Ferro, 131 Cedar Street addressed the Borough Council and asked why the Keystone Skating Rink property on North Keystone Avenue is allowed to have chickens, and Mayor Farley explained that the property is designated as a Century Farm and therefore allowed to have chickens and other farm animals. Mr. Ferro also stated that he does not have an issue with Mr. Bingham's chickens.
- Robert Bennett, 207 Cypress Street stated that he does not have any issues with chickens in his neighborhood.

- Attorney Foster reiterated Mrs. Dekar's previous statement relating to the fact that chickens were not allowed anywhere in the Borough and that the recent zoning amendment designated the Rural Residential zoning district as the only zoning district where chickens are permitted. Mrs. Dekar stated that anyone who currently has chickens would be permitted to keep them for up to two (2) years after the date the ordinance was adopted.
- Chief Reynolds stated that he was asked by Mr. Kaiden to speak on his behalf because he was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a personal matter. Chief Reynolds stated that Mr. Kaiden has received complaints about chickens and roosters in the Borough and has addressed them. Chief Reynolds stated that the Police Department directs complaints to Mr. Kaiden as well.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Belles and seconded by Mr. Daly to approve the minutes of the Borough Council meeting held on July 24, 2024 and the Borough Council Workshop meeting held on August 14, 2024. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mr. Daly, Mr. Felt, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; AYE.**

Announcement - Mrs. Dekar announced that the Borough 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) has been prepared, reviewed, and approved by the Borough's Pension Administrator.

Approval of Bills List & Supplemental Bills List – A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Wayman 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.**

Elected & Appointed Officials – Mrs. Belles thanked everyone involved with the Downtown Summer Splash last Friday night and the End of Summer Celebration on Saturday. Mrs. Belles stated that she heard several positive comments about the events from members of the community.

Mrs. Belles asked if there was an update on the project with the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission. Mayor Farley stated that he and Mr. Kaiden met with a representative from the Commission and they are in the process of compiling information for the Commission's review such as mapping out the proposed historic district. Mayor Farley also stated that he discussed with the Commission what steps would need to be taken to include the Blue Swan building (Sayre Enterprise Center) on South Elmer Avenue, Ajax Foundry on Bradford Street, and the former Lehigh Valley Railroad property on the historic designation. Mayor Farley explained that the entire process could take as long as a year to complete.

Correspondence Summary - There were no questions or comments.

Discussion of Items – The following items were discussed;

- Howard Elmer Park Bandstand Roof Project – Mr. Jarrett explained that two (2) bids were received for the project and that the lowest bid was submitted by Mac Builders who submitted a base bid in the amount of \$119,000.00 to install a copper roof and a bid alternate of \$109,000.00 to install a copper colored metal roof. Mr. Jarrett stated that the Bradford County Commissioners provided a \$56,000.00 grant for the project and that he and Mayor Farley are willing to lead a fundraising program to pay for the balance of the project. Mr. Jarrett explained that he and Mayor Farley may not be able to raise all of the funds needed by every effort will be made to raise as much as possible. Mr. Jarrett stated that the Borough has funds available in a line of credit that could be used and donations will then be used to repay the line of credit.
- Civil Service Testing for Patrol Officer Probationary Position – Mrs. Dekar stated that the issue is a personnel issue and will be discussed in executive session.
- Fire Truck Purchase – Chief Repasky reported that that he has been in contact with fire truck manufacturers and a committee will be formed in September.
- Traffic Study Proposals – Mr. Jarrett reported that the deadline to submit a proposal was earlier today and that one proposal was submitted and the cost was \$33,400.00. Mr. Jarrett explained that the proposal was submitted by the company that completed the last traffic study for the Borough that included changes to Brock Street.
- Playground Equipment – Mr. Jarrett asked the Borough Council to provide their suggestions for the new equipment and the location that it will be installed. Mr. Jarrett was asked to confirm that the price of the equipment includes installation costs. Mrs. Dekar asked anyone was interested in serving on a committee to contact her so that the project could begin to move the project forward

Consent Agenda – Mrs. Dekar explained that items of business and matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be enacted by one motion and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired by a Council Member, that item is to be identified and removed from the Consent Agenda, and will be considered separately at the appropriate place on the Agenda. Mrs. Dekar stated that Item C will be pulled from the agenda for further discussion in Executive Session

- a. Approve Conference Attendance Request – PA Rural Water Association Course
- b. Approve Proposal of \$6,720.00 from B&S Construction to Complete Crack Sealing Work
- c. ~~Approve Submission of Request To Civil Service Commission For Updated Candidate List~~
- d. Adoption of Resolution 2024-04 - Revised Amount of Grant Funds Requested

A motion was made by Mrs. Belles and seconded by Mr. Daly to approve **Item A, Item B, and Item D** listed on the Consent Agenda. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mr. Daly, Mr. Felt, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.**

Vote to award the Howard Elmer Park Bandstand Roof Replacement Project to Mac Builders & Design for \$119,000.00. A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Hall to award the project to Mac Builders & Design. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mr. Daly, Mr. Felt, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.**

HOWARD ELMER BANDSTAND REROOF PROJECT
PROJECT NO. 23-8035 - BIDS DUE: 7/17/24 @ 1:00 pm

COMPANY NAME	BASE BID PRICE	BID ALTERNATE NO. 1 PRICE
MAC Builders & Design 76 Wyalusing New Albany Road New Albany, PA 18833	\$119,000.00	\$109,000.00
Hale Roofing, Inc. 2054 Grand Central Ave. Horseheads, NY 14845	\$133,355.00	\$130,000.00

Recess – Mrs. Dekar recessed the meeting at 6:10pm.

Executive Session – The Borough Council went into executive session at 6:14pm to discuss a personnel issue regarding the upcoming opening in the Police Department. The session ended at 6:52pm.

Notification of Upcoming Opening in the Police Department – A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Miss Meyer to notify the Civil Service Commission of an upcoming opening in the Police Department for the position of Patrol Officer Probationary. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mr. Daly, Mr. Felt, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; AYE.**

Adjourn – A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Hall to adjourn at 6:53pm. There were no objections.

Respectfully submitted,



David M Jarrett
Borough Manager/Secretary