

Borough Council Regular Meeting September 26, 2017

The regular meeting of Windber Borough Council was called to order by Windber Borough Council President, Barry Jerley at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council Members were present: Mike Bryan, Barry Jerley, Ron Mash, Sonya Pekala, and James Spinos. Jim Furmanchik, Borough Manager and Scott Penrod were present. Attorney, Joseph Green was present. John Holden and Pete LaMonaca were absent.

Approval Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Mrs. Pekala to approve the Minutes of September 12, 2017 meeting. Two absent, Mr. Holden and Mr. LaMonaca. Motion carried.

Correspondence

1. Minutes and Treasurer Report from the Windber Municipal Authority's September 5, 2017 meeting.
2. Windber Area Authority Minutes from August 9, 2017.

Approval Payroll A motion was made by Mr. Bryan and seconded by Mr. Spinos to approve the Payroll for September 1 and 15, 2017. Two absent, Mr. Holden and Mr. LaMonaca. Motion carried.

Council went into an executive session at 7:05 p.m. for personnel issues.

Council reconvened from executive session at 7:15 p.m.

Remove President A motion was made by Mr. Mash and seconded by Mr. Spinos to remove Barry Jerley as the Council President. Roll call vote: Mr. Mash, yes; Mr. Spinos, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, absent; Mr. Jerley, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, absent; and Mrs. Pekala, no. Four yes, one, no and two absent, motion carried.

Appoint President Mr. Spinos opened nominations for Windber Borough Council President. A nomination was made by Mr. Mash and nomination seconded by Mr. Spinos to appoint Mike Bryan as President of Windber Borough Council. Roll call vote: Mr. Mash, yes; Mr. Spinos, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, absent; Mr. Jerley, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, absent; and Mrs. Pekala, no. Four yes, one, no and two absent, motion carried.

Mr. Jerley left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Visitors Attorney Jeff Thomas asked council for their guidance or assistance in obtaining information for a client with regards to a house that they would like to purchase that is currently on the county roles right now. He has contacted the solicitor for the Tax Claim Bureau and he has not received much feedback from him as to how his client can go about acquiring the property. He asked council if they could put some pressure on the Tax Claim Bureau to help his client to purchase the property.

Mr. Thomas said his client wants to buy it or tear it down because the property is in bad shape. Mr. Furmanchik asked who owns the property. Mr. Thomas said he is not at liberty to say publicly because his client wants to purchase the property. Mr. Thomas said no one lives there right now they abandoned the property and believes it is going to be up for tax sale.

Attorney Green said it is subject to liens on a tax sale and if there was a tax sale and no one bought it, and then it is subject to a judicial sale which is free and clear. Mr. Thomas said he did not know if there was anything council could do to help him. He said his client is really interested in buying the property and it would remove a piece of blight in the borough.

Attorney Green said Somerset and Cambria County Tax Claim Bureaus are like night and day. It is very hard to get information from Somerset County. Mr. Thomas said he has left messages with the Somerset County's attorney and just has not heard anything back. He was wondering if he had to file a motion or anything. Attorney Green told Mr. Thomas to talk to the girl at the Tax Claim Bureau in Cambria County. She is a wealth of information as to procedures.

Mr. Furmanchik asked Mr. Thomas to put the name and address of the property on his desk and he would be happy to try and contact the Somerset County Tax Office on his behalf. Mr. Thomas thanked Council and Attorney Green for their help.

Misc.

Mr. Furmanchik said Pino Gallina owner of Mimo's is going to have a fundraiser October 14th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. He is going to do this in conjunction with the National Honor Society and 95% of the event will be held indoors at Mimo's Restaurant and there will be NHS students out on the street soliciting donations from passersby who stop.

Mr. Furmanchik said he checked with our insurance carrier and he said there is no issue with that, if anything would happen the liability would fall on the shoulders of the sponsor of the event.

Mayor Penrod asked council if they wanted to donate like \$100 to the event. Mr. Spinos made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mash to donate \$100 to the disaster relief fund. Three absent, Mr. Holden, Mr. Jerley, and Mr. LaMonaca. Motion carried.

Mr. Furmanchik said public works went to the playground at Recreation Park and pulled the motorcycles that were on springs. They may be put out for bid at some point in time.

Mr. Furmanchik said he asked the recreation director about the availability of handicapped signs at the pool. He said there were two handicapped signs there but they took them down for the year so they would not be vandalized. Mrs. Pekala said no, they were not there in July so she did not believe they were ever put up.

Mr. Furmanchik said he had been nosing around a bit to see how much it would cost to pave the road at the park. He said it will have to be put out for bid.

Mr. Furmanchik said he met with Mr. Grohal to look at the new location of the dog park directly across recreation road. He got one estimate so far from one contractor and will get two more.

Mr. Furmanchik said another thing he talked to Mr. Grohal about was the bonfires at the park and the debris especially nails from pallets left on the ground. This is a danger to small children especially the day camp children who are up there during the summer.

Park

Mr. Furmanchik would like to approach Frank DiLoreto about putting in a rectangular square or circle but something about 10 feet in diameter, masonry block maybe 18” high so little kids can’t get into the area.

Mayor Penrod said he has fielded a lot of phone calls concerning the dog park. People were concerned with the ball park being sold. Mr. Furmanchik said he also spoke to Tiffany Mock who is sort of the head of the group of volunteers who care for the dog park. He explained to her the dimensions of the park and told her to look at it and let him know if she has any concerns.

Mayor Penrod said he would want to make sure the tree planted at the dog park is moved to the new one because it was donated for the dog park. Mr. Furmanchik said it will definitely be moved.

Mr. Furmanchik said he and Mr. Grohal agreed on a black vinyl coated chain link fence. It is a little bit more and they picked black because it would be less intrusive. There will be two doors into the park.

Council discussed what to do with the \$1,900 in donations they received for the dog park. Mr. Spinos said he would let the people involved in the volunteer group for the park make that decision. Mrs. Pekala said it could be used for the maintenance and whatever they need. She said last year they had bought some balls which probably need replaced by now.

Mr. Furmanchik said they did agree that it would be a four foot fence. Mrs. Pekala asked if it would have the same entrance coming in, have one gate coming in. Mr. Furmanchik said a holding area. Mrs. Pekala said yes, so they do not take off. Mayor Penrod said Somerset’s Dog Park has it. It is a safety issue to close the gate behind you so other dogs can’t come out while the gate door is open. Mrs. Pekala agreed. Mayor Penrod said he recommends the Sally Port also. Mr. Furmanchik said he would readdress it with the measurements and bids.

Mr. Furmanchik said a lot of people already told him they liked the idea because it is in the shade. Mr. Spinos said eventually we could extend the water line to provide water for the park also.

Next Meeting

The next council meeting will be held on October 10, 2017.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by Council President, Mike Bryan at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Robin S. Gates

