

**Borough Council Regular Meeting
November 9, 2021**

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council Members were present: Mike Bryan, John Holden, Dr. Doug Ledney, Timothy Layton, Joe Pallo and James Spinosa. Attorney, Joe Green was present. Mayor Mike Thomas was present and James Furmanchik, Borough Manager was present through telecommunications. Ron Mash was absent.

**Approval
Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. Bryan to approve the Minutes of the special meeting of October 12, 2021, regular meeting of October 12, 2021, and the special meeting of October 26, 2021. One absent, Mr. Mash, motion carried

**Johnstown
Visitors
Bureau**

Jayne Korenoski, Director of Advertising & Sales and Lindsay Arcuri, Communications Specialist for the Johnstown Visitors Bureau spoke to council about their partnership program.

Ms. Arcuri said they are going to present council, along with the visitors from the municipal authority, fire department and Windber Economic Development Committee packets that include the presentation and business guide.

Mrs. Korenoski said she had met with Robin and Anson a few weeks ago regarding Windber's Centennial next year. Mrs. Korenoski books the entertainment for Johnstown events, so she was helping Robin and Anson with their entertainment. She said Robin believed several entities in Windber Borough could benefit from the bureau and suggested them coming and giving a presentation to the four entities together to see what they could do to accommodate them either together or as one.

Lindsay presented the presentation to council of the different levels they offer. They offer partner listing, website description & banner photo, blog mentions, welcome Facebook posts, coupons on website, welcome package, free newsletter inserts, brochure rack inclusion, unlimited event listings on website, video library access, discounted advertising, advertisement in visitors guide, visit widget notifications, photography session, trade show-promo materials distributed, drone video and photos and partner spotlight advertisement.

Lindsay explained they have 4-different partnership levels, or they can tailor a partnership just for a particular group. Mr. Bryan asked how far distribution goes of the guide? Is the guide at the rest stops off the turnpike? Mrs. Korenoski said yes, they are at all the Pennsylvania rest stops. Mr. Holden asked about circulation. Mrs. Korenoski said they print 100,000 guides and take them to the shows they go to also. She said they do four newsletters a year. The next newsletter would be in February. The deadline to get into the book would be early 2022 with a soft deadline at the end of the month of November. There is no firm date due to the holidays and the graphic designer.

Mrs. Korenoski said they will custom tailor a package for you either together or separately. Mrs. Gates said everyone needs to take some time and think about what they want and put it in an email or phone call to Lindsay or Jane and they can get started working for your organization.

Mr. Rummel asked Mrs. Korenoski if the brochures go out to the local hotels? Mrs. Korenoski said yes. Mr. Rummel asked if as far as what we want on it “Windber Events” does the Johnstown Visitors Bureau reach out to local businesses themselves. Mrs. Korenoski said normally yes, they go to other businesses, or you can also in the case of a sponsor.

Mr. Venzon said this is a great book but the only question he has for Windber Economic Development is that we are going to have several events and even if we are trying to tie them together, they are separate things. Do we do separate things or try to tie them together. Mrs. Gates said with the centennial they are going to market that on its own. Mr. Bloom said even if the agencies in Windber alone would combine and went with a package everyone would benefit because your four events, then you have an 11-event package versus four and everyone goes into the collective pot together. Mr. Venzon said if they did that, they would like all the events to be from one area.

Mrs. Korenoski said she feels sure they could do a Windber page if you do a double spread. Mr. Bryan said they can talk about that through our individual entities. Mrs. Korenoski said that Lindsay herself would be more than happy to meet with the entities individually also. Jane and Lindsay thanked council for allowing them to present to council and all the other entities. Mr. Furmanchik said he has known Jayne a long time and she is extremely easy to work with and she delivers, and we would make a good team together.

Correspondence

1. Letter from DCED regarding CDBG status for Windber Borough.
2. Minutes from the Windber Municipal Authority Meeting of September 21, 2021.
3. Minutes of the Windber Public Library Meeting October 20, 2021.
4. Minutes of the Windber Area Authority August and September 2021 meetings.
5. 2022 PMCA Residential Fee Schedule.

Approval Payroll A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. Bryan to approve payroll for October 22, and November 5, 2021. One absent, Mr. Mash, motion carried.

Approval Bills A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. Layton to approve bills for October 2021. One absent, Mr. Mash, motion carried.

**Cash Bal.,
Treasure Rpt.** There were no questions at this time.

Council Liaison Reports

**Pallo/
Municipal
Authority** Mr. Pallo said the Municipal Authority is happy with the work that is being done at the Community Building by Service Master and are waiting on release of the kitchen by the insurance company.

**Holden/
Library**

Mr. Holden said the library is comfortable with the way we are disbursing the ARPA funds. They were just happy to be included.

**Mayor's
Report**

Mayor Thomas said he received a phone call yesterday about a gas odor at the police station. Fire and a representative for the gas company were there. He asked Anson if they ever came up with a solution because they were going to shut the gas off. Mr. Bloom said he had not spoken to anyone today. He said they had a significant leak in there. They had high readings when they got there. They did a dial test we shut everything off and marked the valves to see how much it was drawing.

Mr. Furmanchik said he had Yeager's go down today and address the situation. He has not heard anything further, so he feels it was resolved.

**Manager's
Report**

17th Street Storm Water Project – Construction began on October 18th. By October 28th all storm inlets and pipe were installed, as well as all paving being completed. Curb construction began on November 3rd. I see the project being completed, in the very near future.

CDBG Funding – As established in ACT 170, Windber Borough's loss of entitlement is a direct result of the 2020 Census that indicates that the Borough's population below the threshold of 4,000. This rating will stay in place until the 2030 Census.

With that in mind, the Borough may not be able to pursue the sidewalk project that would complement the current storm water project on 17th Street. The only way that would be possible would be to request assistance from Somerset County's allocation of annual CDBG funds in 2022. Currently we would need approximately an additional \$50,000, and if granted, the project may take place in 2023.

USDA Grant – There is nothing to report, at his time. USDA is currently starting their new fiscal year.

Ballroom Rehabilitation – The final MEP drawings have been completed by East Hills Engineering and we are waiting for finals from UpStreet Architects. At the time of this writing, I am working with the architect on the bid advertisement. It appears that we won't go out to bid until mid-November.

Blight Remediation Grant – Marsh Contracting is having problems securing the performance bond, for the project. All other documents pertaining to the demolition project have been mailed, by Mr. Marsh, and we are awaiting delivery. Marsh Contracting will be working with Anson, as the Borough's point of contact, until all work is complete.

Community Building Fire – Claims have been filed by the WMA and the Borough. Anson and Robin have met with insurance company representatives and the current belief is that there is damage in excess of \$100,000.

There is no damage to the second floor, but the kitchen is considered a total loss. There is also smoke and water damage on the first floor. The building went back into service on October 28th and was operational for the November 2nd election, with the new boiler installed and working well. Currently Servicemaster is completing clean up and moving forward, Johnstown Construction will begin restoration

Levee Inspection - The inspection, that took place on September 29th, has still not yielded any results., from the Army Corp of Engineers.

Winter Road Maintenance – All trucks, salt spreaders and plows have been inspected and repaired, if needed. Currently, our public works department is well prepared for the forthcoming weather.

Pickleball Court – Surface cracks were reported on the playing surface on November 1st Inspection by our public works foreman reveals that they are minute and are nothing to be concerned with.

Insurance Upgrade – Our insurance company, Selective Insurance Company of America, has recommended that our Risk Transfer Agreement with the Windber Municipal Authority needs an upgrade, with their limits of insurance to at least match ours.

I have conveyed this to the Recreation Director and let him know that changes need to be in place by January 1, 2022, at the latest.

Boards and Commissions – The following are seeking reappointment, by Council, as their terms expire on December 31, 2021. Council can approve reappointment or appoint a new representative, to all positions.

ZONING HEARING BOARD – 3-year term

Allen Ott

Gwynn Gahagen

PLANNING COMMISSION – 4-year term

Pete Bartolomucci

Ed Marcinko

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE APPEALS BOARD - 3-year term

Dave Kormanik

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE APPEALS BOARD – 3-year term

Mark Gyurik

Rich Wargo

WINDBER BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR WINDBER AREA AUTHORITY BOARD– 5- year term

Barry Jerley

Solicitor's Report

There was no report at this time.

Codes Report

There was nothing extra to report at this time.

Tentative Approval Budget	A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Mr. Pallo to tentatively approve the 2022 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,781,507.17. Roll call vote: Mr. Spinos, yes; Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; and Mr. Mash, absent. Motion carried.
Tentative Approval Sewer Budget	A motion was made by Dr. Ledney and seconded by Mr. Holden to tentatively approve the 2022 Sewer Fund Budget in the amount of \$206,800.00. Roll call vote: Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Spinos yes. Motion carried.
Tentative Approval Liquid Fuels	A motion was made by Mr. Holden and seconded by Mr. Pallo to tentatively approve the 2022 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget in the amount of \$150,148.36. Roll call vote: Mr. Holden, yes; Mr Pallo, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; and Mr. Spinos, yes. Motion carried.
Advertise Ordinance	A motion was made by Mr. Bryan and seconded by Mr. Spinos to advertise Ordinance No. 2021-3 Levying tax of 18.92 mills for the year 2022.
Approval Ott Zoning	A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Mr. Bryan to approve reappointment of Allen Ott to the Zoning Hearing Board (Three-year term) January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2024. Roll call vote: Mr. Spinos, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; and Mr. Pallo, yes. Motion carried.
Approval Gahagen Zoning	A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Dr. Ledney to approve reappointment of Gwynn Gahagen to the Zoning Hearing Board (Three-year term) January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2024. Roll call vote: Mr. Spinos, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; and Mr. Pallo, yes. Motion carried.
Approval Bartolomucci Planning	A motion was made by Mr. Holden and seconded by Mr. Pallo to approve reappointment of Pete Bartolomucci to the Planning Commission. (Four-year term) January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2025. Roll call vote: Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; and Mr. Spinos, yes. Motion carried.
Approval Marcinko Planning	A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. Bryan to approve reappointment of Ed Marcinko to the Planning Commission. (Four-year term) January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2025. Roll call vote: Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; and Mr. Spinos, yes. Motion carried.
Approval Kormanik UCCAB	A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Dr. Ledney to approve reappointment of David Kormanik to the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board. (Three-year term) January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2024. Roll call vote: Mr. Spinos, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; and Mr. Pallo, yes. Motion carried.
Approval Gyurik IPMCAB	A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Mr. Bryan to approve reappointment of Mark Gyurik to the International Property Maintenance Codes Appeals Board. (Three-year term) January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2024. Roll call vote: Mr. Spinos, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; and Mr. Pallo, yes. Motion carried.

Approval Wargo IPMCAB A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Mr. Pallo to approve reappointment of Richard Wargo to the International Property Maintenance Codes Appeals Board. (Three-year term) January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2024. Roll call vote: Mr. Spinos, yes; Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; and Mr. Mash, absent. Motion carried.

WAA Board Dr. Ledney Attorney Green said he did the research on this, and Mr. Jerley was appointed to this commission because he was a member of council. Historically this position was a council member and was to be a liaison between the authority and council. His opinion to council is they should appoint a council person to this position.

A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Mr. Holden to appoint Dr. Ledney to the Windber Area Authority Board. (Five-year term) January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2026. Roll call vote: Mr. Spinos, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Dr. Ledney, abstained; Mr. Mash, absent; and Mr. Pallo, yes. Motion carried.

Council convened to an executive session at 7:45 p.m. for personnel issues.

Council reconvened from an executive session at 8:15 p.m.

Part-time Officer A motion was made by Mr. Holden and seconded by Mr. Bryan to approve Dalton Geisel as a part-time police officer for the Windber Borough Police Department. Roll call vote: Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Spinos, yes. Motion carried.

Approval Allison Manager A motion was made by Mr. Layton and seconded by Mr. Holden to approve Ron Allison as the part-time borough manager at a salary of \$23,412.48 per year. Roll call vote: Mr. Layton, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Spinos, yes. Motion carried.

Approval Furmanchik Consultant A motion was made by Mr. Pallo and seconded by Mr. Bryan as a Ballroom Consultant/ Project Manager at a one-time payment of \$18,500.00. Payment coming from the ARPA Fund (American Rescue Plan Act). Roll call vote: Mr. Pallo, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Layton, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; and Mr. Spinos, yes. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Next meeting will be December 14, 2021, at 7 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting adjourned by Council President Mike Bryan at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates
Administrative Assistant