

BOROUGH OF WINDBER
Borough Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 10, 2024
7:00 p.m.

The Regular rescheduled meeting of Windber Borough Council was called to order by Windber Borough Council President Richard Rummel, at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The following council members were present: Mr. Bahorik, Mr. Klonicke, Mr. LaMonaca, Dr. Ledney, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Rummel. Mr. Pallo was absent, and Solicitor Green was absent. Mayor Thomas and Manager Allison were present.

Approval Minutes A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Klonicke to approve the Minutes of May 13 and 28, 2024 meetings. One absent, Mr. Pallo. Motion carried.

Visitors Todd Koehler said he attended the Memorial Day Service at Veteran’s Park which he had been attending for about 30 years now. He said the speaker system they were using kept cutting out and made it very difficult for the veterans in the back, that attended, to hear what was being said.

Mr. Koehler asked if there was anything that could be done in order to purchase a better sound system. Mr. Rummel said he would speak with the legion about the sound system.

Correspondence

1. Minutes of the Windber Municipal Authority’s Meeting of April 9, 2024.

Approval Bills A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Klonicke to approve the bills for May 2024. Remarks: Mr. Moore said he cannot follow where the money is being paid, for the bartenders at the Grand Ballroom events. He said it is on the bill list as being paid but he does not see it on the Ballroom’s cash balance report. Mrs. Gates said it is part of the rental fee. It is included in the lease. When you sign the lease agreement, and you want bartenders provided by the Fire Department then it is included as part of the lease agreement. Once the event takes place we pay the Fire Department from the Ballroom Account. So, under income on the Ballrooms Profit and Loss Report you see a line item for rental fees and the bartenders are part of the rental fee. Under the expense on that report, you will see the line item where the bartenders are paid.

Mr. Moore said the money ultimately goes through our fund. Mr. Allison said yes, it is included in the client’s lease and then the Fire Department is paid from the Ballroom Account. One absent, Mr. Pallo. Motion carried to approve the bills.

Approval Payroll A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Klonicke to approve payroll for May 17 and 31, 2024. Remarks: Mr. Moore asked if the police and dog officer are separate From our police force that we have now. Manager Allison said we pay the dog officer \$200 a month.

Mr. Moore said we pay them up to \$20,000 it says here. Mrs. Gates showed Mr. Moore that the number he was referring to was the FICA tax for both the dog officer and the police. She showed him the line item on the payroll report where he was paid. She said the dog officer is paid \$200 a month out of the first pay of the month. Mr. Moore asked who the dog officer was. Mrs. Gates said Frank Meyers. One absent, Mr. Pallo. Motion carried.

**Proceed w/
PennVest
Project**

A motion was made by Mr. Bahorik and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to proceed with the PennVest Project with proposed replacement projects: Basins 1, 2, and 3. Estimated total cost = \$15,028,750 and engineering cost = \$797,000. Remarks: Mr. Rummel said just to recap we are going for all three projects to see what happens and get the ball rolling with the application process. When the grant is awarded, we can always downgrade if necessary to one and two or two and three. One absent, Mr. Pallo. Motion carried.

**Approval
Proceed w/
RFP's**

A motion was made by Mr. Bahorik and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to proceed with RFP's from banking institutions for engineering costs in the amount of \$797,000. One absent, Mr. Pallo. Motion carried.

**Engineer's
Report**

22nd Street Bridge Project

a. Working on Line and Grade (L&G) Submission.

24th Street Bridge Project

- a. PennDOT moved Let Date to 12/12/2024
 - Construction still planned for summer 2025
 - 1. May not be completed by Fall of 2025 start of school
 - 2. Long lead time for box culvert fabrication and installation

17th Street Sidewalk Replacement Project - RASC

- a. Notice to Proceed-June 1, 2024
 - Berkebile Excavating Co., Inc.
- b. Work to start by June 14, 2024

Stormwater Management Program (SWMP)

- a. PRP Projects - need completed per MS4 Permit
 - Stream Restoration
 - Vegetated Swale

PENNVEST Sewer Project

- a. Replacement of approximately 31,000-ft of existing sewers.
 - Basin 1 - Seese Run Interceptor Area
 - Basin 2 - 4th Street, 5th Street, 6th Street
 - Basin 3 - Baumgardner Heights
- b. Existing sanitary sewers to be converted to storm sewers.
- c. Total Project Cost estimated at approximately \$15,000,000
 - Permits must be approved prior to submitting application.
 - Engineering agreement to be presented on July 8, 2024, council meeting.

Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program

- a. Will need resolution approved on July 8, 2024, council meeting to apply for grant.
 - Can request 30% match be waived.

**Cash Bal./
Treasurers
Report**

Mrs. Gates said we received the second donation from Barry Jerley in the amount of \$100,000 towards the purchase of the police station. She sent the paperwork into the Department of Community and Economic Development of which we will use the donations from Mr. Jerley as a match for that grant which will also be used toward the purchase of the police department building.

Mr. Rummel said he would like to have a workshop on July 22, 2024, at 6 p.m. to review where we are at with the budget for the first six months.

Council Liaison Reports

There were no reports at this time.

**Mayor's
Report**

May 27, Mayor Thomas participated in the annual Memorial Day Parade, along with giving the welcome address at the Memorial ceremony at Veterans Park. The turnout was great despite the threatening weather.

Mayor Thomas met Chief Frear and Barry Jerley at the police station. At that time Mr. Jerley presented us with a check for \$100,000 from the DiBattista trust fund towards the purchase of the police station. Along with the state DCED grant, the total that that the borough owes is down to \$100,000. This will be a savings to the taxpayers, as we were previously paying monthly rent of approximately \$3,000 a month.

On June 2,3,4 & 5th Mayor Thomas along with Manager Ron Allison, and Council President Rich Rummel attended the PSAB spring conference in Hershey. The conference was once again informative, along with a great networking event with other Borough officials from across the state.

Mayor Thomas was also honored to receive the Certified Borough Officials Award. This award is given to Borough Officials who complete the prescribed training which includes a total of 85 credits, consisting of in-person credits, classroom training, and online courses.

**Manager's
Report**

Manager Allison said the piece of the alley down by the 12th Street Playground is in bad shape. We have \$5,000 for alley maintenance for the year. It looks like we are going to be able to do something at that corner where the water builds up for about \$3,500. When Laurel Asphalt comes in to do the paving in the borough they are going to do that piece of the alley.

Manager Allison said he was away last week at the PSAB Conference, so he was not able to get his monthly report ready.

Manager Allison said we did take care of a couple of sewer issues within the borough, and we are buttoned up there.

**Solicitor's
Report**

There was no report at this time.

Codes Report There were no questions at this time.

Ballroom Report There were no questions at this time at this time.

Block Party Mr. Rummel said that Life Church was unable to hold their block party earlier this month due to rain. They have rescheduled for June 27, 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Bahorik to approve Life Church to hold their block party on June 27, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. One absent, Mr. Pallo. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Moore for the council to convene to an executive session at 7:29 p.m. for matters of personnel.

President Rummel reconvened the council from an executive session at 7:46 p.m.

Resignation Lupton A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Dr. Ledney to table the approval to accept the resignation of Karris Lupton until we receive further information. One absent, Mr. Pallo. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Next Council Meeting will be July 8, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting adjourned by Council President, Richard Rummel at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates
Administrative Assistant