

Borough of Pitcairn Council
Workshop/Business Combined Meeting
Minutes
February 8, 2021
6:00 pm

Meeting called to order – President Dona Galia

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

John Bova

Kevin Dick

Debra Freeman

Dona Galia

Lisa Petrosky

Jim Rullo

Michael Tobias

Mayor Margaret Stevick

Solicitor Matthew Kalina

All present.

Mr. Rullo motioned to approve offer of part time employment to Police Officer Jonathan Miles. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stevick performed the swearing in. Officer Miles was congratulated and welcomed.

Mr. Rullo motioned to approve Minutes for the January 11, 2021 Council Workshop/Business Combined Meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Petrosky; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Galia announced Council held an Executive Session at 5:00 to discuss personnel matters. Borough Offices will be closed Monday for Presidents Day.

Citizen Comment on Agenda Items

Deb Marto asked if the water company would be working on Wall Avenue, noting there were paint markings. The Manager will investigate this and contact her.

Presentation by The Lord's Church to request use of playing fields and facilities. Niecy Dennis White described the proposed events involving their church and a program called Two Steps to Work. The public will be invited four Sundays in June for music, a message, then expo tents for children, adults and young adults to learn of family and social programs, benefits of education, employment guidance, mentorships. All volunteers will have clearances. Mr. Bova asked for more details about the request for gravel leveling. Ms. White's colleague, Kris Kohler who is handling the stage and logistics described potholes in the road and parking lot around the playing fields. Since some attendees will be seated with social distancing and others in vehicles, they are requesting the holes be filled. He brought specifics regarding the stage; they will have their own electric power. Mr. Dick pointed out the stage will have to be removed each time for sports groups. Mrs. Petrosky asked if they will need restrooms. Mrs. White said they can use a port-a-john. Mr. Tobias offered the concession stand bathrooms. Mrs. Galia recommended Council look over the details of the request and vote at their March 8th Meeting.

Kaylee Shockley introduced herself as having been born in Pitcairn, now returned. She has done community projects in various places in Allegheny County and offered her availability.

Mayor Betsy Stevick

Mayor Stevick requested a Handicapped Parking space at 416 Eleanor Street and at 536 4th Street. She reported that Police Chief Farally had checked them. Mr. Bova motioned to approve the addresses as stated. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stevick reported Pitcairn police worked 155 complaints in January, collected \$250 in Borough fines, \$161.00 from the Magistrate, \$31.00 from the County and \$400.00 in Quality-of-Life fines.

Personnel – Dona Galia

Mrs. Galia motioned to approve participation in PSAB’s DOT CDL drug and alcohol testing compliance program. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Streets – Kevin Dick

Mr. Dick motioned to adopt Ordinance 1041 authorizing the Borough to incur non-electoral debt by entering into a loan agreement with the Authority for Improvements in Municipalities in the amount of \$150,000 for the purpose of the Hillside Avenue Slide Remediation Project. The term of the loan is five years, 1.5% interest. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick motioned to adopt Resolution 2-2021 authorizing the execution of a note (the loan agreement) in accordance with Ordinance 1041. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick motioned to ratify offer of fulltime employment to William Chandler as Public Works Laborer on January 20, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motioned carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation – Debra Freeman

Mrs. Freeman thanked everyone who has reached out to her. It has been tough, but she will be back in action soon. She thanked everyone who helped with the Easter Bunny celebration last year and expressed hope that something could be done for the children again this year as it was with Santa.

Finance and Economic Development – Lisa Petrosky

Mrs. Petrosky motioned to pay bills as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Health and Welfare – Michael Tobias

Mr. Tobias announced on March 4th at 7:00 pm there will be a public Zoning Hearing to consider a request for a variance to use 457/459 Third Street as a multi-unit building.

Mr. Tobias motioned to approve payment request from Eveready Contracting for 2020 Building Demolition Project in the amount of \$31,220. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Electric – Jack Bova

Nothing this evening.

Public Safety – Jim Rullo

Mr. Rullo motioned to remove the residency requirement within one year of hiring found in the current Police and Public Works Departments CBAs, instead requiring living within a five-mile radius. He believed it would make it easier to find officers rather than requiring them to move into the Borough. Mr. Dick: I voted for a full time Police Officer because in the contract he was going to live here. Mr. Bova: we have a motion on the floor that has been seconded. He asked Mr. Rullo if he was motioning to change the current CBA. Mr. Rullo: yes, change it to five-mile radius. Solicitor Matt Kalina: in the existing contract or future CBAs? Mr. Rullo: either one. Mr. Kalina: that is something that is collective and could be brought up when each contract is up for negotiations. As to changing current agreements, Mr. Kalina said Council could direct the Solicitor to reach out to the Unions. Mrs. Galia asked Mr. Rullo to restate his motion. Mr. Rullo: for Council to direct the Solicitor to reach out to the bargaining units to consider amending the existing

CBA requirement for residency within one year, to living within a certain mile radius of the community. Mr. Bova seconded the motion. Mr. Bova: we have a full time Officer who was hired under those conditions and he was aware of that. Mr. Bova: one of the reasons I was in favor of hiring a full time Officer was for the benefit of he/she living here; I do not think I would have voted otherwise. Mr. Bova asked if Council changes the CBA, does that change the requirement for him. Mr. Kalina: you could authorize that be brought up as part of the discussion with the Union. doing it retroactively. Mrs. Petrosky thought the residency requirement in the current Public Works CBA was not being followed, most don't live in town. Mr. Bova: that did not apply when they were hired. Mr. Dick questioned why this issue is coming up. Mr. Rullo: with the scope of law enforcement today we may be able to find qualified Officers outside the Borough. Mr. Dick questioned the benefit to Pitcairn. Mr. Kalina asked Chief Farally if he is having difficulty finding Officers. Chief Farally confirmed, yes, State Police are as well. Chief offered to speak to the Officer about the residency requirement. Mr. Bova: we hired him under that agreement. Mrs. Galia felt it would be better to discuss it during future negotiations but also voiced concern going back on the requirement this far in. Roll call vote: Mrs. Galia no, Mr. Bova no, Mr. Dick no, Mr. Rullo yes, Mrs. Freeman no, Mrs. Petrosky no, Mr. Tobias no. Motion did not carry. Mr. Bova pointed out it could be revisited in future negotiations.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has notified the Borough it is exercising its option as permitted by the agreement to use the Park Building Office for an additional six-month term. Discussion took place. **Mrs. Galia motion to approve the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's request for an extension of an additional six months. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.**

Solicitor's Report

Nothing in addition to Agenda and Executive Session items.

Engineer's Report

The Engineer is out of town. The monthly report was distributed to Council and Mayor.

Borough Manager's Report

Ms. Dietz read aloud the bank fund balances and tax collections as submitted by the Tax Collector.

Police Chief Report

Chief Farally reported his department recently received de-escalation training. **He asked for permission to use a Police Department vehicle with another Officer to participate in the Seven Springs Special Olympics Torch Run. They will volunteer their time. Council agreed to the request.**

Mr. Dick asked Nick Turner to explain two payment requests from Pitcairn Fire Company. **Mr. Turner explained one of the fire engines required repairs to its brake lines and a seal on the pump to contain water. Total cost of the repairs was approximately \$8,000. Mr. Dick motioned to pay for the repairs out of the Public Safety Fund, not to exceed \$9,000. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Turner read from a list of properties to be submitted for a 2022 grant funded anti blight demolition project. Mr. Tobias motioned to approve submitting 351 Kenney, 436 Third, 573 Fourth, 309 Highland, 571 Second, 238 McGinnis, 510 Wood Street rear, 924 Creighton. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick motioned to adjourn at 6:50 pm to Executive Session, not to return. Seconded by Mr. Bova motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Dietz