

Borough of Pitcairn Council
Workshop/Business Combined Meeting
Minutes
April 12, 2021
6:00 pm

Meeting called to order – President Dona Galia

Stand for Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

John Bova

Kevin Dick

Debra Freeman

Dona Galia

Lisa Petrosky

Jim Rullo

Michael Tobias

Mayor Margaret Stevick

All present.

Mrs. Galia announced Council held an Executive Session at 5:30 to discuss a legal matter.

Mr. Tobias motioned to approve Minutes from Borough Council's Combined Meeting on March 8, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comment

Resident on 9th Street asked the Solicitor for advice as to how he can add his existing garage to his deed. He brought documentation showing the structure is on a paper alley that was vacated by the Borough. Solicitor Mike Witherel said if it was vacated, the alley is split between the two adjacent owners and that half should be part of his property, and a real estate attorney would be able to help him. Mr. Bova asked if there is anything the Borough needs to do to assist. Mr. Witherel: the ordinance vacating the paper alley is what the Borough needed to do.

Mrs. Marto began a discussion of the negative article about Pittsburgh's Land Bank and wondered if it was the same Land Bank taking over properties in Pitcairn. Response was Pitcairn is part of the TriCOG Land Bank which the article praised; the properties and current status can be found on the Land Bank's website. Mrs. Marto asked for more information about the meters motion. Utility Foreman, Jim Comunale was present and explained the proposed advanced meters would benefit the Borough, they can be read and activated from the office as opposed to field employees, customer can log on with a smart phone, see their usage. Mr. Comunale could more quickly diagnose outages, overloaded transformers. He will be installing the fiber gateways, will use the existing fiber from former cable company. Mr. Bova added, we can turn them on instantly when they pay a delinquent bill. Mrs. Marto asked for more information about the proposed police policy on the Agenda. Mrs. Galia responded that Chief is not here this evening.

Jarrett Highsmith of Focus Beyond the Field gave a status report of their program, planning to open the program on the playing fields again to the community in May and will work around the women's softball team using the lower fields on Thursday and Friday. They are planning to run a youth football clinic on July 10th for Council's approval this evening. Still deciding on the ages, would like to concentrate on linemen. Council thanked them for all they do. Mr. Highsmith asked for volunteers, they are planning for 60 kids. Officers Peduzzi and Caruso have also been a great help around their busy schedules.

Charlsia Davenport of Boyz2Mentoring announced a recruiting and mentoring event for young men. She offered to answer any questions, brought flyers detailing the event.

Deb Marto asked Mrs. Petrosky about the motion regarding the Right to Know fees. Mrs. Dietz explained the Borough can pass a Resolution adopting the fees that Harrisburg sets for paper copies, CDs in order to pass those on to the requestor.

Mayor Betsy Stevick

Pitcairn Police worked 215 calls in March. Regarding a request for handicap parking space at 824 9th Street. Mayor Stevick checked it out; a paper alley with a dead end. She recommends not blocking it to allow Borough access to utilities, but making the space along the 800 block, possibly moving the parking signs. Jim Comunale agreed and offered to meet her there before deciding.

Mayor Stevick began a discussion of the possibility of Memorial Day activities. She said a few neighboring communities have canceled. Mr. Bova is not in favor of cancelling. Mr. Tobias suggested researching what others are doing and borrow ideas. Mayor Stevick will look into the Gateway band since they may not want to gather. The director contacted Mayor Stevick, that they want to honor Frank Gallo. She suggested a wreath and was asked to check with the Legion. Council could decide at the next Meeting. Mr. Bova pointed out when a veteran passes, the Borough mentions it on the Park Building sign. He suggested honoring them before they pass and inviting the community to submit names and suggestions. Mayor Stevick was asked to take that on.

Mayor Stevick reported at the recent Gateway School Board candidate meeting, they distributed a flyer of the Pennsylvania ballot questions. She made copies for this evening.

Personnel – Dona Galia

Mrs. Galia announced the Janie Summers Memorial Community Clean Up will take place Saturday, April 24th from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Waste Management will provide roll off sites at 582 Sixth Street and the Fire Company. Casturo will be collecting metal and appliances. Free Litter collection gloves and bags will be available at each site. Mrs. Galia encouraged the community to gather a group together and help beautify Pitcairn.

Mrs. Galia motioned to adopt Resolution increasing the Zoning Board Hearing fee from \$500 to \$600 and establishing a fee of \$600 for Conditional Use Zoning Hearings that come before Council. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Galia motioned to approve attendance at ALOM Educational Conference, June 17th to 20th, Seven Springs. She noted that last year's was cancelled. Seconded by Mrs. Petrosky; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Galia motioned to open the Borough Building to the public, continuing to follow CDC guidelines. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Streets – Kevin Dick

Mr. Dick motioned to adopt Resolution exercising the option to extend contract with Cargill, Inc. for an additional one (1) year term commencing July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick motioned to approve payment application #2 from GeoBuild, LLC for Hillside Avenue Slide stabilization in the amount of \$246,000. This will be paid from the grant. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick motioned to authorize Jim Comunale and Borough Manager to post, interview, promote Public Works Laborer to Public Works Foreman, hourly rate per CBA. Seconded by Mrs. Petrosky; motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation – Debra Freeman

Motion to award Concession Stand roof replacement project to lowest bidder. Burgman Home Improvements (rubber roof): \$11,400, Allen Miller Construction (metal roof) \$5,475, JP Roofing (rubber roof) \$11,687.79. Mrs. Freeman: the metal roof proposed by Allen Miller Construction is said to last 40 years. Seconded by Mr. Rullo. Mrs. Petrosky pointed out the difference in quotes. Jim Comunale explained the original rubber roof on the concession stand is leaking and must be completely removed. He cautioned that people should not be permitted to sit on the roof as in the past. In fairness, we did not ask the others for a metal roof quote. The metal roof contractors were working in the area and one of the Public Works employees asked them to submit a quote. Mr. Comunale thought the roof is too flat for a metal roof. Mr. Witherel pointed out the proposals are under the limit to get bids. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Freeman motioned to grant permission to Fire Company One to use Borough property for their annual Firemen’s Fair, the first week in August. Due to the pandemic, they are requesting the entire field area, with the exception of the baseball diamond. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Freeman motioned to grant permission for field and concession stand use to Pittsburgh East Metro Women’s Softball League, Focus Beyond the Field and PitCare for the submitted specific dates and times. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Freeman motioned to grant permission to use the playing fields on May 7th, 9:00 to noon, for the Neighbor to Neighbor/412 Food Rescue food distribution, and May 15th from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm for PitCare, Inc. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Freeman motioned to hire resident Richard Powell as part time seasonal custodian for Sugar Camp and athletic field restrooms at \$10 an hour as budgeted. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Freeman motioned to apply to UPMC requesting COVID19 vaccination distribution at the Park Building. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Freeman motioned to permit and participate in the use of the Park Building by Allegheny County and Friends of the Riverfront to conduct a public meeting regarding the status of a proposed bicycle trail link in Pitcairn. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Freeman motioned to update the Summers Field sign to include the following rules: no dirt bikes, motorcycles or ATVs, no fireworks, no profanity, children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult at all times, dawn to dusk, dogs on a leash, clean up after your dog, fines up to \$1,000 per violation. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; all in favor with the exception of Mr. Dick who voted no. Motion carried.

Finance and Economic Development – Lisa Petrosky

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

Mrs. Petrosky motioned to nominate Planning Commission applicants, Jeff Owen, to fill vacancy by Sam Shearer’s term and Nick Turner to fill Bennett Galia’s term. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Petrosky motioned to approve a Resolution adopting the current and future Pennsylvania Office of Open Records fee schedule for Right to Know requests. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Health and Welfare – Michael Tobias

Mr. Tobias motioned to approve application of three properties for consideration by the TriCOG Land Bank: 624 Fifth Street, 429 Eleanor Street and 700 11th Street. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion unanimously.

Mr. Tobias motioned to adopt a Resolution relinquishing interest in Lot and Block 746-F-97, Wall Avenue, at the request of resident John Pappalardo who intends to purchase and maintain the property. The lot is owned by Pitcairn, the County and the School District. Seconded by Mrs. Petrosky. Question on the motion: Mr. Dick suggested the Code Officer first speak to Mr. Pappalardo about the clutter and issues with his current properties before taking on the care of another. Mr. Turner and Mr. Bova agreed it could help him meet that goal. Mr. Tobias motioned to table the motion. Mr. Bova provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

Electric – Jack Bova

Mr. Bova motioned to approve request from Trafford American Legion Post 331 for the use of Borough employees and equipment to replace flags on the bridge before Memorial Day. Seconded by Mrs. Freeman; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bova motioned to invite Comcast and any other cable and/or internet companies to provide service to Pitcairn. Seconded by Mrs. Freeman. Mr. Bova clarified, Pitcairn has never prohibited any provider from coming into the community, but this makes it clear we welcome them. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Comunale is recommending the purchase of twenty four advanced meters from Vision Metering for \$3,000 for a six-month trial to test a system the Borough might eventually consider purchasing. Mr. Bova motioned to purchase the meters as described. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bova motioned to send a Letter of Intent in support of a feasibility study for a possible utility scale solar project. If possible, this would help offset electricity costs to residents and protect the environment. Seconded by Mrs. Petrosky; motion carried unanimously.

Public Safety – Jim Rullo

Mr. Rullo motioned to approve a Resolution adopting Allegheny County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan including agreeing to implement the recommended activities to mitigate risks associated with natural and human-made hazards. This action is also required to receive post-disaster grant funds. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rullo motioned to appoint Patrick Heaps as a full time member of the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Heaps was an Alternate. Seconded by Mrs. Freeman. Roll call vote: Mr. Tobias abstained, all others voted in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Galia motioned to appoint William Emerick as Alternate to the Civil Service Commission. Seconded by Mrs. Petrosky; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rullo motioned to approve addition to Pitcairn Police Department Manual of Recording of Police Activity Policy. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing in addition to Executive Session matters.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Don Black reported paving work on Brinton has begun. They will remove the bricks, it will be closed during work. Based on earlier conversations, Mr. Black recommends waiting to bid out together, the paving of Center and Hillside Avenues for a better cost, hope to get them paved before school begins in the Fall. Mr. Dick asked Solicitor if they could motion to authorize that now. **Mr. Dick motioned to authorize the Engineer to advertise for paving bids. Mr. Black asked for clarification from Council: paving just the limits of the repairs, or further. Discussion took place regarding the condition of lower Center Avenue. Mr. Comunale agreed it needs done, but will it hold, it's dropped eight inches. Mr. Black suggested an alternate scenario for bids. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.**

Borough Manager's Report

Ms. Dietz read aloud the various bank fund balances and Tax Collector's report.

Mrs. Petrosky encouraged everyone to spread the word that the 412 Food Rescue is scheduled to deliver 162 boxes in Pitcairn, 72 boxes for the High Rise.

Mr. Bova motioned to Adjourn at 7:08 pm. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Dietz