

Borough of Pitcairn Council
Workshop/Business Combined Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2024
5:30 PM

Meeting called to order – President Thomas Dick, Jr.
Stand for Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:	Here	Absent
Thomas Dick, Jr.	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Lisa Petrosky	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Domenic Roberta	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
James Rullo	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Deborah Marto	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Bill Kornrumph	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
George Toth	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Mayor Margaret Stevick	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

Preliminary budget presented by Manager to Council and Mayor.

Jim Rullo motioned to approve the Minutes for the Council Meeting on September 9, 2024. Seconded by George Toth. Bill Kornrumph questioned the validity of the discussion of the police car. He understood that Jim Rullo was to reach out to Senator Brewster about a grant for the police car. Mr. Rullo explained that Senator Brewster told him there was no money available. Mr. Rullo stated there wasn't anything to report back to Council. Mr. Bolen explained that when we discussed vehicles, we discussed purchasing one vehicle on our own and trying to obtain a grant for a second vehicle. Mr. Kornrumph stated that his point is we broke the Council meeting discussing trying to get money for a vehicle and the next day Council receives an email asking to vote on the purchase of a vehicle. Mr. Bolen stated that all scenarios were discussed in the public meeting about purchasing a car with borough funds and purchasing a second with grant funds, should they become available. Mr. Roberta and Ms. Petrosky stated the grant was for the second vehicle. It is not what Mr. Kornrumph recalls. Mr. Dick stated he was not at the last meeting so he can't speak to it. Mr. Bolen explained that a spreadsheet was presented to Council, the price quotes of the vehicles and how we could fund a vehicle. Mr. Kornrumph stated that if we were desperate to purchase a vehicle then we should have voted on it the night of the meeting. Mr. Dick stated there was a motion on the floor to accept the minutes. All ayes, motion carries.

Citizen Comment

Peg Yagatich commented on bags of clothes on Broadway, several cars go by and see it. She stated she works three jobs and when she tells them she lives in Pitcairn, people say they feel sorry for her. She asks why when we have public works and police driving through town, she has to say something at a meeting. She also complained about the Memorial Garden on Wall Ave. The weeds were high, and it looked terrible. She thanked whoever cleaned it up. She asked when the Taylor Avenue bridge project will be completed. She said the dirt and dust is terrible, she can't sit outside, and she needs to wash her walls every week because there is so much dust. Mr. Dick explained that the project was delayed because of the state funding. The Borough only received the finalized contract on October 11. She added that if she were a young person she would leave, that if she hits the lottery she is moving, she won't even pack her clothes.

Linda (no last name given) wanted to ask if the bushes at 613 Seventh Street can be cut. She showed pictures to Council. She explained that the current owner was not living there, that she is in a nursing home. Ms. Petrosky asked if she would like the Borough to cut it and send the owner a bill. Mr. Bolen stated that he directed Nick Turner to issue a citation to the owner via mail and email so there was a paper trail. The citation gives them 30 days to rectify the problem. The borough plans to abate the property when the crew starts to cut trees and chip the debris. It still may be a month until we get to it.

Tom Dick stated there was no one else under citizen comments but asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak?

Kevin Dick stated that he and his buddy spent three hours cleaning the memorial garden. Deb Marto thanked them for doing it. He stated that we have a street sweeper that runs one day a week and does not know why it is not run more often. As far as the ballfield is concerned the water company has three piles of gravel in the middle of the parking lot, why hasn't that been cleaned up. How does Council not see it? Code enforcement, we hired a police officer to do code two days a week, is there a reason it is not getting done? This was directed to Jim Rullo. Jim stated that it was questioned. Kevin Dick stated that she was to do two days a week of code enforcement and three days a week police work, I know that and you know that. Tom Dick stated that he thought she was tagging cars for the mayor. Deb Marto asked if that was done when we were fully staffed in the police department and now, we are down officers and there may not be time for her to do code work. She was hired when Kevin was on Council. Lisa Petrosky stated that she heard that the officer did not want to do that work. Deb Marto asked what the difference is between a police officer ticketing and Nick as Code Enforcement Officer. Discussion took place. About the difference between police work and code work.

Land Bank purchased a house and now has it for sale. Mr. Dick understood that the Land Bank was to purchase a house, fix it up and sale it to an owner occupant. What they are doing is buying houses to sale and taking the money and putting it into other communities. Selling to first time home buyers is not on their website or is not part of their mission statement. Mr. Bolen stated that the one that was sold at 590 Fourth was sold to an owner occupant, The owner was doing the work on the property before they moved in. The house at 581 Sixth Street was sold to an owner occupant. The house at 419 Second they are trying to sell to an owner occupant or a contractor that will fix it and sale to an owner occupant.

Landlord Rental Registration what is the plan right now. Mr. Bolen stated that for 2025 letters will go out in November or December. We were ordered to give everyone a credit for one year so there will be no fee collected. After that Council will have to decide if it is worth continuing. Mr. Dick is worried and what he is questioning is how some didn't pay and how that is fair. Mr. Bolen stated that refunds were issued for each license paid. It is the way the court ordered us to do it. Discussion followed. Mr. Dick asked that Council get in their cars and drive around town and look at the houses and the vacant houses. Mr. Dick thanked Council for listening.

Mayor Margaret Stevick

The Mayor asked if Jim Rullo could read his motions so the police officers can go back to work.

- Jim Rullo motioned to promote Police Officer Jonathan Zotter from part time to full time status effective October 20, 2024, based on the Chiefs recommendation. Seconded by Domenic Roberta. All ayes, motion carries. Picture was taken.

The Mayor read her fines report and the police call report.

The mayor announced the Halloween Parade will be the 26th of October at Noon starting at the Assembly of God.

Trick or Treat will be October 31, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The mayor asked for a motion to approve a handicap parking space at 746 Tenth.

Domenic Roberta motioned for Council to approve the handicap parking space at 746 Tenth Street. Seconded by George Toth. All ayes, motion carries.

Personnel / General –Domenic Roberta

- **Domenic Roberta motioned to approve the five-year Collective Bargaining Agreement between Teamsters Local Union 205 and the Borough of Pitcairn Public Works Employees. The contract calls for a two dollar per hour raise in the first 3 years and a dollar per hour raise in the remaining two years of the contract. Seconded by James Rullo. Tom Dick, Jr. called for a roll call vote. All ayes, motion carries unanimously.**

Streets – George Toth

- George Toth motioned to approve the sale of the 1989 Interstate Equipment Trailer for \$2,770.00. This was the high bid. Seconded by Lisa Petrosky. This trailer was sold but the winning bidder never showed up to claim it so we put it out for bid again. All ayes, motion carries.
- George Toth motioned to approve payment application #2 to Curry and Kepple in the amount of \$431,987.53 for the Taylor Avenue Bridge Project. A portion of this amount, \$115,336.56, is to be paid from the Borough's Sewer Capital Fund, the remaining (\$316,650.97) is to be paid by the Commonwealth. Seconded by Deb Marto. Dan Coffman, had to do a change order for the sanitary sewer line, asked the State to pay for it but they (the state) said no. It was a sponsor adjustment based on the original agreement and design. Dan stated that the hardest part is setting the boxes, they did that in 3 days. Back filling all the stone should go quick but that seems to be going slow. Deb Marto asked if someone shut off the pumps. Dan didn't know if anyone sabotaged the pumps but there was a problem with them. All ayes, motion carries.
- George Toth motioned to approve Change Order #1 for additional paving work to be done by A. Liberoni, Inc. Seconded by Domenic Roberta. All ayes, motion carries.
- George Toth motioned to approve payment application #2 of \$5,496.49 to A. Liberoni, Inc. for the final payment of the 2023 Paving Program. This is to be paid with the Capital Improvement Funds Seconded by Deb Marto. All ayes, motion carries.

Parks and Recreation – Lisa Petrosky

Night Market recap could have gone better, weather may have played a factor. May do away with the fall night market. Spring does much better. Football season and cooler weather may have kept people away. Bill Kornrumph asked if the locals did well, Ms. Petrosky thought Joes did ok, they normally sale out but she isn't sure how they did this year.

Harvest Festival announcement Mayor announced the details of October 26, line up at 11 parade is at noon.

Ms. Petrosky asked if they can use the firehall. George Toth said they could.

Met with some of the church groups, they want to help with old fashion Xmas. Things will go as normal.

They will set up a cookie table out by the bon fire. Since it was a borough event, we did not want it to become a religious event.

Ballfield Bathrooms – Mr. Bolen provided a spreadsheet on the cost to fix the bathrooms. The guys worked 16 hours the first time it happened. The second time it was several hours. The spreadsheet broke down the total man hours and what it cost the Borough. We also had port a johns ordered for the night market and they couldn't be used because they were filled with toilet paper. With that cost it was over \$1,600.

Lisa would like to suggest that we do not welcome them back next year. Maybe put it on the next meeting agenda. Bill Kornrumph stated he agreed, the trash cans are over flowing, lots of trash

Chief Farally spoke that as the chief he does not appreciate how they have treated our local businesses.

As Mr. Kornrumph stated previously as a bus driver for Gateway he does not pick up any football players. The recycle bin is full of trash

Finance and Economic Development – Bill Kornrumpf

- Bill Kornrumpf motioned to pay bills as presented. Seconded by Lisa Petrosky. All ayes, motion carries.
- **Bill Kornrumpf motioned to pass Resolution 20-2024 designating Wilmington Trust N.A to provide pension plan custodial services in connection with the assets and investments of the Borough’s Non-Uniform and Police Pension Funds.** Seconded by George Toth. Mr. Bolen explained that this is not something the Borough decided to do on its own. S & T Wealth Management, our current pension custodian, informed the borough that they were no longer going to provide this service any longer. Wilmington Trust presented the best proposal and came highly recommended by our Asset Manager. All ayes, motion carries.

Health and Welfare – Deb Marto

- Mr. Turner has submitted his reports to Council.
- Quality of Life Tickets. We won 2 two \$500 fines from the magistrate. Nick wrote several tickets in the month.
- Nick explained that if loose trash is left in the can or loose behind the property Nick then writes a ticket.

Electric – Tom Dick, Jr.

Public Safety – Jim Rullo

- **James Rullo motioned to adopt Resolution 19-2024 authorizing the purchase of a 2024 Police Interceptor from Tri Star Motor Group at a cost of \$37,895. This resolution also approves using ARPA Funds for the purchase. This is a CO STARS Purchase. Seconded by Deb Marto.** Ms Petrosky asked for an explanation of a Co-Star purchase. Mr. Bolen explained that these are state approved vendors that agree to sale items at a certain price so they do not have to be put out for bid and advertised for bid. All ayes, motion carries.

Solicitor’s Report

Nothing for the public meeting but asked if we could have a brief Executive session after the meeting.

Engineer’s Report

Dan Coffman thanked the police for coming out while the Taylor Bridge construction was going on. There were several motorists that were belligerent and dangerous.

The Dirt and Gravel road project was awarded for the first phase of Jewell Way. They use a special gravel to pave the road. The LSA Grant for the steps between at 5th and sixth.

Paving is to start on October 28th. The Tank removal at Wall, may start on Wednesday October 16, 2024. The Sewer project is still in the planning phase.

Wall Ave East sewer needs fixed and that is part of the big project. Ms. Petrosky asked if we need to get easements for this. Easements for the sewer lines is usually grandfathered.

Borough Manager’s Report

Real Estate Tax Collected in September \$13,703.40 YTD is \$471,137.81.

We applied for a grant to electrify some of our Public Works Equipment through the Allegheny County Clean Air Fund.

The year-to-date financial reports were submitted to Council.

Capital Improvement Account - \$391,490
Electric System Capital Improvement Account - \$102,735
Liquid Fuels - \$68,972
Local Grant Dirty Camp Fund - \$71,262
Sewer Capital Improvement Fund - \$911,389
Public Safety Fund – \$107,578
ARPA Funds - \$27,959
Bond Repayment Fund - \$333,078
Park and Recreation Account – \$8,785

Police Chief Report

The Chief stated that his officers picked up the clothes that were on Wall and Broadway.

George Toth motioned to Adjourn, Seconded by Lisa Petrosky. All Ayes motion carries.

Meeting ended at 6:35 PM.