

**Port Carbon Borough Council
General Meeting
April 20, 2021**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Scott Krater, Vice President, p
Ron Zimmerman, p
Denise Krater p

P

James McBreen p
Cathy Manning p
Tiffany Sullivan, a
Mary Jo Ferraro, p

ANCILLARY MEMBERS

Harold Herndon, Mayor, p
William Burke, Solicitor p
Peggy Lubinsky, Treasurer

Luanne Mengle, Secretary p

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Krater with the Pledge of Allegiance. Zimmerman/Ferraro motioned to approve the minutes from March meetings. Motion approved.

Citizen's - Mindy Pepe - Pep's Pub held a fundraiser to donate to the Borough to distribute to different areas of the Borough. \$395.00 was raised. S. Krater will distribute by the directions written on the envelope.

Mike Walsh - Walsh would like to thank Borough Council members for the work being done on the burnt out property. Walsh would like to see what could be done about a couple trash cans around town. Walsh is going to work on the areas around the Welcome to Port Carbon signs. Walsh would like to have something done with the fire properties on Pottsville St and Valley St. Walsh reported last month he turned into Mayor a list of 13 abandoned vehicles and only 3 were removed.

Tom McCabe - McCabe asked if there is anything in the ordinances to prevent places being rented out that are not in good shape. Also houses that are being sold and new people living in houses that are in bad shape. McBreen stated we have a Property Maintenance Code that was just updated. And a Rental registration/inspection that is being updated. If complaints are made about a property then someone goes out to inspect the property. McCabe also stated that in Palo Alto has an ordinance that if police are called to a rental 3 times the landlord gets a fine.

Ben Schuettler - Schuettler asked (on behalf of Donna Renninger) about the property on 1st Street that replaced sidewalk dumped the old sidewalk across the street. Schuettler stated Renninger would like to know if that can be cleaned up since she almost fell over it.

Kelly Davis - Kelly reported a piano was moved into the Senior Building for anyone that could use it here. Kelly asked that when or if no one wants it here she would like to have first dibs on getting the piano.

Finance - Zimmerman reported the numbers were handed out last meeting. Zimmerman stated we have to watch spending right now.

Public Works - D. Krater reported flags that needed replaced were purchased and ordered by the Citizen's Committee. Jim was going to check the collapsing wall by Jackson Street. Zimmerman reported he looked at the guardrail on 5th but is not sure if it is Port Carbon or the township. D. Krater reported the Wood St. inlet is blocked and Faust is calling Riotto to see what needs to be done.

D. Krater reported estimates on inlets \$4,200 for 1st St by Borough hall, \$3,150 for 1st & Lyon and \$3,150 for northwest corner of North & Coal St. Total of all 3 is \$10,400.

D. Krater reported Faust got an estimate for cold patch. On North Coal and Cherry, Jim checked the road, inlet and sidewalk repairs will be a major job. The quotes were from \$60,000 to \$85,000. That would have to be a grant item.

D. Krater reported Faust is getting estimates on garbage cans and looking into painting lines. For the playground work including landscaping Faust has 2 options. 1 is doing the work themselves at \$1,998.50 or \$2,116.50

D. Krater reported the skid loader is down and needs repairs totaling \$2,000.

Zimmerman would like to have out of town people that use our fields make donations to keep our fields/playgrounds in shape. Zimmerman suggests that the Recreation committee gets together to come up with a plan on a fee/donation.

McBreen/Manning motioned to do the work at the playground work done at the cost of \$2,116.50. Motion approved.

Zimmerman stated the one at Wood Street and Oak Street is in bad shape and is not on the list. Ferraro/Murton will put cones on Wood St. until repairs can be done so no one gets hurt.

Zimmerman/Ferraro motioned to do 3 inlets for the total of \$10,400 to be paid by liquid fuels. S.Krater and D. Krater abstained from the vote. Motion approved.

D. Krater reported all PPL accounts are now back with PPL.

Property - Manning reported estimates for Borough Hall gutter received. One estimate is 1 side is \$1,600, both sides is \$4,100 is Laughlen Contracting from Orwigsburg. Second estimate is 1 side for \$3,538 and for both sides is \$7,076. The second side is the higher side. Manning asked Council if we want both sides done while they are here. American remodeling came in at \$4,647 for both sides.

Manning/McBreen motioned to approve Laughlen for \$4,100. Motion approved.

Recreation - D. Krater reported Faust took mounting out for the equipment that was broken. D. Krater stated Recreation will have to meet to see how to get funding for new equipment.

Zoning - McBreen reported complaint at 29 Pottsville Street about numerous cats at the neighbors and the smell going into her house. McBreen will talk to Wengert to see how to move further.

McBreen/Ferraro motioned to appoint Greg Schuettler, Frank Messina and Lee Allen Strause to the Code appeals board created by the 2018 Property Maintenance Code. Motion approved.

Lee Allen Strause suggested having an alternate in case there would be a conflict of interest. S. Krater stated the Council will look for someone.

McBreen reported he looked at other Boroughs to see what they do about a burning ordinance and would like a committee to get together to see what Port Carbon would be looking to do.

Sanitation - Ferraro stated there is a Business Central Credit that contacted the Borough to see about collecting delinquent sanitation at no cost to the Borough. Costs would be added to the delinquent bills.

Burke stated we would have to adopt a resolution for the fees that would be added.

Manning asked if we received the 2020 late sanitation list. Secretary Mengle reported the former tax collector told the office that everything would be dropped off at the office on April 21st.

Special - Ben Schuettler reported that once the Floodplain ordinance is signed and sent back to Leslie it will be submitted.

Zimmerman/McBreen motioned to adopt the Floodplain ordinance. Motion approved.

Treasurer's - Lubinsky was contacted by Alysha at the Court House and was told that the Borough should be submitting the delinquent Per Capita tax to Berkheimer. Berkheimer reported they have not received a delinquent list since 2018. Lubinsky scanned the 2019 and 2020 to Berkheimer who will review to make sure everyone who should be getting the bills have gotten them. The total for these will be around \$14,494.54 that is owed to us.

General fund balance was 140,530.09, checks for \$52,534.43, deposits for \$62,688.19 for a balance of \$150,683.76. Liquid fuel balance is \$31,723.16 and in about 3 weeks we should be received \$60,000.

As of April 18th, the balance is \$145,747.66. Sanitation fees collected since bills went out is \$78,788.25.

Fire Chief - Walsh reported 9 Fire calls and 20 EMS. 29 total incidents. 3 burning complaints that were reported. Hydrants need to be color coded. Walsh will do the tops for color coded but Walsh suggests maybe getting juveniles can do the rest. The "H" in the road needs to be done also.

Walsh reported the Fire Company is looking at a proposed addition to the fire station of 50X45. Walsh would like to have building go out 5 feet onto the sidewalk. Council would have to approve going out further or Council could abandon the sidewalk to have the extra footage. Diane Lennick is looking into the floodplain regulations to see what can be done. Lennick will cost the Fire Company about \$1,000.

S. Krater suggests Tohill and Strause meet with everyone to discuss this.

Mayor - Mayor reported the complaint about traffic on the one way part of Pike Street. Mayor had Officer Murton look into the situation. Murton did a road study and suggest lowering the speed from 30 to 25 miles from Pottsville Street to Rose Avenue, which would mean amending the code, putting additional children at play signs, stencil slow on the street. Tohill can review Murton's road study.

McBreen/Manning motioned to approve the additional signs between Pottsville St. and Rose Ave, also stencil slow on the road. Motion approved.

Chief Ferraro reported there are 3 part time officers that are unable to give us the time due to other jobs. Ferraro would like to get applications from other officers to get more on the roster. Ferraro's son will be graduating in August and would like to get Joseph Jr. on board and to be able to help train his son. Ferraro stated if he is hired by a Municipality the academy would pay for the Enron training would be covered.

S. Krater suggested Ferraro should get the applications and get a pool together.

Mayor reported he will be riding along with the full time officers for a couple hours and make notes on what could be improved to make Port Carbon safer.

Solicitor - Burke reported he will the Floodplain Ordinance with the Law Library at the Court House. Burke stated Lubinsky is working on the USDA loan. Burke would like to have a blanket motion for any signatures that would be required in order to submit the paperwork in a timely manner.

McBreen/Zimmerman motioned to authorize a blanket authority for any signatures need for the USDA grant. Motion approved.

Unfinished business - S. Krater would like to thank Schuylkill Headwaters and Yuengling employee volunteers for removal of debris out of the Mill Creek. Krater reported the removal only made it to Pottsville Street Bridge because there was so much debris. S. Krater reported they are coming back to get more done.

S. Krater reported we have two road scholars in the Borough, Bob Faust and Joseph Murton, one for Administrative and the other for the Police, Local Technical Assistance Program through the Department of Transportation.

Executive Session - No executive session was held.

Citizens - D. Krater reported the events of the Citizen's Committee that will be held in May, June and July.

Murton reported on Saturday April 24 in front of the senior building there will be a drug take back. Murton will be there from 10 am to 2 pm.

Zimmerman/Manning motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Mengle
Borough Secretary