

**Port Carbon Borough Council
General Purpose Work Session
August 3, 2021**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Scott Krater, Vice President, p
Ron Zimmerman, p
Denise Krater p - call in

Treasurer p

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

ANCILLARY MEMBERS

Harold Herndon, Mayor p
William Burke, Solicitor a
Sharon Jespersen,

Luanne Mengle, Secretary p

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Krater with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen - Jeremy Powlick would like to know if the change to the handicap application was approved. S. Krater reported that it has not been approved yet. Powlick about the Borough Website and if it was registered at GoDaddy.com. McBreen stated if the Borough's Association felt it was necessary to register with that site then McBreen stated he trust the Borough's Association to handle the website. Powlick stated he contacted the Borough's Association and questioned the security. McBreen stated for the borough this is safe and multiple boroughs use this site. Powlick stated he feels the website is out of date. Zimmerman stated this site is run through the Borough's Association. Zimmerman stated the only changes we would make would be meeting dates. S. Krater stated we will contact the Borough's Association to see how it is run.

Michelle Polatz - Asked about the tower with First Net and is this for first responders. S. Krater stated that P3 is off the tower and other companies can commit to the tower. ATT is the only on committed to the tower right now. Polatz stated that the general population believes that this is bringing high speed internet to the borough. S. Krater stated the tower is not for high speed internet and as of now is only for wireless. S. Krater stated that ATT would do their due diligence before committing to the tower. S. Krater will take questions to P3 Towers.

Another resident asked why they would put the tower on private property and not borough property where the town could benefit from it. S. Krater stated they did not contact the borough for this.

Cathy Wade - Wade stated that she and the neighbors are happy about having the tower so close to their homes and asked if there is an alternative site. Wade asked if this is a 5G line. S. Krater stated P3 Tower did not contact the borough.

S. Krater stated that in the future the Borough could put something on the tower free of charge. S. Krater stated this will go to the Planning Commission before it comes to Council. S. Krater stated the public will be notified when the Planning Commission sends to the Borough.

R. Zimmerman stated there is no ordinance against towers in Port Carbon.

Donna Renninger - Renninger asked where the location is. S. Krater stated between Weilands and the Machine Shop. Renninger asked if the property owner will get revenue from the tower and why can't the borough benefit from the tower.

A resident asked if they need clearance in case it falls over. S. Krater stated this tower is designed to collapse with the compound and not on to anyone's property.

Mike Welsh - Welsh reported the 44 fire hydrants have been color coded. Blue, Green, Orange and Red. They go up in increments of 500.

Welsh reported he has several complaint forms. The complaints are as follows:

4th and Lillian- Sign covered by shrubs

1st and Spring- Abandon vehicle in driveway

Lot on Spruce between Coal and Pine- Abandon vehicles

2nd Street between Grand and Morris- Abandon Vehicles

Cherry and Pine- Cornstalk growing out of Sewer
3rd and Broad- Sewer Sinking and Rat holes in sidewalk
4th and Broad- Garage Collapsing
3rd and Lyon- Garage Falling Down
Pottsville and Pike- No parking signs on pole and yellow paint near bridge
300 block of 2nd Street- Wall at fire hydrant collapsing
Pike and Market- Stop sign on Pike faded
1st and Nichols- Curb in the street

Jeremy Powlick asked about the bench outside of Police station and can it be cleaned up. S. Krater will look into it.

McBreen read the notice in paper for the ice cream shop down on Pike & Canal. Zimmerman/McBreen reported if a place closes for more than a year they need a variance and no longer grandfathered in.

Executive Session - 7:50 to 8:39 - Session was for Personnel matters.

Finance - Zimmerman reported budget is on track. Zimmerman stated if anyone has questions on budget just ask. We have to remove 2 people of the insurance, Faust & Sgt. Taylor. Zimmerman reported tax claim is having a commissioner's private sale if any objections it must be received before 8/30/21. Zimmerman reported the two buyers are JPM Holding LLC sales for 234 3rd St. \$2,012.86 and MGS LLC 631 Second St. for \$3,310.00 and 215 First St. for \$4,820.00. This sale is buyer beware and any liens are the buyer's responsibility. Zimmerman researched the history of both buyers and JPM had no past issues but MGS has had previous code violations. JPM is looking to purchase 33 other properties. Zimmerman reported they will be passing a new law to prevent LLC's from buying properties and not keeping them in repair. Zimmerman recommends we should deny MGS due to pending code violation in other municipalities.

S. Krater asked if there was a meeting with the insurance representative yet. D. Krater will set up a meeting for insurance with Borough employees.

Public Works -. Eich is doing a good job keeping up with Borough work. Eich/D. Krater will look at what needs to get done in the Borough.

S. Krater asked about signs for bus stops. Mayor stated the signs are \$80 and post are \$35 each for the First Street bus stops.

Property - Manning reported everything is good with properties.

Safety - McBreen stated the Burning Ordinance is in the rough draft and will have a meeting to present before going to Solicitor Burke.

Sullivan/D. Krater motioned to hire Joey Ferraro as a full time officer. Roll call vote: Ferraro abstained. Yes - Sullivan, S. Krater, D. Krater. No - Manning, Zimmerman, McBreen. Reason for no vote they wanted experience. Mayor thanked Council for voting but will vote for Joey Ferraro. Motion approved.

The offer will be made to Joey Ferraro for full time Police Officer position.

Recreation - Mayor reported Matt Dougherty for soccer would like to use Miller Playground.

Zimmerman stated the people using the playground aren't Port Carbon people and when others are using the playground a fee or donation for using the playground should be requested so that when repairs are needed we can use that towards fee for donations. Also, proof of insurance is needed.

Zoning - McBreen reported 2 Quality of Life complaints, one on Pike and one on Coal. Variance on Thursday for Ice Cream shop.

McBreen reported the Code issue down on Coal that we have been dealing with because most of the property is in Palo Alto. Nick Hazlett is working for Palo Alto. McBreen/Ferraro motioned to appoint Nick Hazlett for Code at his standard hourly rate for the specific properties that straddle Palo Alto, specifically the Bleachery. (2 Coal Street).

Zimmerman reported a copy of zoning bill from Burke is in everyone's mailbox.

McBreen/Zimmerman motioned to approve resolution to move Zoning to Schuylkill County Zoning. Motion approved.

Personnel - Manning/McBreen motioned to hire Jodi McGovern as secretary at \$10.00 an hour for 10 to 15 hours a week plus \$75 a month for all meetings upon her acceptance. Motion approved. Manning/Sullivan motioned to hire David Rubright for full time Public works at \$16.50 an hour with benefits pending background check. Motion approved.

Sanitation - Ferraro reported there was couple complaints on 4th and Chestnut Street which was later picked up. Ferraro reported she and McBreen are working the sanitation ordinance for containers with lids and also dumpsters to be ready for next year. Mayor asked if Tamaqua Transfer has garbage cans for Borough use. Ferraro/McBreen will be looking into if Tamaqua has cans for use.

Sewer - Zimmerman/S. Krater went to GPSA meeting since Port Carbon is a charter member. Port Carbon has voting rights based on the population. Sewer Authority wants to get rid of GPASA and rename to Greater Pottsville Area Sewer and Storm Water Authority. Zimmerman stated they need Port Carbon and Palo Alto votes in order to do that. They are saying down the road if we don't go on board now the rates will be higher. Zimmerman stated the rates will be by population.

Mayor - Mayor received Handicap application for 121 North Street. McBreen/Sullivan motioned to approve handicap sign. Motion approved.

Mayor reported body cameras are in we were able to get 4 cameras instead of the 3 originally requested because that deal fell through. The cost came in under budget.

Chief Ferraro reported the guns were purchased and paperwork is being processed.

Citizen - Judy Shoffner asked if there are any Eagle Scout that need projects that would be able to work on the bench. S. Krater stated he will be looking into that and include the Lubinsky park and Miller playground.

Mike Welsh reported the flushing was postponed due to a pressure relief valve that needs work. Also work the water company is doing in the industrial park. It will be announced when the flushing can be scheduled again.

Mayor reported probation officer asked him about community service for the Borough.

Zimmerman/Sullivan motioned to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Luanne Mengle
Borough Secretary