

**Port Carbon Borough Council
General Meeting
February 16, 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/D. Krater motioned to approve the minutes from January meetings. Motion approved.

Citizen's - James Hanlon - Pottsville student from Mr. Mack's class here to observe. Scott Krater explained how the Council meetings are done.

Cathy Buschinsky - Buchinsky asked about how to go about getting permits for different things that they are going to do their home. McBreen will give her his number to contact him and will give to the Zoning person. Buchinsky asked what can be done about dogs that the neighbor has that are always going onto her property. Council told her that the State dog warden would have to be contacted by our officers.

Nancy Lescavage asked if there is a noise ordinance and if there is time in which they should be quiet. Neighbors are out making noise until 12:00 and 1:00 am. Solicitor Burke will have to look into the noise ordinance to see what can be done. LEscavage asked about the sanitation and the increase for this year. Asked how many households we have. McBreen stated we have 770 households and there are at least 41 that have not paid in 4 years. Sanitation committee is looking at what to do about the delinquent. Lescavage asked about the Wire Teleview cable and the \$2.00 charge that was added to the bill. Lescavage call the Wire Teleview and was told that was a charge by the Borough. Council reported that was for a franchise fee and that money goes into General Fund. S.Krater will have Burke look into contract to see if there is an out clause.

Finance - Zimmerman reported the 3 properties that are on list to be demolished are having asbestos inspections.

Public Works - D. Krater reported skid loader needs new hydraulic lines to be put on. White dump is going for inspection. D. Krater reported on March 9, 2021 we will be changing back to PPL for our electric provider. McBreen/Ferraro motioned to have the Borough go back to PPL as our provider and approve D. Krater to sign all paperwork pertaining to the change. Motion approved.

Property - Manning reported that the roof on the library is leaking and in the spring we will have to look into repairing or replacing the roof.

Safety - No Report.

Recreation - No report.

Zoning - McBreen reported 2 complaints for Quality of Life issues (1) 12 Pike Street, issue resolved, (2) 217 Pike Street, snow issue and owner will be notified that snow needs to be removed on Rose Avenue side of property.

Lehigh Engineering did have an issue with 3 East Washington and 125 Pike Street. One complaint on Lang Street concerning rats. S. Krater stated there are services to help the residents and the Police Dept. offered a voucher for a hotel but the residents did not want that. Ehrlich was contacted.

Sanitation - Ferraro reported she spoke with the resident at 118 North Street and the resident will dispose of the construction materials. Also, garbage was not picked up at a property at Pine and Cherry. Ferraro talked with Tamaqua Transfer and they came back on Monday to pick it up.

Treasurer's - General fund balance was 161,014.96, checks for \$71,684.61, deposits for \$51,199.74 for a balance of \$140,530.09.

Liquid Fuels -Balance is \$31,722.65

Engineer - A copy of Engineer Report will be attached to the minutes for February.

Fire Chief - Ben Schuettler reported 12 Fire calls and 31 EMS.

EMS - Ben Schuettler reported he is working on the Flood Plain Ordinance.

Mayor - Mayor reported he would like to schedule a Zoom Safety meeting with Palo Alto on Feb 22 at 7:00pm. Mayor also thanked the Highway Dept., the Police Dept., and Fire Dept. for all they did during the past 3 weeks with the snow storms.

Solicitor - Burke nothing to report.

Unfinished business - Jim McBreen stated the Property Maintenance Code was outdated and is working with Lehigh Engineering to bring code up to date. McBreen would like Solicitor Burke to review. McBreen/D. Krater motioned to approve and advertise the updated Property Maintenance Code pending Solicitor Burkes review and approval. Motion approved. Mechanical Permit was changed to add the secretary signature.

Executive Session - No executive session was held.

New Business - 1, Zimmerman stated right now the clothing allowances for Police, Highway and Fire Dept. are paid first then submitted to Borough for payment. The bills have tax on them. Zimmerman would like to have the money given to them as income and they can spend money on items as they need. If the Police buy a vest they can write that off on State taxes and itemize on Federal.

2, Zimmerman has talked to the commissioners and there are 9 properties on the holding status. Some have too many liens to move and they usually move oldest one on list first. They move to judicial and repository where the liens are forgiven.

Mayor stated the old Pottsville car went for inspection and transmission is slipping. Mayor would like to know if Council wants to spend \$3,000 for a new transmission or cut our losses and sell the car. Would have to advertise for sealed bids.

Murton reported he and Lubinsky have been working on the USDA grant for the new car. Murton suggested waiting to sell the car until we get the okay for the new vehicle.

McBreen gave prices for a video conference web cam program & Zoom pro. Video camera price through Amazon would be \$237.15 and Zoom pro subscription at \$149.00. McBreen/Manning motioned to approve the purchases of both. Motion approved.

President Krater asked for Ron Zimmerman to check into getting a new accountant for the Borough. President Krater asked for a motion to have Zimmerman check into this. McBreen/Manning motioned to have Zimmerman look into another accountant to replace the present one. Motion approved.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Mengle, Borough Secretary