

**Port Carbon Borough Council
General Meeting
July 20, 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, a
Mary Jo Ferraro, p

ANCILLARY MEMBERS

Harold Herndon, Mayor, p
William Burke, Solicitor a
Sharon Jespersion,
Luanne Mengle, Secretary p

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

Citizens - Kevin Strunk, Larry Rolinosk, from 3P Towers. Larry explained what the progress is on the cell tower at Weilands. The tower is through First Net and is an Essential Service. After explaining all the phases that they have gone through it is now at the point that Council has to give their ok for Wengert to proceed with the building permit. S. Krater feels that it has been going on long enough and feels we need to move forward. Size is 6 foot at the bottom, 30 inches at the top. 150 feet high with a 6 foot lightning rod on top. Council wants to wait and decide at the August 3rd meeting.

Michelle Polatz - Michelle brought several issues to council for Code and Quality of Life issues. 3rd & Broad there is a collapsing sewer and rat issue. The collapsing sewer is right where there is a bus stop. 3rd & Plum at 600-604 at the former Helen's bar, is dilapidated and overgrown. Can't tell there is a garage there. 2nd & Broad is a one way street and there is always people driving the wrong direction.

Frank Bierman - Frank is having trouble getting copy of taxes for his rebate. Frank has sent a return self-addressed envelope with his payment and received nothing. This is for the 2020 taxes. Frank has been to the County and was told to come to the Borough with this issue.

Lynne Maley - Lynne had picture of what is behind her back gate. The neighbor put a porta-potty there. They are blocking the alley way so no one can drive there. There is a trailer loaded with garbage sitting behind her house. S. Krater feels bad for the Maley's and is fed up with Ateyah also. S. Krater reported the Borough can't do anything since we found out this portion of the property is in Palo Alto. Chief Ferraro stated they should always call the non-emergency number at the 911 center so that there is a record of all the calls. McBreen stated Port Carbon will be working with Palo Alto on this issue.

Donna Renninger - Donna would like to know who owns the land on First Street going up the street from Borough Hall. There are weeds and slabs of cement left there. Donna suggest getting a group of citizens together and go around and clean up some of the mess around town.

Finance - Zimmerman reported we were approved for the ARPA grant. We will received 92,893.93 and will receive that amount next year. There are a lot of stipulations as for what the money can be used for. Some things will be storm water, sewer, inlets, essential employees but nothing definite. Once we get the list of approved items we can discuss what to do. Zimmerman reported a copy of budget for everyone. Only over on a couple items. Zimmerman reported there is an ACT going through to keep people with LLC from other towns or states from coming in and letting properties fall apart.

Public Works - D. Krater reported Eich is working on his list. Inlets are being worked on.

Property - Manning/McBreen motioned to approve the lease for the Magistrate lease for 5 years with a 2.5% increase each year. Motion approved.

Safety - S. Krater next Thursday at 6:00 is hydrant flushing for the Borough. Rain date Friday.

Recreation - No report.

Zoning - McBreen reported Park Ave received a violation. Washington Street received a citation which they are appealing. Property on Pike Street received 4 citation which are being appealed. Property on Pike St. paid the citation but have not fixed the issue. There may be another issued if not addressed. 3 properties on Coal St. were issued citations for rubbish and rodent harboring. 2 properties have contacted us and taken care of it. Washington St for rubbish, Pike & Pine for rodent and fire escapes. No Zoning permits received or denied.

McBreen stated Wengert recommend that we have residents have trash cans with lids. Ferraro agrees that may also help with residents putting their garbage with neighbors. If we would do that we would have to give residents time to get cans.

Personnel - S. Krater reported the committee is continuing having interviews for secretary and public works. Committee hopes to have this wrapped up by the work session in August.

Sanitation - Sanitation committee have discussed having everyone pay sanitation that would help with exonerations and having building sitting empty.

Mengle asked about the dumpster on Coal Street which is a hazard. McBreen asked the dumpster company about moving it but they have not.

Treasurer's - Treasurer Jespersion reported June 1st beginning balance of \$308,690.18, checks paid \$62,478.92, deposits of \$53,306.03, cleared transactions of \$9,172.89 for balance of \$299,517.29. Still have uncleaned transactions of \$40,816.45, deposits \$5,245.05 for a general fund ending balance of \$263,945.89.

Liquid fuel beginning balance \$90,441.78, cleared transactions in June \$413.27, deposits \$.74 total cleared balance \$90,029.25.

Tax collector's report - Property - \$260,754.88, Per Capita -\$9,707.54. As of June 30th total collected was \$270,462.42.

Zimmerman/Ferraro motioned to accept report. Report approved.

Engineer - Tohill gave his report with comments. Report attached and on file.

Mayor - Mayor reported application for handicap sign at 319 Coal St. has been checked out and everything looks in order. McBreen/Zimmerman motion approve handicap sign. Motion approved. Mayor received letter from Schuylkill Haven Borough for Fire Police for Borough Days on Sept. 25, 2021 requesting assistance with fire police. Will be given to Bill Schuettler.

Mayor would like thank you letter sent to gentleman that helped with the light bar and decal on the Police Car.

Mayor asked Safety committee to arrange dates for interviews for the 2 full time applicants.

Mayor stated the Police Dept. does not have body cams and would like to have them. Officer

Murton found 3 with all the bells and whistles for \$2,500. Mayor would like Council to entertain a motion to approve this purchase. Mayor also reported the Chief has reported the guns the Police are using are getting old. Chief Ferraro was able to get a price for 3 clock 9mm for a total cost of \$1,524.99. Total for both items is \$4,024.99.

Chief Ferraro reported the firearms are 25 years old. These are compatible with Pottsville Police Dept. Officer Murton is using a personal firearm as was Sgt. Taylor. Chief Ferraro would like a motion on the firearms for the 3 full time Police. If the Borough doesn't move on these another town is interested in them.

Chief Ferraro reported if we can purchase the new guns he would be able to sell the two that the Borough received from Palo Alto.

Zimmerman/Manning motioned to approve purchase of both items. Motion approved.

Unfinished business - S. Krater reported that Deniece Krater would like to use the senior building on Wednesday's starting Sept. 9th for baton classes. Library is having a Chinese auction in October.

McBreen/Manning motioned to approve the use of the building. Motion approved.

Mayor would like to thank Luanne Mengle, Peggie Lubinsky and Bob Faust for their service for the Borough. Mayor appreciated all that the three have done. Scott Krater agreed with the Mayor for all that everyone did for the Borough.

Zimmerman reported he had contacted CACL about moving our accounts to CACL just like we have at Wells Fargo. McBreen/Zimmerman motioned to approve moving the Borough accounts to CACL. Motion approved.

Executive Session - There will be a short executive session after the meeting is adjourned. The executive session was held from

S. Krater reported we have a possibility of acquiring some salt for no cost for the borough. Chief Ferraro will use the borough truck to go pick it up.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Mengle
Borough Secretary