

**Call to Order:**

The regular scheduled meeting of July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 was rescheduled for Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and was called to order by Ms. McCarthy at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Kissell, Mr. Vandzura, Mr. Slanoc, Mr. Wozniak, and Mayor Fox. Also present were Robert Koban-Borough Manager; Mr. Emerick-Solicitor, Mr. Wisor-Engineer, Chief Miller-Public Safety, Mr. Squillario-Public Works, and Michelle Claar-Secretary. Absent was Mrs. Chobany.

**VISITORS:**

Present were: Jerome Yetsko and Ashley Watt of the Dispatch.

**Reports:**

**Managers Report:**

Mr. Koban furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Koban commended the working relationships and efforts with the Portage Water Authority, Portage Township Road Dept, the County Community Service Workers, Ms. Claar, and the boro public works department on the demolition of the Stop N Go Property on Mountain Avenue. Demolition began on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and was completed on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. A total of 17-1/2 dumpsters of trash were taken to the landfill by Pro Disposal. An estimated twelve dumpsters were originally proposed, reflecting an overage on the cost estimates. Ms. Claar advised that over two hundred pictures were taken and will be displayed on the Borough website. Mr. Koban commented that other topics in his report will be covered under old and new business. Mr. Vandzura questioned if a contract/agreement was received for the Eads Group relating to the Long Range Plan and Trail Feasibility Study. Mr. Koban commented that the agreement will encompass several phases and each one will play a role in the grant funding for the Portage Trail Project.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Mr. Emerick furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Emerick updated Council on the Bookhamer property located at 619 Main Street. Certified letters were mailed to Roy Bookhamer, 1<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Bank, and Wendy Bookhamer. Two separate mailings to Wendy Bookhamer were returned from the post office as undeliverable and no forwarding address. Ms. Claar advised that Roy Bookhamer and the 1<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Bank were delivered and nothing was returned. Mr. Emerick advised Council that his concern was if the case were in court, receipt and verification of mailing would play a major role in the case. Mr. Squillario commented that he would try to obtain another address for Wendy Bookhamer and submit it to Ms. Claar.

Mr. Emerick advised Council that the Kenneth Plummer court hearing was moved to August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 concerning the property at 1021 Caldwell Avenue.

Mr. Emerick presented a small borrowing loan resolution from First Summit Bank in the amount of \$ \$23,961.85 for the Gillespie Avenue Bridge Stabilization project. The loan

exhibits were attached to the Resolution reflecting the interest rate, monthly payment amount, and the term. Mr. Vandzura motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve Resolution 5-2011 authorizing a small borrowing loan with First Summit Bank in the amount of \$23,961.85 at an interest rate of 3.95% for a five (5) year term for the Gillespie Avenue Bridge Stabilization. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 6-0.

**Engineers Report:**

Mr. Wisor furnished a written report to Council. Mr. Wisor had nothing additional to add.

**Police Report:**

Chief Miller furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Chief Miller advised Council that four (4) teenagers had broken into the dilapidated structure at 1021 Caldwell Avenue. The teens are performing community service hours at the Crichton McCormick Park.

**Public Works Report:**

Mr. Squillario furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Squillario had nothing additional to add. Ms. McCarthy once again commended the Public Works Department for their efforts on the demolition of the Stop N Go property. Mr. Squillario also recognized the efforts of the Portage Township Road Department, Portage Municipal Authority, and the Cambria County community service workers.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Ms. Claar furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve the Treasurer's report in the amount of \$49,809.16. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 6-0.

**Correspondence:**

The Rotary Club of Portage sent an invitation for Council to participate in the Summerfest Parade on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm and also requested a portion of Main Street to be blocked off. Mayor Fox motioned, seconded by Mr. Kissell to approve blocking a portion of Main Street during the Summerfest Parade, motion carried 6-0. Ms. McCarthy called for a count from Council who will be participating in the parade. Mayor Fox commented that he will be walking during the parade. Several members of Council will participate.

**Citizens Input on Agenda Items:**

Ms. McCarthy called for citizens input. Mr. Yetsko advised that he will comment at the next meeting.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

The minutes from the May 16<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup> committee meeting and the June 6<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. McCarthy advised Ms. Claar that the June 20<sup>th</sup> committee meeting adjournment was incorrect with Mr. Wozniak seconding the

motion. Mr. Wozniak was absent and should be replaced with Mr. Slanoc. Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve the minutes from the May 16<sup>th</sup> committee meeting; the June 6<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, and the correction to the June 20<sup>th</sup> committee meeting minutes reflecting Mr. Slanoc, motion carried 6-0.

### **Paying of Bills:**

The bills were distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Vandzura motioned, seconded by Mayor Fox to pay the unpaid bills and additional bills in the amount of \$26,998.97. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 6-0.

### **Reports**

Reports were received from the Municipal Water Authority and the Sewer Authority for May & June, the Joint Recreation Commission for June, Portage Area Ambulance for February through May, Cambria County Building Codes Enforcement Agency for May. Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mr. Vandzura to approve the monthly reports as presented, motion carried 6-0.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Koban advised Council that a meeting was held with the original members of the Association but has not heard anything.

Stop N Go and Harpo's was discussed under the Borough Manager's Report

Mr. Koban informed Council that the Rails to Trails feasibility study is moving forward. The Eads Group is working on a subcommittee member list that will have to be submitted to DCNR; Ken Earnest. The total project has three different phases to which the Eads Group will be contracting with the Borough. When DCNR receives the list and other documents; a contract will be forthcoming for Council to approve.

There is no update on the Main Street Streetscape project.

Mr. Koban advised Council that the transfer of property from Mainline National Bank to the Fire Department was recorded but requested the issue remain on the agenda until the steps and handrail is completed. Mayor Fox questioned if the fire company will obtain a permit. Mr. Koban advised that a building permit will be issued with no cost to the fire department.

Mr. Koban will provide information at the August regular meeting concerning the Johnstown Housing Authority agreement.

The Farmers Market is cancelled due to the rules and guidelines that were revised from the Department of Agriculture. Remove the issue from the agenda.

### **New Business:**

An amendment to the Special Purpose Handicap parking was properly advertised in the Dispatch for 603 Caldwell Avenue. Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mr. Vandzura to approve Ordinance 3-2011 amending Chapter 15, section 406 by adding a handicap parking space at 603 Caldwell Avenue, motion carried 6-0.

The height restriction to the weed ordinance was properly advertised in the Dispatch. Mayor Fox motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve Ordinance 4-2011 amending Ordinance 265, section 201 to include the height restriction of weeds to (10) ten inches, motion carried 6-0.

The Earned Income Tax Collector and imposition of taxes was properly advertised in the Dispatch. Mayor Fox motioned, seconded by Mr. Vandzura to approve Ordinance 5-2011 by establishing, modifying and re-enacting an earned income tax for residents/non residents of Portage Borough and increasing the tax rate to 1% for resident/non-resident. Ms. McCarthy called and Mr. Kissell remarked that he was not in favor of the tax increase and encouraged to live within the means and tighten the belt on expenditures. Ms. McCarthy roll called and motion carried 5-1 with Mr. Kissell voting no.

A request was submitted by the Medical Associates to hold the Portage Summerfest 2011 5K race on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Slanoc motioned, seconded by Mr. Vandzura to approve the Medical Associates request to proceed on Main Street for the Portage 2011 Summerfest 5K race, motion carried 6-0.

#### **Good of the Borough:**

A letter was received from Mr. Dennis Beck regarding the sell of water to the drilling companies. Mayor Fox commented that Mr. Beck should have addressed the Municipal Authority on the issue, not the Borough Council. Council did not take any action on the letter.

Ms. McCarthy commended Mr. Kissell for his accomplishments and efforts for the flood victims in the South. Mr. Kissell was down South for approximately 60 days and provided a summary of what his job entailed.

Mayor Fox commented that he will be attending the PA Mayors Convention in Scranton next week.

Mr. Vandzura reminded Council that they will be working the Chuck a Luck stand on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m for the firemen's convention.

#### **Adjournment:**

Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mrs. Slanoc to adjourn, motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.