

BOROUGH OF NEW FLORENCE MINUTES APRIL 16, 2019

President, Jim Moore, called the regular meeting of the New Florence Borough Council to order on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Jim Moore
Kay Mayer
Ron Gyure
Chuck O'Shell
Neva Gindlesperger, Mayor
Jeff Miller, Solicitor

Absent:

Gwen Dellett
Mary Strucaly, Secretary
Jeff Rager
Kristen Teeter

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Watt reported on two properties with bricks and refuse in yards and asked what was being done. Neva agreed to have an officer pay the residents a visit.

Chuck Payne announced that he will pickup scrap including TV's within the borough. He will only charge the cost of disposal for the TVs.

Keith Boring, Emergency Management Director, expressed his displeasure with the level of service being provided by Laurel Valley EMS. He said too much of their time is devoted to medical transports leaving them unavailable in many instances for emergency calls. Mark Watt, Kay Mayer and Ron Gyure have also had issues with slow or no response.

Scott Bigum of Laurel Valley EMS said they need at least 3 to 5 calls per day to remain financially stable so they must do transports to keep afloat. He said they have been making transport trips to Latrobe and Greensburg Hospitals but have cut back on runs to Pittsburgh.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Salley presented the March Report (attached). He also reported on the Robson property clean up. Mr. Robson confronted them during clean up and made some threatening comments. Chief Salley is contacting Westmoreland Sheriff to request additional backup.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chuck O'Shell made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 19th meeting. Seconded by Kay Mayer. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kay Mayer made a motion approve the Treasurer's Report as written for March, 2019. Seconded by Chuck O'Shell. Motion passed.

Jim Moore reported that the borough has received a Fire Escrow insurance check for the fire damaged property on 7th Street. The funds will be maintained in a separate account and earmarked for Fire Escrow.

Jim Moore also reported that an insurance claim was filed on the weather damaged storage building at the Playground. The claim was paid. The old building will need to be demolished and replaced with a smaller shed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREETS & DRAINS – Chuck O'Shell, Chair; Jeff Rager, Second

The Vine Street Project bids were opened. The Bid tally sheet is attached. EADS will review all bids for compliances and make their recommendations. A special Meeting will be held on April 22, 2019 to make the award.

Chuck O'Shell reported that the streets in town are in good shape following the 2018 paving projects and recommended that the Borough use it's 2019 Liquid Fuels money for cleaning and repair of storm water catch basins.

SESQUICENTENNIAL – Ron Gyure, Chair

The next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Borough Building. The Committee is still in need of additional volunteers.

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, & EQUIPMENT – Ron Gyure, Chair; Kristen Teeter, Second

Only one bid was received for the 2019 borough mowing. MPH Lawn Care, LLC bid is \$8,821.32. Chuck O'Shell motioned to accept the MPH bid. Seconded by Ron Gyure. Motion passed.

Mack M. Darr does not wish to order water heater replacement for the borough. The borough will purchase direct.

Jim Moore asked Mark Watt to solicit quotes for repair of the storage unit roof.

Jim Moore also reported that he delivered pictures and measurements to Robson Engineering to design ADA compliant steps for the cyber school.

Ron Gyure reported that the snow plow will need some repairs before winter.

Mark Watt reported that he had the tires changed on the dump truck.

Ron Gyure reported that Penelec repaired the defective street light near the Senior Citizen's Center.

ORDINANCE COMPLIANCE- Kay Mayer, Chair; Jeff Rager, Second

Kay Mayer presented pictures of the Knupp property on 5th Street and expressed concern over the bees during the upcoming Sesquicentennial events.

Jim Moore reported that he has approached Mr. Knupp regarding possible grant from the county for property demolition funds.

Ron Gyure said we need more enforcement of the burning and dangerous structure ordinances.

GRANTS & FUNDING- Gwen Dellett. Chair

No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Jeff Miller reported that he has not received responses from either Norfolk Southern on the communication tower or Comcast on the contract rates.

Jeff also reported that he and Jim Moore will appear in court on Thursday for a tax exemption appeal for the Yellow Brick basement.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gindlesperger contacted Bolivar Council President about possibility of purchasing their cruiser. They would be interested if they can get fair market value. Council discussed the matter at length and decided to table the decision to bid for the time being.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Moore reported that CCA is looking to renew their lease for another year.

Unauthorized dumping continues to be a problem. Another camera will be installed and Mark Watt will contact property owners for permission to lock the access gate.

One resident inquired about the borough paying for removal of some trees that appear to be in the right of way. Jeff Miller says the borough is under no obligation to remove trees if they do not present a hazard.

Chief Salley inquired about the possibility of a mutual aid agreement with Seward Borough for the purpose of police backup.

Chuck O'Shell made a motion to give Chuck Payne exclusive rights to scrap collected during the upcoming Dumpster Days which will be held on June 7th & 8th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm or until the dumpsters are full.

EXECUTIVE

Council entered into Executive session at 10:11 pm to discuss real estate lease at the Yellow Brick Building.

Executive session ended at 10:22 pm.

ADJOURN

Ron Gyure motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 pm. Seconded by Kay Mayer. Motion passed.