

BOROUGH OF NEW FLORENCE MINUTES FEBRUARY 16, 2021

President Jim Moore, called the regular meeting of the New Florence Borough Council to order on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the School Building.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Jim Moore
Jeff Rager
Chuck O'Shell
Ron Gyure
Jeff Miller, Solicitor

Absent:

Neva Gindlesperger, Mayor
Kristen Teeter
Gwen Dellett
Kay Mayer

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

POLICE REPORT

Mike Koch of St. Clair Township reported the progress on staffing for police department. The Township voted to release two current officers and hire the following:

Jeff Janciga, Chief
Karl Kinkopf, Captain
Mark Kasterko, part time officer
Lindsay Green, part time officer
Roger Wilson, part time officer

The new officer will begin on 02/28/21.

The officer on duty will attend the regular New Florence Borough meetings. Mike mentioned that he is aware of the speeding hot spots in Seward and New Florence coming into town. Jeff Rager reported that he has contacted Mickey Wyman of NRG regarding coal trucks using jake brakes on New Florence streets.

Ron Gyure has copy of Jake Brake Ordinance #153 dated 1982. He will talk to Mark Watt regarding replacement of the faded signs.

Jeff Miller agreed to research our ordinance to be sure we meet compliance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chuck O'Shell made a motion to accept the regular February 16, 2021 meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jeff Rager. All in favor. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Moore provided the current account balances as follows:

General Fund	\$94,630.99
Liquid Fuels Somerset	\$67,955.92
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	\$10,071.83
Savings Somerset	\$31,944.21
Savings PLGIT	\$61,860.63
18 Month CD	\$36,659.14

Jeff Rager made a motion to accept Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Chuck O'Shell.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Jeff Miller has prepared The Stormwater ordinance. It will need to be advertised. Jim Moore will arrange for the ad. Jeff also prepared a Resolution #1 of 2021 to allow Cheryl Priest, Secretary/Treasurer and Jim Moore access to QuickBooks for the payroll module. Chuck O'Shell made motion to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Ron Gyure. All in favor. Motion passed.

Jeff also prepared a Resolution #2 of 2021 to allow Cheryl Priest, Secretary/Treasurer and Jim Moore access to any and all borough tax information and records from Berkheimer. Jeff Rager made motion to accept the resolution. Chuck O'Shell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Jim Moore had received EADS rates for Professional Services in 2021. Jeff Miller reviewed and approved. Jim Moore made a motion for council president to sign the EADS document. Ron Gyure seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Jeff Miller has not received any response from the owner of the property at 203 Ligonier Street. The next move would file suit to have the junk removed. Council agreed. Jeff will prepare the documents.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, & EQUIPMENT – Ron Gyure, Chair.

Jim Moore talked about the LV Endowment grant money for furnace and A/C work in the borough building. Pam Hysong was contacted by committee and we were approved for \$11,000.00. Ron Gyure has a quote from Mack M. Darr Company for \$10,798.00. The use of General Funds, if necessary, to begin the work as soon as possible was discussed. Ron Gyure made a motion to award the work to Mack M. Darr Company. The motion was seconded by Chuck O'Shell. The grant money will be here by mid-March. Darr requires 50% down to purchase equipment. Ron Gyure said people need to stick together regarding open communication between Seward, Bolivar and new Florence regarding various projects and available grants.

Council discussed an inquiry from Bob Malnofsky, Director Chief of Police at New Bethlehem of Clarion County regarding the sale of the 2014 Ford Explorer police vehicle. Council decided there was no interest in selling it at this time.

Gwen Dellett said that, perhaps, ST Clair Township could borrow the vehicle on case by case. Council would need to add a 'rider' to our contract to be compensated for its use.

Ron Gyure reported that he is in the process of getting quotes to replace the wheelchair lift and/or ramp at the school building.

Ron also said he received call from the Rec Board asking to use the school basement Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Jim Moore will check with Neva to confirm there is not schedule conflict with the Sewage Authority.

Jim Moore reported that he received a call from the niece regarding the Tomb property on Furnace Lane. She said that they will be cleaning up the residence.

STREETS AND DRAIN

Ron Gyure and Chuck O'Shell toured possible 2021 paving project areas with Rick Skovensky of PennDOT. Jim Moore reminded them that we need to provide our paving list (when finalized) to Peoples Gas.

Penelec will be replacing telephone poles between the borough dump and Lockport. Penelec would like to use a portion of the dump area as a "laydown" for poles and equipment. The Borough is concerned regarding the current 8 Ton weight limit on 15th Street as well as the newly installed drainpipe. Jeff Miller suggested we ask them for a basic "license agreement" to use our property.

Jeff Rager asked if the borough has any existing contracts with garbage collectors. We do not. Counsel advised that the borough could have a single provider but it would need to go through the normal bid process. Jeff Rager emphasized the need to have lids on garbage containers to keep animals out.

GRANTS & FUNDING

Jim Moore reported that there is money available from the county to support local arts programs. The application deadline is May 31, 2021. Anyone interested should contact the Borough Office for details.

The Borough was contacted by DCNR regarding two past grants. 1) \$19,000.00 – Chestnut Park (playground?). 2) \$11,009.00 from 1987. Jim asked if anyone was familiar with these projects. All public projects funded by DCNR must be maintained for perpetuity. Jim Moore will request additional information from DCNR and will also ask Richard Stuart if he remembers.

MAYOR'S REPORT

None

OLD BUSINESS

BUILDING GROUNDS

Tree removal. Mark Watt has been unable to contact the homeowner about the tree at 7th and Walnut Streets that needs removed. Ron Gyure mentioned more trees in need of removal at the east entrance to the underpass. Jim Moore suggested we send letter to the respective homeowners and will provide property information to Jeff Miller.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Ron Gyure made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chuck O'Shell. All in favor. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.