

## **BOROUGH OF NEW FLORENCE MINUTES FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

President Jim Moore, called the regular meeting of the New Florence Borough Council to order on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Borough Building.

### **ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Jim Moore              | Mason Luther    |
| Jeff Rager             | Chuck O'Shell   |
| Jason Beatty           | Cheryl Priest   |
| Jeff Miller, Solicitor | Ed Craft, Mayor |

Members Absent:

Ron Gyure  
Gwen Dellett

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Phil Ferris spoke on the Emergency Management Plan for New Florence Borough stating there is one. A committee will be formed to update the plan. Phil also thanked the New Florence Borough for the donation. They have already purchased the new air cylinders.

Tony Rivera from the VFW asked for the borough's assistance in filing PennDOT paperwork required for the Memorial Day parade.

Arina Hamley addressed the council about doing an Eagle Scout Project in Memory Park. She proposed making several improvements. The council agreed and will get together with her to go over her plans.

## **POLICE REPORT**

Officer Brandon Marsh gave a report on Officer Mark Kasterko's resignation. There was a discussion on the January Police Report. Jim Moore asked for some changes to be made to make the reports easier to interpret. Jeff Rager asked if all the officers are certified to use the ENRAD, Officer Marsh replied that only Chief Janciga was presently qualified but more training will take place at a later date.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jeff Rager made a motion to accept the Minutes from the regular meeting of January 17, 2023, as written. Mason Luther seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jim Moore reviewed the January Treasurer's Report. Chuck O'Shell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Jason Beatty seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

No report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**BUILDING, GROUNDS, & EQUIPMENT** – Ron Gyure, Chair. Jason Beatty, second.

Jason Beatty reported the price range to purchase a lawn mower for the borough would be \$13,000.00 to \$17,000.00.

Jason Beatty made a motion to not bid out borough mowing this year and, instead, purchase a mower for up to \$17,000.00 and hire a part-time employee to do the mowing. Chuck O'Shell seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

The lights are done in the garage; the rear tire was repaired on the backhoe.

Jim Moore reported that he and Jason Beatty met with Pam Hysong regarding the Senior Center. Laurel Valley Senior Citizens Center, Inc would like to sell the building to the Borough. Jeff Miller said that there are specific procedures to follow in such a transaction. Pam Hysong agreed to do some more research on the requirements. This discussion was tabled until a later date.

Jim Moore discussed a letter he received from the New Florence Community Library. They are requesting a \$10,000.00 donation to help fund the installation of a security system inside and outside the library as well as purchase a new LED sign in front of the building. The LED sign will enable them to share public events.

Chuck O'Shell made a motion to approve the donation to the New Florence Community Library from the COVID grant funds. Jeff Rager seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

The New Florence Library also sent a letter to the New Florence Borough exercising the first of three ten (10) year lease renewals for the Library Building in accordance with Paragraph 13 of the Lease Agreement.

Jim Moore discussed the Norfolk Southern Bridge conditions at the underpass. Jason Beatty had contacted Senator Pittman's office for assistance. Jim Moore read a letter he had drafted to Representative Rossi regarding the bridge conditions asking for her assistance with the problem. The same letter will be sent to our Senator Pittman as well as our federal representative and senators.

#### **STREETS AND DRAINS – Chuck O'Shell, Chair, Jeff Rager, Second**

Jim Moore reported that Alyssa Rouser has left EADS and Dan Beyer will be our new engineer.

Jeff Rager had questions regarding the tree removal on Sassafras Street as why it wasn't hauled away, didn't have the proper equipment. He recommended that any contractor for future tree removals be required to do their own clean up. The council agreed.

**GRANTS & FUNDING** – Gwen Dellett, Chair, Mason Luther, Second  
Mason Luther has submitted the information on the electrical upgrades for the garage project funding and is waiting for a response.

**LANDBANK** – Ed Craft, Chair; Mason Luther, Second

Mason Luther had a discussion with Daniel Carpenter of Westmoreland County Planning on their town wide blight assessment plan agreement. Jeff Miller has commented on the agreement language. We are waiting to hear back from the county's attorney.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Ed Craft spoke with the DEP regarding three (3) citations on the drums, solid waste, tires and abandonment of garbage at the Robson property at 10th and Sassafras Streets. There was one (1) noise complaint, one complaint of a resident burning plastic and another letter addressing junks couches. Also, Mayor Craft has received several telephone calls about a white dog running loose around town. The owner received a copy of the pet ordinance and stated he has put up a fence.

Jeff Miller discussed a noise ordinance, and the council decided it is best to let the police handle noise complaints and not the ordinance officer.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

10<sup>th</sup> Street Event Center is in progress.

No updated news on the Norfolk Southern bridge repairs.

The Council is still looking for one volunteer to serve on the New Florence – St Clair Sewage Authority Board.

No word on the Memory Park walkways improvement plan from EADS.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jim Moore made a motion to open a separate account for any Fire Escrow Insurance checks received. Jeff Rager seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Jim Moore made a motion to add Mason Luther as a fourth check signer. Jeff Rager seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Jim Moore would like to send two (2) council members to Hershey in June for the annual PSAB conference. He suggested Mason Luther and Jason Beatty. Both will check their June schedules and report back.

## **ADJOURN**

Jeff Rager made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mason Luther seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.