

BOROUGH OF NEW FLORENCE MINUTES OCTOBER 18, 2022

President Jim Moore, called the regular meeting of the New Florence Borough Council to order on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the Borough Building.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Ron Gyure

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident, Phillip J. Katcher spoke on Transformative Infrastructure funding. He suggested the council investigate this funding source for a new ambulance center for New Florence, installing red lights, etc. Gwen Dellett will investigate the source.

POLICE REPORT

Officer Brandon Marsh gave an update; the police department is currently conducting several investigations. Repairs were made to the patrol car because the short circuit bar would not turn off. They are also working on getting on-line electronics set up. Chief Janciga has been appointed to the Westmoreland County "Stop Violence Against Women" program, which will involve him participating in quarterly zoom meetings. The yearly firearms qualifications will be conducted this month. There were three (3) motor vehicle accidents due to speed and weather in the month of September. A

new part-time police officer has been interviewed, depending on background checks, he can be hired.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff Rager made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting of September 20, 2022, as written. Gwen Dellett seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Moore reported on current balances in the General Fund, State Highway Funds and Money Market accounts. After review, Chuck O'Shell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report for September. Mason Luther seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Jeff Miller explained to the Council that the mayor can be compensated as the Code Enforcement Officer if it is within his duties.

Jeff also commented on the Landbank agreement. Jason Beatty made a motion to advertise for an ordinance to allow the borough to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Westmoreland County Land Bank. Mason Luther seconded. All in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Dumpster days are still scheduled for Oct. 21 and 22nd.

Jason Beatty stated our electrician has started the camera project on the borough building. Also, some updates such as new LED lights are needed. Jim Moore made a motion that Council approves lighting improvements in

the amount up to \$750.00 for the borough garage. Jason Beatty seconded. All in favor.

The truck needs to be inspected. We have an appointment for next week.

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

Chuck O'Shell asked about the clean-up and satisfaction of the Borough regarding the contractors' work that is being done. Orville Saunders said the contractors are doing punch list paving. The gas line contractors are putting water and dirt from drilling operations at the dump.

Jim Moore spoke with Alyssa of EADS regarding the bids for replacement of catch basins along Ligonier Street. Only one (1) bid was received due to the end of construction season. The base bid for (12) twelve inlets came in at \$103,000.00. Jim Moore made a motion to table this and re-bid it in the spring. Jeff Rager seconded. All in favor.

Jason Beatty said a storm water line under Penn Street is sinking due to the rainwater running around the catch basin. Alyssa from EADS will look at this when she comes to town.

GRANTS & FUNDING – Gwen Dellett, Chair, Mason Luther, Second

Jim Moore discussed the Penn DOT grant for construction of sidewalks along 13th Street. EADS construction estimate is \$211,798.00. The Borough would be required to contribute \$48,900.00 towards the project. Alyssa from EADS says there will be additional grants available in the spring of 2023 that will not require as much matching funds. Mason Luther made a motion to table the sidewalk project till next year. Jason Beatty seconded motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Ed Craft commented on the recent rodent infestation problem in New Florence regarding the Bakery, Laundromat, and surrounding areas. Progress has been made.

OLD BUSINESS

The council is still looking for volunteers to serve on the New Florence St. Clair Sewage Authority Board.

Alyssa of EADS will tour Memory Park on Friday to discuss future improvements to the walkways.

The issue of back payments for St. Clair Township's portion of insurance premiums for the Volunteer Fire Company have been referred to their interim solicitor. Jim Moore provided Jeff Miller's contact information to St. Clair Township.

Phil Ferris spoke on the EMS needing new equipment. COVID relief funds were discussed, and the council still has not decided on the usage of the funds. Deadline to use is December of 2024.

12th Street paving was discussed. This will be added to the 2024 paving projects list.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion on the possibility of COG coming back and to clean additional catch basins.

Jim Moore asked if the council is interested in a radar control speed sign to be placed at the entrance into town.

The Halloween Parade will take place on October 30, 2022, starting at 1:00 p.m. with trick-or-treat following until 4:00 p.m. Council asked for Police to be present.

Jim Moore called for an Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. for Personnel issues. Executive Session ended at 8:04 p.m.

Mason Luther made a motion to pay Ed Craft for Code Enforcement efforts at a rate of \$18.00 per hour up to twenty (20) hours a week. Jason Beatty seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

ADJOURN

Jeff Rager made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Beatty seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.