

BOROUGH OF NEW FLORENCE MINUTES DECEMBER 20, 2022

President Jim Moore, called the regular meeting of the New Florence Borough Council to order on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the Borough Building.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Ron Gyure
Gwen Dellett

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment.

POLICE REPORT

Officer Brandon Marsh gave an update, the department is conducting inventories on paperwork, equipment, and evidence items. They are making itemized lists and will need a council member or to witness.

A reduction of speed entering town from the south should result in less use of "jake brakes" within the borough.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff Rager made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting of November 15, 2022, meeting minutes as written. Mason Luther seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report due to a glitch in the software system. We will have November and December's report for the next meeting in January 2023.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Jeff Miller discussed Resolution #2 of 2022 - Act 57 which allows the borough to abate tax penalties pertaining to the date of transfer of real estate ownership.

Jason Beatty made a motion to pass the resolution for Act 57. Jeff Rager seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

The proposed 2023 Liquid Fuels budget for 2023 is \$96,130.00 and the proposed General Fund budget is \$194,921.00 for a total of \$291,051.00. The millage rate will remain the same at 20.5 mils.

Jeff Rager made a motion to pass Ordinance #4 of 2022 for acceptance of the 2023 Budget. Chuck O'Shell seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Jason Beatty discussed using rock salt as opposed to antiskid on the roads. The council okayed the purchase of bagged rock salt to be used on problem areas.

The front backhoe tires need to be replaced.

Borough brush collection will be once a week on Mondays only from January through April 2023.

Spare keys will be made for the dump truck.

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

Jeff Rager did a 9th Street project walkdown with Alyssa from EADS. Alyssa provided a punch list to be completed before final project approval.

Jim Moore presented a contractor pay request from Alyssa for \$127,540.00. The retainage of \$19,631.50 will be paid upon completion and final inspection by the council.

Chuck O'Shell made a motion to approve the payment. Jason Beatty seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rick Skovensky will come to the office to review the project documents so the Borough can use Liquid Fuels funds for the engineering costs.

A sinkhole on 15th and Chestnut Streets will be repaired by Lutterman Excavating for \$4,800.00. Penn Street video of pre-construction was discussed.

GRANTS & FUNDING – Gwen Dellett, Chair, Mason Luther, Second
No report regarding grants available from First Energy.

LANDBANK – Ed Craft, Chair; Mason Luther, Second
No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

There are tree branches in the borough right away on Sassafras Street near 10th Street. The tree is dead, and branches are in the road.

There was a discussion regarding the borough building inspection contractor.

OLD BUSINESS

St. Clair Township has a new solicitor. The workman's compensation back payments issue is being reviewed.

The council is still seeking a volunteer to serve on the Sewage Authority Board.

The Memory Park walkways improvement is tabled until spring 2023.

COVID relief funds are still being discussed and the council has not decided yet on the usage of the funds. The deadline for disbursement is December of 2024.

There was a discussion on the possible purchase of radar equipped speed signs for the borough. Mayor Craft will bring details on a unit to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Moore discussed the 2023 Draft Budget with the council. Additional money was added for donations to the Library and Community Development.

Jim Moore discussed the Liquid Fuels budget for next year.

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 7:50 p.m.