

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M.
IN THE CORNWALL BOROUGH OFFICE

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President John Karinch.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT

Steven Levensgood, Beth Yocum, Dick Charles, John Karinch, Tony Fitzgibbons, Al Brandt, Gerald Boughter and Mayor Mark Thomas.

PUBLIC

Meeting attendance sheet is attached hereto.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dick Charles made the motion, seconded by Gerald Boughter to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2017 meeting. Motion passed.

PRESIDENTS STATEMENT

John Karinch had some comments in response to a recent Letter to the Editor post in the Lebanon Daily News by Paul Vranesic, Bob Thomas and Raymond Fratini. John stated the article was a pretty good hit piece on the Council. It said that Council wasted \$700,000.00 on the takeover of the Municipal Authority. Mr. Karinch said that Council did not waste the \$700,000.00 they did. It was Vranesic, Thomas and Beamesderfer that wasted the money our Solicitor said it should not go to litigation. Borough Council has the right to create Authorities and dissolve Authorities. Mr. Vranesic was well aware of that, because he entertained the idea over six years ago when Mr. Karinch brought the idea to him at that time. Why to this time do we continue to waste the money. The only way you can dissolve an Authority is if they don't have any projects going at the time. If we wouldn't have fought them when they first countersued us they could have started a new project. One was a one million water replacement line in front of the Elementary School, this wasn't needed. We brought the water up to the pressure it needed by installing a \$3,000.00 dry hydrant in the creek. They wanted to spend one million dollars that was unnecessary. They also knew that Mr. Vranesic's term was up at the end of the year and wasn't going to be replaced and Council wasn't going to replace him and put someone else on there to carry out our wishes. Judge Tylwalk did stop the spending on the water line and then Bob Thomas makes the comment "Don't you care about the children, Mr. Karinch?" The school could be evacuated in less than 3 minutes according to Principal Mike Robinson.

Moving on to Taxes...Yes, we did raise taxes and it was substantial. We didn't raise taxes for 6 years but we had 1.7 million dollars to pay off an EIT decision where they claimed we received money that was not ours. We didn't have any payment plans, rainy day funds, there was nothing else we could do. No one on this Council was part of the EIT situation as a matter of fact Mr. Vranesic, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Fratini were on the Council when all of that happened. If they were so smart why didn't they catch it? They should have raised taxes maybe a little bit in anticipation of losing but they didn't do it. Also, it was never brought to anyone's attention that the Authority would have loaned \$600,000 to the Borough at 1% but they said no they are going to fight this. How much did it cost to fight the EIT decision, almost

\$300,000. It looks like Mr. Vranesic is good at fighting legal battles he can't win. There were 6 other municipalities that have higher tax rates than we do but we had no choice.

As far as Mr. Levengood...Council has asked Mr. Levengood to resign. On the advice of his Counsel he refused to resign. Mr. Karinch stated that we have asked Judge Kline to have Mr. Levengood removed and he said that he would not address it at this time that he was waiting for the sentencing hearing. Mr. Karinch it is the law. In the Lebanon Daily News, it said only the Judge not the Borough Council after the conviction of a crime can have him removed. John did say that there is a legal decision we could do but it would probably run into next year and since Mr. Levengood's term runs out at the end of the year why waste legal fees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council received comments from various borough residents who were not in favor of the passing of a proposed ordinance on tonight's agenda in which the feeding of feral cats would be prohibited.

Jim Williams, Iron Valley Drive commented that Council not rescind the recently passed burn ban.

REPORTS

Gerald Boughter made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt to approve the reports as presented. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

FERAL CATS – ORDINANCE 2017-4

Tabled

BURN BAN – ORDINANCE 2017-3

Tony Fitzgibbons made the motion, seconded by Steven Levengood to remove the last sentence from Section 10-104 – Prohibited Burning of Domestic Refuse and Other Non-Yard Waste. The line to be removed reads "No such fire shall be allowed within the Conservation Recreation (CR) of Residential Forest (RF) District when located a distance greater than 300 feet from a fire hydrant." Motion passed with Beth Yocum voting Nay.

NEW BUSINESS

FREEMAN ESTATES – LIME KILN

A motion was made by Gerald Boughter, seconded by Steven Levengood to contact Freeman Estates about donating the Lim Kiln which is located along North Cornwall Road to the Borough. Motion passed.

MINIMUM MUNICIPAL BUDGETS – UNIFORMED & NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLANS

Gerald Boughter made the motion, seconded by Dick Charles to approve the Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Minimum Municipal Budgets. Motion passed.

VACATE 76 FEET OF LAUREL ALLEY

Steve Danz was instructed to contact Josele Cleary about vacating a portion of Laurel Alley 76 feet south of Pine Street.

BOGER STREET – ONE WAY TRAFFIC

John Karinch was approached by a resident to look into making Boger St a One-Way street since there will be increased traffic once the Carnival Grounds is developed. This was referred to Highway Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Gerald Boughter, seconded by Steven Levensgood to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion passed.

Steven N. Danz
Secretary