

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.
IN THE CORNWALL BOROUGH MEETING ROOM

Council President John Karinch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT

Council President John Karinch, Council Vice President Ron Ricard, Marie Tribioli, Steve Tribioli, Al Brandt, Thomas Burton, Bruce Conrad, Mayor Mark Thomas and Manager Cody Rhoads

PUBLIC

Meeting attendance sheet is attached hereto. Attendees joined via Zoom due to the Governor's restrictions related to Covid-19

PUBLIC COMMENT – WATER & SEWER

No comments.

WATER & SEWER BUSINESS

REPORTS

Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to approve the director's water and sewer reports. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marie Tribioli asked Sgt. Hopkins if the police station was still using the ionic cleaner at the police station. Sgt. Hopkins said they are still using it and they also hook it up in the cars for cleaning. It is working well.

Ms. Tribioli asked if the office was getting professionally cleaned. Cody Rhoads said that it is just getting cleaned as normal and was only done professionally when there was a positive case in the office.

Ms. Tribioli asked about the pesticide license. Tom Smith said that they have one license, which Brian Smith holds. Mr. Smith explained which areas are treated.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Steve Tribioli, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 council meeting. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to approve the reports. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

FIRE COMPANY

John Karinch informed council that the finance committee met with the fire company leadership to discuss the building-ownership issue. Mr. Karinch said that \$25,000 was budgeted for 2021, but the possibility exists that more money would be needed if a loan is taken out. Mr. Karinch then reviewed the list of refurbishments needed that was provided by the fire company via Fire Line Equipment. Mr. Rhoads informed council of an email that fire chief Eric Reddinger sent that said the fire company would like to go look at a 2009 ladder truck in Doylestown Borough. Mr. Reddinger was attending the meeting via Zoom and gave his perspective.

Mr. Reddinger said the fire company's solicitor would like to speak with the borough solicitor regarding the building issue. Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to allow Josele Cleary to work on the issue. Motion passed.

Al Brandt understands the need for a fire truck but was hesitant to make a long-term commitment in paying for it with borough funds. Mr. Brandt would like to see taxes lowered in the future when the EIT loan payoff expires.

Tom Burton said his issue was that the fire company does not do any fundraising to help themselves. Mr. Reddinger said they are down to 10 people and simply do not have the time to undertake a lot of fundraising. The fire company's role is to provide fire protection for the borough, and they do so for free, which in turn saves the community millions of dollars.

Mark Thomas questioned some of the needs listed on the refurbishment outline.

Mr. Reddinger said that to have a volunteer ready to go on the street, they need 200 hours of training. They have 10 active members who have families and full-time jobs. It makes it hard to do any fundraising.

Mr. Burton did not think the fire company was any different than it was back in the day. Mr. Reddinger disagreed. He said back when he started you did not need any training. Today, you need 200 hours like he previously mentioned.

After further discussion, Marie Tribioli made a motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to authorize using an additional \$5-10,000 from the general fund toward the fire truck if it is needed in 2021. Al Brandt and Tom Burton voted against. Motion passed 5-2.

ADOPT 2021 FINAL BUDGET

Since there was discussion last month about donating to the Rails to Trails, Marie Tribioli mentioned that from October 30th to November 30th there were 8,500 passes counted on the rail trail in the borough. Bruce Conrad made the motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to adopt the 2021 final budget. Motion passed.

LEAF VAC TRUCK

John Karinch stated that himself, Al Brandt, Ron Ricard, Bruce Conrad, Tom Smith and Cody Rhoads had visited North Lebanon Township at varying times to view the truck that was available for purchase. The leaf vac truck can be operated by one person and would be able to be used year-round for other activities. After discussion, it was decided the borough would not pursue the purchase of the leaf vac truck.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Bruce Conrad gave a presentation on behalf of the parks and recreation committee. The presentation was a proposal for changes and upgrades to the offerings in the borough. The first part consists of refurbishing the tennis courts, adding another court, lighting the courts and adding other intergenerational activities. Such activities might include shuffleboard, volleyball courts and batting cages. There was also discussion about the establishment of a dog park in the future.

Another topic discussed was the creation of a historical committee. The hope would be to have five to seven members who are dedicated to the historical preservation of the borough. In the future, the hope would be to have a museum in the borough.

Ron Ricard made a motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to allow the parks and recreation committee to continue pursuing this endeavor.

UNUSED VACATION TIME

Due to the pandemic, a few of the longer-tenured employees have accumulated unused vacation time. Discussion ensued about how much time should be carried and paid out. Al Brandt made a motion, seconded by Steve Tribioli, that five days should be carried over and any unused vacation time be paid out at the end of the year. Motion passed.

AUTHORIZE RAISE FOR GREG MUNNION

Greg Munnion recently passed his CDL and standard has been to grant a \$1 raise. Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to authorize a \$1 raise. Motion passed.

CLOSE OFFICE BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

Council agreed to close the office between the holidays.

ORDINANCE 2020-6 (BRAKE RETARDER RESTRICTION)

Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to adopt Ordinance 2020-6 which places a brake retarder restriction on Route 419 in the borough. Tom Burton voted against. Motion passed 6-1.

RESOLUTION 2020-5 (SET TAX RATE FOR 2021)

Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Steve Tribioli, to set the tax rate at 2.25 mills for 2021. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2020-6 (SET SALARY RATE FOR 2021)

Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to set the salary rates for 2021. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2020-7 (WATER RULES AND REGULATIONS)

Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to adopt the updated water rules and regulations. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2020-8 (DISPOSITION OF RECORDS)

Tom Burton asked if the records would be scanned in before being destroyed. Cody Rhoads said that no, these records would just be destroyed and not scanned into the system. Mr. Burton felt the information should be scanned in. Mr. Rhoads read off a listing of the records slated to be disposed of. Steve Tribioli made a motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to dispose of the records as listed. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2020-9 (EIT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT)

Marie Tribioli made a motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to appoint Cody Rhoads as the 2021 voting delegate and David Lloyd, West Cornwall Township, as the alternate voting delegate for the EIT Committee. Motion passed.

HIRE PART-TIME OFFICER

Al Brandt made a motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to hire Eric Shuffelbottom as a part-time officer. Motion passed.

ONGOING BUSINESS

KRALL PROPERTY

John Karinch said he had not heard back from the owner and has turned this issue over to Russ Collins from Trout Unlimited to handle.

BLIGHT ORDINANCE

Bruce Conrad said that Planning and Zoning planned to investigate this issue. John Karinch said he made a mistake referring it to planning and zoning because there was no motion to that effect. Tom Burton wanted to know where there was blight in Cornwall. Steve Tribioli said that this ordinance, or any other ordinance, should not be put in place because of a specific property. Marie Tribioli felt that too often council is reactive instead of proactive. She felt that a blight ordinance would be proactive, which is the point of an ordinance. Mark Thomas felt that this would just be another tool for neighbors to harass each other. Mr. Thomas related some of his past personal experiences where he felt he was targeted. Mr. Tribioli said that you can not make decisions for an entire community based on one or two personal experiences. There was further discussion about what the goal of an ordinance should be.

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

There was discussion of Roberts Rules of Order. Al Brandt said that in his eight years on council, numerous residents he did not know have told him they appreciate how the borough gets things done. Mr. Brandt said that even if meetings are not run by following Roberts Rules of Order, he felt that the healthy disagreement where everyone considers everyone else's viewpoint,

which most of the time he believed they did, is the healthiest thing for the borough. If everyone agreed with everyone else all the time, it would benefit nobody. Bruce Conrad said RRO was never meant to stifle debate, only to make the debate a calmer experience.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Steve Tribioli, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Motion passed.

Cody Rhoads
Secretary