

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.
IN THE CORNWALL BOROUGH GARAGE

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, Al Brandt, Thomas Burton, Bruce Conrad and Mayor Mark Thomas

ALSO PRESENT

Borough Manager Cody Rhoads, Highway Superintendent Tom Smith, Engineer Steve Dellinger and Cornwall Borough Police Sergeant Brett Hopkins

ABSENT

Steve Tribioli

PUBLIC

Meeting attendance sheet is attached hereto.

PUBLIC COMMENT – WATER & SEWER

No comments.

WATER & SEWER BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

AUTHORIZE SOLICITOR TO REVIEW RULES, REGULATIONS AND EASEMENTS

Thomas Burton questioned why there was a need to review these items. Mr. Rhoads said that in working with Farley Fry, the water and sewer engineer, on the Cornwall Junction plan he found some areas of the current rules and regulations that needed to be updated. Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to authorize Solicitor Cleary to review the rules, regulations and easements for water and sewer. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Thomas Burton, to approve the director's water and sewer reports. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chet Bogar, Briarwood Court, asked what amount was still being held for the Northgate subdivision. Mr. Rhoads said that there is still roughly \$148,000 left on the letter of credit, but he is still trying to obtain a breakdown of the costs for that amount. The letter of credit was last reduced in 2014. Mr. Burton asked how the basin issue was progressing and was told that most of the work was done to the satisfaction of the Northgate residents. Hanover still must give the final okay once the few items remaining are completed.

Mark Dutchess, Spring Street, said the street sweeper did a nice job. He suggested that perhaps the dates could be mentioned in the water bill to alert residents to move their cars off the street. He did speak to Mr. Rhoads and learned it was posted on the borough's Facebook page. The borough will look into getting the word out better next spring.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Thomas Burton, to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2021 council meeting. Motion passed.

REPORTS

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

OLD BUSINESS

EIT LOAN

Mr. Rhoads reported that PFM was unable to find an option that would make it worthwhile to refinance. Mr. Burton said he wanted to put more money towards the principal, not refinance. Mayor Thomas said it is a great idea to put extra toward the loan, so the money is not laying around to spend on other things. Mr. Karinch reminded them that it was not long ago that the borough was taking Tax Anticipation loans to make payroll and it is nice to have a surplus. Ms. Tribioli pointed out that the fire company will also need a new or refurbished truck at some point. Mr. Conrad stated that he was in favor of putting more money towards the loan, but the Tice Lane bridge is also due to be replaced. Mr. Rhoads reviewed the amount in certain funds that are often referred to as rainy day funds. Council will continue to discuss this matter.

FIRE COMPANY

Dave Slater, president of the fire company, was in attendance. He referred questions about the refurbishment of the truck to Chief Reddinger, who unable to attend but would like to have a meeting with the finance committee soon. Mr. Slater stated that fire company agreed to a resolution to the building ownership and their solicitor will work with Ms. Cleary to get an agreement drawn up.

Mr. Burton questioned how many times the fire company is going to come to the council asking for money. What is the fire company doing to help themselves? Mr. Slater said recent fundraisers raised only \$500. Mr. Slater said the fire company's objective has been to develop a rapport with the council. Their main goal is to have safe equipment for the volunteers to respond to calls and protect the community.

Mayor Thomas would like to see a community-led fundraising committee formed. He does not feel the fire company volunteers should be tasked with that because of all the training and other responsibilities they have.

At last month's meeting, council discussed paying for half of a feasibility study to be done by a private firm. The fire company's leadership voted against paying for the study and opted to go with the state's free study. Al Brandt made a motion to sign the letter of intent to move forward with the state's feasibility study.

Mayor Thomas questioned why the fire company was foregoing the private study for the government study. He felt the government does not do anything efficiently. Ray Fratini, Wenger Street, said it is a free education and should be considered.

Mayor Thomas wanted council to table the feasibility study for 30 days to find out why the fire company changed their mind about who would do the study, and which one is better.

Mr. Brandt's motion died for lack of a second.

NEW BUSINESS

CRIMES CODE

Mr. Karinch read an anonymous letter that a Karinchville resident received admonishing them for continuing to display a Donald Trump sign and calling them a racist. Mr. Karinch said that Chief Harris informed him that such a letter constitutes harassment. Ms. Tribioli clarified there is an ordinance that requires the removal of political signs. Mr. Karinch stated it was the Democratic Party that started the KKK and read two quotes from President Biden that he considered to be racist. Mr. Karinch stated he was proud to vote for Donald Trump twice and does not like being called a racist.

APPROVE 2021 PAVING PROJECTS TO BE ADVERTISED FOR BID

Marie Tribioli made a motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to authorize advertisement for the 2021 paving bids. Motion passed.

AUTHORIZE STORMWATER EXEMPTIONS

Mr. Dellinger reviewed the projects at 1222 Ash, 106 Iron Valley and the Cornwall Elementary school that planning and zoning recommended granting stormwater exemptions to. Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to approve the stormwater exemptions. Motion passed.

CEDAR STREET AIRBNB

Mr. Karinch stated that it was brought to the planning and zoning commission's attention that an Airbnb was operating at 110 Cedar Street. Mr. Karinch reviewed why this violated the zoning ordinance. Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to have county planning send an enforcement notice to the owners of the property to stop operating the Airbnb. Motion passed.

CORNWALL JUNCTION

Pat Dennis, Landmark Homes, and Chad Smith, Steckbeck Engineering, were in attendance representing the project.

Mr. Dellinger reviewed the waiver for the traffic study and recommended that council grant the waiver. Mr. Ricard asked if the study would require any traffic signals or controls. Mr. Dellinger stated that the number of peak hour trips was minimal and would not require any additional controls. Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to approve the waiving the required traffic study for the plan. Motion passed.

Mr. Dellinger reviewed Hanover's latest review letter and stated they recommended conditional approval be granted. Mr. Dennis said that Landmark has agreed to install the guiderail as discussed at the planning and zoning commission meeting. He is working on the details of that to include in the developer's agreement. Bruce Conrad made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to grant the Cornwall Junction plan conditional approval. Motion passed.

MINERSVILLE WOODED TRACT/RECREATION PLAN

Mr. Karinch stated that Mr. Rhoads recently met with Nick Loftus, president of the Susquehanna Area Mountain Bike Association, to discuss the feasibility of creating multi-use trails on the wooded tract that the borough owns. SAMBA is volunteer-based and would handle the creation and maintenance of the trail. The borough would be responsible for materials, that Mr. Loftus estimated would cost roughly \$3,000. Mr. Karinch felt that this idea was worth pursuing. Ms. Tribioli questioned what the liability would be. Mr. Fratini asked that planning and zoning get the chance to look at this. Mr. Burton thought it was a good idea. Mr. Conrad felt it was a good idea and stated that mountain bike is a growing activity.

Mr. Karinch relayed that the group that gathers to play pickleball asked again about dedicated courts. Mr. Conrad stated that the person he contacted about looking at creating a plan for that property had to decline because of health reasons. The borough will continue looking into recreation offerings.

AUTHORIZE HIRE OF CHRISTOPHER DANZ

Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to authorize the hiring of Christopher Danz as summer help. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to adjourn to executive session at 7:39 p.m. Motion passed.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:56 p.m.

AUTHORIZE HIRING OF A FT AND PT POLICE OFFICER

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to begin the process of advertising for a full-time and part-time police officer. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Motion passed.

Cody Rhoads
Secretary