

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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, Steve Tribioli, Al Brandt, Bruce Conrad and Mayor Mark Thomas

ABSENT

Thomas Burton

ALSO PRESENT

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

PUBLIC

Meeting attendance sheet is attached hereto.

PUBLIC COMMENT – WATER & SEWER

Dale Waltman, 221 Karinch Street, stated that he recently received information in the mail about inflow and infiltration. He noticed employees working in his neighborhood and wondered if they had found any of the sources. Mr. Karinch stated that they were detecting for leaks and did find a few that will be fixed.

WATER & SEWER BUSINESS

REPORTS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Marley, 226 Rexmont, said that he has been a resident of the borough for 50 years. Mr. Marley stated that last month he was verbally accosted in a public setting by council member Thomas Burton. Mr. Burton told him that the fire company was a bunch of lazy guys that only wanted to take money from the borough. Mr. Marley said he has known Mr. Burton for a long time, and he did not understand why he would take this approach. Mr. Marley felt that Mr. Burton made a fool out of himself and regrets that he was not in attendance tonight to respond. Mr. Karinch stated that it will be addressed at the next meeting Mr. Burton attends. Mr. Marley offered to return at that time.

Dale Waltman, 221 Karinch Street, mentioned that today was Incorporation Day for the borough as it was founded on October 11th, 1926. Mr. Waltman advocated for the Lebanon County library

and was glad to see Michelle Hawk, the executive director, was on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 council meeting. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Mr. Brandt asked where the ownership of the fire station stood. Mr. Rhoads stated that everything is completed on the borough's end. He would check to see if the fire company's attorney has recorded the new deed.

Mr. Brandt saw that the highway department responded to 14 incidents during Ida and asked if there was any state or federal aid accessible for those incidents. Mr. Rhoads will investigate it.

Mr. Ricard asked about the functioning of the retention basins at Cornwall Junction. Mr. Dellinger stated that they will drain in the proper amount of time when the development is completed. Currently, it is acting as a sedimentation basin. Mr. Dellinger will follow up with more information. Mr. Ricard did not want to see a repeat of the issues in Northgate.

Ms. Tribioli asked if there have been any complaints about First Aid and Safety Patrol. Mr. Rhoads stated that he has not received any. He also stated that the ambulance is being stationed more frequently at the fire company due to increased staffing.

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to approve the reports. Motion passed.

Mr. Karinch read the budget report. As of September 30th, the borough had revenues of \$2,472,776.11 and expenditures of \$1,766,230.15. EIT collections totaled \$522,279.91.

Stan Alekna, 732 Aspen Lane, asked how the borough is faring regarding EIT collection and if the borough is protected from another overpayment that happened in the past. Mr. Rhoads stated that Keystone is handling the collection and disbursement now. They recently discovered an overpayment to another municipality in the county, so their processes appear to be working. Mayor Thomas asked if we should audit Keystone and Mr. Rhoads responded that they are audited every year.

OLD BUSINESS

AUTHORIZE INSTALLATION OF HIGHWAY GARAGE FURNACE

The borough has still only received one quote. Meyer was out but has not provided a quote yet. Bamberger's was out but it is having trouble getting prices from their supplier, so they have not been able to provide a quote. Meyer recommended installation of an oil furnace. The current quote is for a propane furnace. Mayor Thomas recommended staying with oil as well.

Carl Stump, 561 Hemlock, asked if a heat pump has been considered. It was thought that due to the size and duct work at the highway garage, a heat pump would not be the best option.

Bruce Harris, 641 Apen, asked if UGI could extend their natural gas line to the highway garage. The borough will check into it, but it is unlikely. Mayor Thomas will ask his contact.

Mr. Ricard asked if this would be a replacement or a rebuild. It will be a new unit.

The borough will give it another month in hopes that more quotes are received.

SPRING HILL ACRES ZONING VIOLATIONS

Mr. Karinch said that it was recommended at the planning and zoning commission that enforcement notices be sent to address the violations.

Mr. Brandt asked about the process that county follows when they are given a complaint. Mr. Rhoads stated that they will visit the property to verify the complaint. In some cases, the county will send a violation notice that gives the owner a timeframe to rectify the issues. In other cases, the resident will get an enforcement notice which gives them the opportunity to come into compliance or appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board. The county does forward those notices to the borough as well.

Mr. Alekna asked if the borough follows up with those notices. Mr. Rhoads stated that the borough does follow up. Solicitor Cleary has been working with county planning to issue stronger enforcement notices. Ms. Tribioli reiterated that it would be the borough's responsibility to initiate any enforcement proceeding in front of the district justice.

Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to authorize county planning to proceed with the necessary enforcement noticed. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

MICHELLE HAWK, LEBANON COUNTY LIBRARY

Michelle Hawk reviewed what the library has been doing over the past year and what programs are currently being offered. Ms. Hawk said that in 2020 the materials borrowed by Cornwall residents were valued at over \$200,000 and when the public access is factored in, it totaled \$233,000. She thanked the council for the \$1,000 contribution in 2020.

Mr. Ricard asked if the library is impacted by any of the issues prevalent in education. Ms. Hawk said the library is not required to provide any specific books but tries to represent a broad range of subjects. Mr. Ricard asked about senior services, such as computer classes. Ms. Hawk said those have not started back up yet but will soon.

Mr. Alekna asked about the total usage by Cornwall Borough. Ms. Hawk said that Cornwall Borough totals 20% of the library's usage.

Mr. Conrad asked about the Bookmobile program and what happened to it. Ms. Hawk stated that she did not know how long that lasted as it was gone before she started in 2000.

Jo Roussey, 123 Pine Street, stated that her granddaughter can download books straight to her device and that has made a Bookmobile obsolete.

ORDINANCE 2021-2 (ZONING AMENDMENT)

This ordinance is an amendment to the zoning ordinance. A few definitions were changed to better reflect the borough's position on short-term rentals. Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to approve the ordinance. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE 2021-3 (SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES)

Solicitor Cleary has recommended to amend Chapter 12, Streets and Sidewalks, to add a new Article 4, Small Wireless Facilities Deployment, to implement Act 50 of 2021. Ms. Tribioli asked what the small wireless facilities encompassed. Mr. Rhoads stated it is likely to refer to the switch to 5G. Mr. Dellinger stated these consist of small antennae that would be placed on telephone poles and other structures in the street right of way. These are authorized by changes to the Federal Telecommunications Act. Ron Ricard made a motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to authorize the advertisement for Ordinance 2021-3. Motion passed.

CORNWALL CENTER INTERSECTION

Mr. Karinch said that there was a meeting with Jon Fitzkee, Senior Transportation Planner for Lebanon County, recently and this topic came up again. Mr. Karinch said there needs to be considerations for future improvements. Mr. Alekna did not think there was a need as there has never been an injury accident there.

Mr. Tribioli felt that an improvement is needed at 419 and Boyd Street more so than at Cornwall Center. Mayor Thomas was against a roundabout, and he felt that is what would be placed there.

Beth Yocum, 99 Freeman Drive, was worried that a roundabout would take some of the land around Cornwall Center and that it would be near the Rails to Trails. Mr. Karinch said those were issues that were being investigated.

Ms. Tribioli would prefer to see timed traffic lights instead of a roundabout.

Jeff Bamberger, 113 Pine Street, felt an upgrade was needed and it would be good with the borough to sit down with the state and come up with an idea that works for everyone.

Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Steve Tribioli, to write a letter to Mr. Fitzkee conveying the borough's support to investigate future upgrades to the Cornwall Center intersection. Motion passed.

REQUEST FOR HOCKEY LEAGUE AT MINERSVILLE

Sean Hartman, 156 Maple Lane, was requesting that the borough consider giving a new hockey league court exclusivity on Saturday mornings starting in the spring. The leagues they played in have folded, and they are looking to start a new one. They have a few businesses lined up for sponsorship.

Mr. Ricard asked if the court was in good condition. Mr. Hartman said they play there often, and the court does have a few cracks.

The league would like to use funds collected through league fees and sponsorships to eventually install a scoreboard, bleachers and lights.

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to move forward with this request. Motion passed.

Ms. Roussey asked where activities were listed. She felt the website was poor. The financial information is not on there and she was unable to locate any activities listed or meeting minutes.

CONSIDERATION OF UPGRADES TO THE BOROUGH HALL GARAGE

Mr. Karinch stated that since COVID began, the meetings have been held in the garage. The increased attendance would preclude a return to the old meeting room. Therefore, it was decided that upgrades should be made to make it more meeting friendly. Those upgrades might include audio upgrades, acoustics and the ability to live stream. Council received one proposal and would like time to review it as well as seek other proposals.

AUTHORIZE HIRE OF FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

Chief Hopkins presented Erik Itzen as a candidate for the full-time position. He has previously served as a Lebanon city officer and most recently worked as a Lieutenant at Penn State Health. He scored highly on the written and physical exams then was thoroughly vetted through a background check before interviewing. Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Steve Tribioli, to authorize the hiring of Erik Itzen as a full-time police officer. Motion passed.

AUTHORIZE HIGHWAY COMMITTEE TO BEGIN PROCESS TO HIRE HIGHWAY LABORER

The highway department will be losing a member due to retirement at the end of the year, and it is requested that council authorize the staff to begin searching for a replacement. Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to advertise for a highway laborer. Motion passed.

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT, OCTOBER 28TH, 6-8 P.M.

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to authorize Trick or Treat to take place on October 28th, 2021 from 6 to 8 p.m. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDANCE

Mr. Ricard read a letter from the Community Fire Company of Cornwall thanking council for their financial contribution to the purchase of the ladder truck. As a thanks, they offered to pay for the first year of the PEMA loan.

Mr. Conrad would like to see the way the borough communicates with their constituents addressed.

Irene Van Tassel, 303 Spring Hill Lane, asked if the county realtors associations had been notified of the restrictions in Spring Hill Acres. The borough will be sending a letter out.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Marie Triboli made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Motion passed.

Cody Rhoads
Secretary