

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 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, Bruce Conrad, Thomas Burton and Mayor Mark Thomas

ABSENT

Steve Tribioli

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.

MAYOR PRESENTATION

Mayor Thomas gave a speech recognizing the work that retired Police Chief Bruce Harris did for the borough and presented him with a plaque that will hang in the Cornwall Borough Police Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT – WATER & SEWER

No comments.

WATER & SEWER BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHWAP)

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services is starting a low-income assistance program that would help those who qualify with their water and sewer bills. Al Brandt made a motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to approve Cornwall Borough's participation in the program. Motion passed.

REPORTS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bruce Conrad made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2021 council meeting. Motion passed.

REPORTS

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

Mr. Karinch stated that over the past month or so there were a lot of comments made publicly and on social media about Cornwall being broken. He took offense to that and felt that this council has accomplished a lot over the past four years. He stated that the borough has a capital reserve fund when in the past we had to take out tax anticipation loans to make payroll in January. The community is the safest in the county and third safest in the state. The police department also has new a new facility. The fire company is better equipped than ever. Mr. Karinch stated that the borough is doing very well but can always get better.

Mr. Karinch also mentioned the outstanding job that the Community Cats of Cornwall has done.

OLD BUSINESS

AUTHORIZE INSTALLATION OF HIGHWAY GARAGE FURNACE

The borough is still struggling to get quotes to replace the furnace. Mayor Thomas suggested authorizing the purchase of a furnace if one becomes available and then having someone installed it. He also spoke to the difficulty of being able to find one right now.

Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Thomas Burton, to authorize the purchase of a furnace if one is found.

UPGRADES TO THE BOROUGH GARAGE

Mr. Karinch reviewed the ideas that the council has to improve to garage to make it more meeting friendly, which include audio and visual additions and acoustic improvements.

Joe Nichols, 75 Norway Lane, asked what the purpose of the upgrades would be? Mr. Karinch said that it would be to improve the meeting experience.

Mark Dutchess, 304 Spring Street, felt that getting the meetings on Zoom was the top priority.

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPT 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Mr. Karinch stated the budget will be available to review online. The main increases in the budget are wages and healthcare. Bruce Conrad made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to adopt the 2022 preliminary budget. Motion passed.

AUTHORIZE \$250,000 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Mr. Karinch stated that down the road money will be needed, whether it is for the Tice Lane bridge or a fire company consolidation. Mr. Burton asked if half could be transferred to capital reserve and the other half be put towards the EIT loan. The consensus was that it would be best to put it in the capital reserve fund now and continue to evaluate the loan. Ron Ricard made the

motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to authorize the transfer of \$250,000 from the general fund to the capital reserve fund. Motion passed.

ADOPT ORDINANCE 2021-3 (SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES)

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to adopt ordinance 2021-3 which governs the use of small wireless facilities. Motion passed.

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCE 2021-4

Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to advertise Ordinance 2021-4 which relates to the vacation of Finch Alley, Laurel Alley and a portion of Oak Street. Motion passed.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SWM ORDINANCE – BASIN LEVEL GAUGES

The Planning and Zoning Commission discussed the idea of requiring level gauges on stormwater basins moving forward. This would provide a visual reference to see if the basins are draining properly. Mr. Ricard related his experience with the basin in Northgate and how a gauge has helped.

Jenn Leibig, 124 Pine Street, asked if it is a retention basin or infiltration basin? Mr. Karinch said it was a retention basin. Ms. Leibig asked if the Lebanon County Conservation District would be inspecting it and was told they would be. Ms. Leibig said that infiltration basins generally do not work in this area due to the type of clay. Ms. Leibig was also surprised that the homeowner would be responsible for the upkeep of the basin. Mr. Karinch stated that since there would not be an HOA, that it would fall to the individual to maintain. Ms. Leibig finished by saying she does hope the Conservation District will sign off on the basin before the end of the project.

Mr. Dellinger said that the recommendation was to amend the stormwater ordinance to add the gauges to the basins. He stated that the borough will need to make other required updates to the ordinance by September and suggested adding this suggestion at that time.

RESOLUTION 2021-2 – SET POLICE PENSION CONTRIBUTION RATE AT 1%

Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to set the contribution rate at 1% in 2022 for the police pension. Motion passed.

HEALTH INSURANCE – INDIVIDUAL EFFECTIVE DATE

Mr. Rhoads explained that this came to light when they were hiring the new police officer as it was not clear in the contract. Currently there is a 90-day waiting period, but it is at the borough's discretion. The three options would be to keep it at 90 days, change it to the start date or decide on a case-by-case basis. After a brief discussion, it was decided to keep it at 90 days.

341/343 PAMELA LANE, WATER ISSUE

Mr. Dellinger explained that the property owner at 343 Pamela has experienced water ponding on his property ever since the new house was built at 341 Pamela. Bob Lynn visited the property and Hanover also looked at the plans. The stormwater from 341 Pamela should not be going onto 343 Pamela. Mr. Dellinger requested permission to reach out to the builder to rectify the issue.

Bruce Conrad made the motion, seconded by Thomas Burton, to have Mr. Dellinger or Solicitor Cleary contact the builder.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY WAY STATION – BOROUGH PROPERTY, REXMONT ROAD

Mr. Rhoads and Tom Smith met with Aimee Schmitt. She would like to create a monarch butterfly way station on the borough's property at Rexmont Road. She is looking for a 100' by 100' space. Mr. Rhoads and Mr. Smith had no issues with her request with the understanding that it is possible that the borough might need to reclaim the land in the future. Ms. Schmitt had no issues with that and requested sufficient notification so she could dig up her plantings if it ever came to that. Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to approve the Monarch Butterfly way station. Motion passed.

STORMWATER EXEMPTION – 1408 DOUGLAS FIR

The resident is proposing to construct a new addition on the property that will add roughly 2600 square feet of impervious. Mr. Dellinger stated that it meets all the requirements and recommended approval. Bruce Conrad made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to approve the stormwater exemption for 1408 Douglas Fir. Motion passed.

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL, THIRD TUESDAY, 9:30-10:30 AM

Mr. Karinch stated that the finance committee had the idea of giving the residents another opportunity to meet with a few council members in an informal setting. The residents were receptive to the idea. This would only include one or two council members and no business would be discussed. Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Thomas Burton, to move forward with Coffee with Council. Motion passed.

CHRISTMAS IN TOYTOWN, DEC. 5, 4-7 P.M.

The neighborhood requested that they be allowed to close Oak Street and Finch Alley for a Christmas celebration on December 5th from 4 to 7 p.m. Jo Roussey, Pine Street, invited the council members to attend. Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to approve the closures for Christmas in Toytown. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Motion passed.

Cody Rhoads
Secretary