

**Regular Meeting September 11, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with TJ Edinger, Jason Eichler, Jim Ferrante, Chuck Kelly Sr., Charlie Kelly Jr., and Bob Shrock present. Absent from the meeting was John Hemphill and Mayor Altman. The Solicitor was also in attendance.

**A motion was made by Ferrante, seconded by Kelly Jr., to approve the minutes from the previous regular meeting. All were in favor, motion carried.**

**A motion was made by Shrock, seconded by Kelly Jr., to approve the bills for August as listed. All were in favor, motion carried.**

***Communications***

An email was received asking if the borough would be able to look into placing a UPS Drop Off Location in Wampum. This was handed over to the business association to look into.

***Tax Collector's Report***

The beginning balance collectable on August 1, 2023, was \$105,410.25, less face collections for the month of \$79,940.25. This leaves an ending balance as of August 31, 2023, of \$25,470.00.

***Mayor's Report – None******Visitors***

Tom Franus – 1048 Main Street

Tom has a continuing complaint about his neighbor across the street from him at 1045 Main Street. He wanted to know why nothing had been done about it yet. He stated that the house looks bad and is making his property value come way down. He also complained about the speeders on the hill. He has had his mailbox knocked over three times and a tree taken out.

Council informed him that the junk across the street from him is an ongoing investigation and that it will take some time to resolve.

Karen Goebel – 425 Beaver Street

Karen said she is no longer going to be working at the park as she cannot keep up with the weeds any longer and it is too much to do on her own. She stated that she asked three separate times to have the weeds sprayed but it was not done.

She also says the ordinances are not being enforced and the town looks bad. The drains need to be cleaned off and weeds are coming up through all the cracks on the road.

**A motion was made by Kelly Jr., seconded by Shrock to have the building code officer do a sweep of the entire town, not to exceed \$1000.00. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, motion carried.**

Gail Blakely – 310 Darlington Road

Gail wanted an update on her property repair from the waterline project. The grass is good, and the two azaleas plus the dirt in the bush to be removed are the last remaining items. These items will be taken care of in the spring and the Solicitor offered to purchase the azaleas for her.

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Visitors continued...

Joel Lahman – 318 Main Street

He was asking questions about the police department and why we don't have enough officers and ordinance enforcement.

***Unfinished Business******Park Quotes***

The borough obtained two written quotes for the drainage upgrades needed at the park near the basketball court by the shelter, and one verbal quote.

The first written quote was from Mahoning Builders for \$13,900.00 and the second quote was from Vance's Landscape Supply for \$12,444.50.

**A motion was made by Shrock, seconded by Kelly Jr. to accept the quote from the lowest bidder, Vance's Landscape in the amount of \$12,444.50 for the park drainage project with the stipulation that no brush be pushed out, the borough will take care of removing it. A roll call vote was taken with Edinger, Eichler, Kelly Sr., Kelly Jr. and Shock voting aye and Ferrante voting nay, motion carried.**

***New Business******Trick-or-Treat Night***

**A motion was made by Edinger, seconded by Kelly Jr. to approve Trick-or-Treat Night in Wampum on October 31, 2023, from 6:00-8:00 PM. All were in favor, except Shrock, motion carried.**

***Statewide Local Share Account Program***

**A motion was made by Kelly Jr., seconded by Shrock to have the Borough's Engineer apply for funding from the Commonwealth Financing Authority's Statewide Local Share Account Program for the lead removal project. All were in favor, motion carried.**

***Junk/Nuisance Ordinance Amendment***

**A motion was made by Ferrante, seconded by Edinger for council to review the amendments recommended by the Solicitor and have any markups to the borough office by September 29, 2023. All were in favor, motion carried.**

***Sewer Ordinance 338 – 2023***

This ordinance pertains to sewer tap-in fees for properties located inside and outside the borough.

**A motion was made by Kelly Jr., seconded by Eichler to approve advertising Ordinance 338. A roll call vote was taken with Edinger, Eichler, Kelly Sr., Kelly Jr. and Shrock voting aye and Ferrante voting nay, motion carried.**

***Sewer Ordinance 231 Amendment***

Ordinance 231 needs to be amended along with ordinance 188, both pertaining to the release of abandoned dwelling units and disconnection from the borough sewer system.

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**A motion was made by Kelly Jr., seconded by Shrock to approve advertising Ordinance 339, pertaining to release of abandoned dwelling units and disconnection from the borough sewer system. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, motion carried.**

***Utility Contracting Final Payment***

**A motion was made by Kelly Jr., seconded by Ferrante to authorize the final payment to Utility Contracting for the Main Street Waterline Replacement Project, in the amount of \$14,621.40. All were in favor, motion carried.**

***Execute NPDES Permit Notice of Intent***

**A motion was made by Kelly Jr., seconded by Shrock to execute the NPDES Permit Notice of Intent for the 2023 Lead Replacement Project. All were in favor, motion carried.**

***Execute the Lawrence Conservation District NPDES Permit Filing Application***

**A motion was made by Kelly Jr., seconded by Eichler to execute the Lawrence Conservation District NPDES Permit Filing Application for the 2023 Lead Replacement Project. All were in favor, motion carried.**

***Authorize E&S Review Fee***

**A motion was made by Shrock, seconded by Ferrante to authorize E&S review fee in the amount of \$3000.00 to the Lawrence Conservation District. All were in favor, motion carried.**

***Authorize Disturbed Acre Fee***

**A motion was made by Edinger, seconded by Kelly Jr. to authorize disturbed acre fee in the amount of \$500.00 to the Commonwealth of PA Clean Water Fund. All were in favor, motion carried.**

***Authorize Filing Fee to Lawrence County Clean Water Fund***

**A motion was made by Ferrante, seconded by Edinger to authorize the filing fee in the amount of \$500.00 to the Lawrence County Clean Water Fund. All were in favor, motion carried.**

***Mechanical Amusement Tax Ordinance***

**This item was taken care of today when the application and payment were received at the borough office.**

***Interim Financing***

**An offer for interim financing in the amount of \$210,000.00 was received from Huntington Bank and FNB.**

**A motion was made by Ferrante, seconded by Kelly Jr. to accept the financing offer from FNB at 5.48% with the first year being interest only payments, in the amount of \$210,000.00. A roll call vote was taken with Edinger, Eichler, Ferrante, Kelly Jr. and Shrock voting aye and Kelly Sr. voting nay. The motion carried 5-1.**

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The authorized signers for the financing will be Charles Kelly Sr., Council President and Sue Dean, Secretary/Treasurer.

***Park***

The borough is still being considered for a park grant and two people would like to come and see the park before October 15<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, the park does need some work, mostly with the weeds.

Jim will contact New Beaver Borough to see if they would be willing to trim along the road inside the park with their boom mower. The other weeds will be taken care of by the borough to get everything in shape.

***Fire Whistle***

Kelly Jr. is working on getting parts for the fire siren to help reduce the decibels, so it is not as loud.

Bob Shrock also talked to the Ellwood City Fire Chief, and he stated that they do not set the fire whistle off at night in Ellwood since all the volunteers have pagers or phones.

***At this time council adjourned for an Executive Session for Personnel.***

***Part-time Employee***

**A motion was made by Kelly Jr., seconded by Edinger to accept applications for a part-time police officer. All were in favor, motion carried.**

Bob Shrock also brought up the possibility of hiring another part-time borough employee since Kelly Jr. works full-time at another job and won't be available for snow plowing through the winter during the daylight hours. This will be needed early in the morning for the school buses. Kelly Jr. stated that he would look into the cost of hiring a plowing service versus another employee before the next meeting.

***Transfer of Funds – None***

***Report of Committees***

***Electric***

Thompson Electric will be starting the upgrade project this week in town.

***Sewer & Water – None***

***Budget – None***

***Buildings – None***

***Police – None***

***Streets – None***

***Park & Recreation – None***

**A motion to adjourn was made by Ferrante, seconded by Eichler. All were in favor, meeting adjourned at 9:15.**

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Sue Dean, Secretary

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