

COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
221/223 Third St., Coaldale, PA 18218
June 21, 2022 7:00pm

Executive Session: 6:30pm-7:00pm Personnel matters were discussed.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Council President Angela Krapf followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Solicitor Robert Yurchak, Mayor Herb Whildin, Council President Angela Krapf, Council Vice President Claire Remington, Councilman Jacob Adamitis, Councilman Wayne Figner, Councilwoman Yvonne Stoffey, and Junior Councilpersons Kaidence Krapf and Hilary Shreffler were present. Councilman Ken Hankey Jr. and Councilman Francis Hutta were absent.

Audience Attendance: 15 members of the public and 1 police officer.

Public Participation:

- Jeff Gangaware, 226 W. Howard Ave., asked if the entire sewer line will be completed on his block and said that 4 wheelers are driving on the street. He expressed his concerns regarding parking issues; cars not moved for street sweeping, parking on the lines, commercial vehicles parked in town and "No Parking" signs on Sixth St.
- Susie Bortnick, 55 W. Ridge St., thanked the Legion and the VFW for the Memorial Day services. She asked council to speak up and talk slower so the audience could better hear them. She asked about the house on the highway again and said that Lansford put a lien on the insurance on a recently burned down house there. Angela explained there was no insurance on the house in Coaldale. She asked if Coaldale received any money from the American Rescue Plan and if so, what was done with it. Angela said yes we did and nothing has been done with it yet. Angela further explained that the uses are limited and demolition is not one of them.
- Ted Bortnick, 55 W. Ridge St., asked about the dumping on Ruddle St. at Susko's property. Claire referred him to Ken Hankey as he had been in touch with DEP and has the details. Angela suggested that he put a call into DEP. He also asked why there is nothing in the paper about the meetings and Angela said we have no say what goes in the paper. He also asked about electronic recycling and he was told it was looked into last year and was expensive. Both the borough had to pay a fee along with the resident paying a fee to recycle electronics. He claimed cleanup info was not in the paper. Claire stated it is advertised by Tamaqua Transfer, as part of the contract with them. Angela addressed the issue with the police. The borough spent \$1500 advertising for 2 days in 3 papers and had 2 applicants; one of which didn't pass the background check. They are calling the police academy for officers also. Dan Weiksner asked about regionalizing with Lansford and Summit Hill and Angela explained it wouldn't work for Coaldale because we are in a different county with different reporting systems.
- Linda Pace, 119 E. Ruddle St., asked about what can be done about an abandoned house on Ridge St. between Second and Third Sts. Angela told her the borough is still in contact with the county looking for demolition grants. She explained the Quality of Life Ordinance again and also confirmed that tree branches hanging over onto your property or weeds coming over into the yard can be cut back.
- Daniel Yelito, representing Louis Yelito owner of 202 E. Philips St., has some questions, concerns and might be able to help the borough as well. He asked what prompted the change in parking on Sixth St. at the complex. Angela told him when the complex is rented for parties, people have to park far away due to people leaving large vehicles parked there. Dan asked if there will be hours posted on the signs and Angela said the reason there is no time on it is we never know for sure when the building is going to be rented for parties. He said the handicapped parking sign partially blocks the stop sign, there are too many "No Parking" signs, and they are too low. Claire will look into it. Dan also suggested doing a community outreach before making changes. There was a discussion about the handicapped ramp going into complex and Claire will also look into that. Dan asked again

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to add hours to the "No Parking" signs. Angela said this was not done without considering things but with the large vehicles being parked there long term, something had to be done. She further explained that the parking spots that were made for complex activities only were hardly ever used. Angela agreed to meet with Louis Yelito to further discuss.

- Cheryl Horos and Dave, 121 First St., complained again about the neighbors across the street playing loud music, riding 4 wheelers, leaving garbage around and partying. The house is a rental and Suzanne will get the owner's phone number for Angela and she will reach out to owner. If that doesn't work, Attorney Yurchak will send a letter.
- Micah Gursky, Director of Development at St. Luke's Miners, handed out information on the MRI and Nuclear Medicine expansion. Council was invited to tour the expansion area on June 28, 2022. He also wanted to address things that were talked about at the May 10th meeting and respond to some items that were discussed; he provided examples of how the hospital contributes through employee EIT and LST taxes, supports Coaldale residents by providing hospital services and they support community events.

Approval of previous minutes: Motion made by Claire Remington to approve the previous minutes. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and the motion carried **unanimously**.

Treasurer's Report/Approval of Bills:

- **Motion** made by Claire Remington to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.
- **Motion** made by Claire Remington to pay the bills. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.

Police Report: Read by Yvonne Stoffey

- **Motion** made by Jake Adamitis to accept the police report. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.

Mayors Report: None

Presidents Report: Given by Angela Krapf, President

- Wanted to remind residents of the fireworks ordinance in Coaldale. Angela and Yvonne both rode with the police over the years and there were fireworks going off all over town.
- Effective July 1, Suzanne Whildin will move into the assistant secretary position and Casey Johnstone will move into the borough secretary position.
- Angela asked for suggestions regarding the office hours at last month's meeting and she hadn't heard from anyone. She discussed it with Suzanne, Casey, and Lacey and came up with Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8am-4pm based upon their input of when the office is busy. The office will also be open when the tax collector is here. During the discussion, Claire and Yvonne expressed their concerns. The hours can be revisited if necessary. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to change the office hours as stated above. Seconded by Wayne Figner and upon voice vote there was one no. Roll call vote. Angela Krapf-yes; Claire Remington-yes; Jake Adamitis-yes; Yvonne Stoffey- no; Wayne Figner-yes. **Yesses have it, motion carries.**
- The marijuana policy addition to the handbook was included for everyone's review. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to accept the addition to the handbook. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.
- \$400.63 collected in May from PLA for delinquent sanitation and \$117.35 interest.
- \$229.60 collected in May from PLA delinquent sewer transmission and \$5.26 interest.
- \$4,574.70 collected in May from PLA for delinquent real estate taxes and \$182.99.
- Kyle Kenter from Computer Pals provided a quote in the amount of \$500.00 to fix the website and the quote was received today. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to add a motion for the website quote. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.
- **Motion** made by Claire Remington to approve the website quote from Computer Pals in the amount of \$500 to fix the website. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.

Secretary's Report: Given by Suzanne Whildin

- John Davis prepared the ad for the 2022/2023 Materials Bid and it needs to be advertised. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to approve the advertisement. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.

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- Received 2 proposals from Kistler O'Brien, who maintains the fire extinguishers. One is for the regular testing at a cost of \$262.00 and one for compliance testing at a cost of \$933.00. **Motion** made by Yvonne Stoffey to approve the proposals. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.

Solicitor Report:

- Escalator Resolution that goes with the 2022-2023 Materials Bids needs to be adopted. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to approve the resolution. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.
- Portnoff provided a new fee schedule along with the ordinance for it that needs to be advertised. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to advertise the ordinance. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.
- Ruddle St. through the hospital parking lot was determined to be a paper street and we do not get liquid fuels money for it. Attorney Yurchak said the most efficient way to give it to St. Luke's would be through a quick claim deed. There would still be public access to travel through. The only fees would be the recording fees and Micah Gursky verbally agreed to St. Luke's paying those fees. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to turn that part of Ruddle St. over to St. Luke's with a quick claim deed. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.

Fire Report: Read by Jacob Adamitis, Chairperson

Code Enforcement/Zoning Report: None

Jr. Council Report: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings/Complex:

- The water in the girl's restroom is heated by the oil burner and Angela wanted to discuss purchasing a small electric water heater for it and shut the oil burner down for the summer. Different options were discussed, and council will get prices. **Motion** made by Wayne Figner to purchase a water heater not to exceed a cost of \$1,200. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.

Demolition/Grants: None

Finance/Utilities: None

Handicap: None

Police: None

Police Pension: None

Recreation/Memorial: Given by Yvonne Stoffey

- Yvonne thanked the fire company for their help at the Memorial Day Services. Several JROTC members passed out and they jumped right in to help
- National Night Out is August 2 and Crime Watch is asking permission to use the complex field behind the fire company or the complex building if it rains and some table and chairs. The time would be from 6pm-8pm. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to approve the request. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.

Streets: Given by Claire Remington, Chairperson

- Street repairs are tentatively set to start the second week of July. The streets will be posted and the week prior they will be prepped for the repairs. Four intersections and five inlets are also included. The inlets will be paid out of the sewer maintenance fund.
- There was a mower purchased last year from JC Small Engine that hasn't been used. JC will take the mower back and give full credit of \$2,250.00 towards the purchase of a new mower. JC provided an estimate for an Exmark Radius E-Series 48" in the amount of \$6,499.99. The total for the new mower after applying the credit is \$4,249.99. Also discussed was a mower with a 60" cut, but the cost for that is around \$12,000. **Motion** made by Wayne Figner to purchase the Exmark Radius E-Series 48" contingent upon Lacey's approval for the funds. Seconded by Claire Remington and motion carried **unanimously**.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Angela thanked Suzanne and presented her with a gift basket as this was her last meeting as the secretary.

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Adjournment: Motion made by Jake Adamitis at 8:41pm, seconded by Yvonne Stoffey and motion carried **unanimously**.

SUBMITTED BY: Suzanne Whildin

Suzanne Whildin, Borough Secretary
Submitted for approval on July 12, 2022

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