

COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

221/223 Third St., Coaldale, PA 18218

May 14, 2024 7:00pm

Executive Session: 6:30pm

Call to Order 7:02pm

Meeting: was called to order by Council President Claire Remington followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Solicitor Robert Yurchak, Council President Claire Remington, Vice President Yvonne Stoffey, Angela Krapf, Kim Gavornik, Wayne Figner, Treasurer Catherine Papesh, Mayor Eric Ramirez
Absent Jacob Adamitis, Francis Hutta

Audience Attendance: 9 members of the public were in attendance.

Public Participation:

Michelle Solem 136 6th Street; Would like to address the issue of a complaint received for feeding cats. Would like to let everyone know why we are feeding the cat. Currently working with Birdsboro animal hospital. We feed the cats to socialize them and aid in the capture of the cats so they can be spayed and neutered and chipped. We can show the proper paperwork stating the work that we are doing.

Bob Parrin 235 1st Street; Would like to address a letter received from Attorney Yurchak, stating that we would like his property turned over to the borough for condemning the victory band hall,
Response: Attorney Yurchak stated that he had sent the letter in error, He was supposed to ask for the trophies back, he was sending multiple letters out and he apologized for any misunderstanding and any hurt the suffered. Claire Remington reiterated that the coaldale borough would like the trophies returned to the borough Hall.

Robert Demyanovich 225 W Phillips Street; "I do not want to be redundant, but I heard there was a letter being sent to the school board about the bleachers" There is a school board meeting tomorrow night if anyone would like to go. "Maybe council should be redundant every month on what they would like to know about chose."

LVCC is looking to take over the lease at the Coaldale Complex for the Pre-K Counts program through Panther Valley Elementary school, looking to extend the lease agreement to 12 months instead of the original 10 months for summer programs. LVCC is currently looking for a lease of 4 years with a rental rate increase of about 1% per year.

Motion made by Kim Gavornik Second by Wayne Figner to approve the LVCC contract with the adjustment of only a 2-year contract. **Motion carried.**

Approval of previous minutes: Motion made by Kim Gavornik second by Yvonne Stoffey **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report/Approval of Bills: (Cathy Papesh)

- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik second by Wayne Figner to approve the treasurers report **Motion carried.**
- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik second by Wayne Figner to approve the bills to be paid. **Motion carried.**
- Questionable bills received from Carbon Engineering for a flow study. 2 bills outstanding waiting on confirmation and breakdown on the bills prior to paying the bill.
- Received notification from the auditor that we were penalized for a late filling in 2022 for the PMRS 1123 Act 205, with the previous treasurer. The amount that we were penalized was \$8,981.00. Everything moving forward is up to compliance.

Mayor's Report: (Eric Ramirez)

- None

President's Report: (Claire Remington)

- Carbon Engineering meeting to discuss the \$5-million-dollar grant that was applied for amongst 4 entities Coaldale Summit Hill Lansford and the Water Authority, the only entity that can receive the grant is the Water Authority. Coaldale will have to apply for our own grant to reline the sewer lines. Flow study was completed this shows us which lines should be prioritized. The Water Authority has agreed to camera the lines and they will be responsible for this bill.
- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik second by Wayne Figner to rescind last month's motion to approve 2 separate payments of \$1,000 be made to Carbone Engineering 2025 FY application. As we are not able to participate in grant. **Motion Carried.**
- **Motion** made by Yvonne Stoffey second by Kim Gavornik to appoint System Design Engineering as our Building and Zoning Officer. **Motion carried.**
- Addressing the issue of building and zoning permits, everyone in town is required to get building and zoning permits and no one is exempt. If you are not sure what requires a building or zoning permit you need to contact the Borough office and we will advise. This information will be provided on the website shortly.

Secretary's Report: (Beth Martinico)

- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik second by Wayne Figner to send the secretary to PSAB secretary / administrative class held on May 29th and 30th, cost of \$150. **Motion carried.**
- System Design Engineering has sent a copy of the updated 2021 Property Maintenance Code. They are asking for council to review the changes that were made to it and code will be available to pass at next month's meeting.
- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik second by Wayne Figner to accept the new permit applications provided by System Design Engineering. This will update the following permit applications, Building, Zoning, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing applications. **Motion carried.**
- A letter will be going out the Panther Valley School District, asking for a meeting regarding bus stops within the Borough.
- Bicentennial event coming up in 2027, asking if the public has any ideas that they would like to see for the event to contact the office we will be starting to plan the event in the coming months.
- PPL will be working on 4 poles with in the Borough over the course of the next 16 weeks, pole numbers and address provided; 50850S54773 on W Ruddle St., 50861S54725 on W Phillips St., 50975S54816 on 4th St., and 51010S54691 on W Lehigh St.

Police Report: Given by Yvonne Stoffey.

District Justice Fines \$212.80 Parking Tickets \$225.00 Moving Permits \$125.00 Accident / Reports \$40.00 Total Revenue \$602.80. Total Miles patrolled 2,825 Miles, calls for service 104, Traffic enforcement 4 parking tickets, 1 non traffic citation, 12 Traffic citations, Arrest activity 5 criminal arrests involving misdemeanors and /or non-felony charges.

- 4/27/2024 Some of Borough Council and the police department held a ride – along and a pizza party for Ben Heffelfinger. BHA in Mahoning where ben attends school saw the article in the Times News and asked if our department would be willing to do something at the school. After reviewing, we are going to attempt to put something on for the kids next school year due to school almost concluding for this school year.
- Tamaqua agreed to let Coaldale Police borrow one of the police vehicles with the license plate reader attached for expired registration, this will be done in the month of May.
- **Motion** made by Yvonne Stoffey second by Kim Gavornik to send on of the Police radios back to Motorola to be fixed. This is a fixed rate of \$800.00. Radio is currently turning off and this becomes a serious incident if a officer is on a call and the radio turns off. Currently no one is using this radio. **Motion carried.**

Solicitor Report: (Attorney Robert Yurchak)

- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik second by Wayne Figner to advertise the updated Police Pension Ordinance, this ordinance was redone due to a finding in our audit, this was originally done in 2016 passed as a resolution. **Motion carried.**
- **Motion** made by Wayne Figner second by Kim Gavornik to approve the code fee resolution, this resolution will allow System Design to add their fees to citations. **Motion carried.**
- Blighted property update – current property list 261 E High St, 38 W. Water St., 224 W. Phillips St., 226 W. Phillips St., 138/140 Sixth St. Currently we have 3 deeds that have been

turned over to Coaldale Borough for demolition. Having difficulties in getting ahold of some of the property owners. Will have an update at the next meeting.

Fire Report (Jacob Adamitis)

- 1 Dwelling Fire, 1 Vehicle fire, 1 Rubbish fire, 2 Mutual aid calls, 3 Automatic Aid calls, 1 Public service, 9 QRS, 2 Wires down, 1 Tree down, 1 Fire Police Request/ Assist, 1 CO detector, 1 Odor Investigation, 1 Landing Zone.

Code Enforcement/Zoning Report: (Luis Negron)

- None

Jr. Council Report:(Yvonne Stoffey)

- None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration:(Kim Gavornik)

- **Motion** Made by Kim Gavornik second by Wayne Figner to add a motion. **Motion carried.**
- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik second by Wayne Figner to appoint Beth Martinico the Borough Secretary. **ROLL CALL VOTE** Wayne Figner YES, Kim Gavornik YES, Yvonne Stoffey YES, Angela Krapf NO, Claire Remington YES. **Motion Carried.**

Building/Complex: (Francis Hutta)

- Claire Remington looking into a Dehumidifier for the basement of the complex, pricing is around \$700. Tabeling any action on this until next month, for price shopping.
- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik second by Wayne Figner to accept the lease agreement with the IU on a year to year lease. **Motion Carried.**

Demolition/Grants: (Wayne Figner)

- Update on demolition of 6 properties in town 261 E High St, 38 W. Water St., 224 W. Philips St., 226 W. Phillips St., 138/140 Sixth St. waiting on owners to sign over the deeds to the properties, currently have 3 deeds. Update at next meeting.

Financing/Utilities: (Kim Gavornik)

- **Motion** made by Yvonne Stoffey second by Kim Gavornik to increase the sanitation bills from \$77.00 to \$114.00 doing away with the savings of a \$1.50 within the first 30 days. This will allow customers 60 days to pay their bill. A penalty of 10% 11.40 after 60 days. Bills in July will reflect new fee scale. **Motion carried.**
- McGriff Insurance renewal for full time employees will be in effect on August 1, 2024, with a 10% increase.
- Diversified payments will be accepted online on our website, starting June 1, 2024. There is a fee to use the online service. This is charged directly to the customer from diversified bill matrix this is a 3% fee.

Handicap (Wayne Figner)

Memorial: (Angela Krapf)

- Requesting for borough workers to power wash the benches, Angela will be repainting the stars on the sidewalks. Looking for new concrete ends for the benches in seek.

Police: (Yvonne Stoffey)

- **Motion** by Yvonne Stoffey second by Wayne Figner to advertise for a part time police officer. **Motion Carried.**
- **Motion** by Yvonne Stoffey second by Wayne Figner for a \$2 hour raise for Interim Chief Krebs. **Motion carried.**

Police Pension:

Recreation: (Yvonne Stoffey)

- Community Yard Sale May 18th & 19th , St Mary's – Chinese Auction May 19th, Russan Club – Karaoke May 24th, Bulk Garbage Night May 24th
- Crime Watch has provided their financial report for the council to review.

Streets:(Francis Hutta)

- Received Liquid Fuels money, Mr. Davis has the list projected road work for the 2024 year.
- looking into getting a pole building for another garage. Currently we are storing some of our property in other towns because we do not have space for it. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

Old Business:

New Business:

- **Motion** by Kim Gavornik second Wayne Figner to add a motion to the agenda.
- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik second by Wayne Figner to amend the rental property Ordinance 2009-4 to include that property owners must have insurance on their property if they are renting.
- **Motion** made by Wayne Figner Second by Kim Gavornik to add a motion to the agenda.
- **Motion** made by Wayne Figner to advertise for part time summer Borough Workers, must be 18 or older \$15 per hour.

Claire Remington adjourned the meeting at 8:08pm