

**COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**221/223 THIRD ST., COALDALE, PA 18218**  
**MAY 9, 2023 7:00 PM**

**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, Council President Angela Krapf, Council Vice President Claire Remington, Councilman Jacob Adamitis, Councilwoman Yvonne Stoffey, Councilman Ken Hankey Jr., Councilman Francis Hutta, and Councilman Wayne Figner and Councilperson Cadence Krapf were present. Mayor Herb Whildin was absent.

**Attendance:** There were 10 members of the public and 1 reporter in attendance.

**Public Participation:**

- Dan Weiksner, 1 W. High St. addressed several issues.
  - He asked if Coaldale requires rental insurance.
  - He inquired about a portion of the Rental Fees from the budget being used for demolition of blighted homes. Claire Remington acknowledged this as a good idea and stated that this would need to be discussed during the meetings for the next budget.
  - He stated that the \$43,800.00 in expenditure for the Complex exceeded the \$15,000.00 income from rent, expressed concern about the \$28,800.00 taken from the general fund, and asked if assistance might be available from the State. Angela Krapf stated funds to pay for the oil tank emergency were used from the general fund. She also stated that the rent would increase. Frank Hutta stated \$60,000.00/year from the Complex had been going into the general fund for 20 years. Angela Krapf added that Complex monies had been going to Committee before that. Frank Hutta restated that a lot of money from the Complex was used for the borough when it should have been used for the building. Angela Krapf explained that without the additional information it looks bad, and when the building was empty it cost almost \$3,000.00/month for heat, but now the income is increasing. Angela Krapf stated that the Complex monies are building up. Claire Remington stated that if it doesn't work out, the building could be sold.
- Bob Demyanovich, 225 W. Phillips St., addressed several issues.
  - He expressed concern about the Complex Budget being \$28,000.00 but \$140,539.00 from the general fund was spent on the Complex roof. He also stated that the money could have been used for improvements around town. Claire Remington stated that grant money had also been used toward the cost of the roof. Angela Krapf reminded him that since we own the Complex, we are responsible for avoiding blight of the building. Bob Demyanovich also inquired about the bids. Claire Remington stated that COSTARS gave us the best price and guaranteed the work. Frank Hutta discussed Versaco, and the job being done to spec. Claire Remington spoke of the possibility that all of Kindergarten might be moved to the Complex, the potential for other rentals, and recreation. She recalled the agreement to use the facility for recreation and the need to repair the building to realize its potential.
  - He addressed blight and stated that Ron Zimmerman said there is 0% available but there is a process to follow. He also said that there is 25% grant money available. Claire Remington said that getting the grant money depends on our tax revenue. Angela Krapf asked if the grant money is still available.
  - He asked about property being condemned rather than allowing it to be resold before being brought up to code. Claire Remington said that Rental Permits and Inspection Fees might be a way to proceed, but that another person would need to be hired to handle the process.
- Terry Wargo, 111 Bull Run St., expressed concern about the number of dogs owned by his neighbor and the nuisance it causes and inquired about an Animal Control Ordinance.

- Claire Remington stated that the State Animal Control is concerned about Coaldale's enforcement, stated there was an ordinance in the past and recommends a new ordinance. Wayne Figner stated that 5 acres is too extreme and there are codes for kennel requirements. Solicitor Yurchak referred to enforcement and stated that he could draft the Ordinance. Angela Krapf asked about the process for removing the animals. Terry Wargo said that the kennel license was lost but the State could not do anything because the dogs were not physically seen. Claire Remington suggested a revision to the ordinance. Wayne Figner asked about the number of animals. Solicitor Yurchak suggested that an administrative search warrant could be served by Carl Faust along with the Dog Warden and backup from the police, and that a motion to draft an ordinance be made.
- Casey Johnstone, 126 W. High St., addressed concern about burning in the borough and inquired about a Burn Ordinance.
  - She expressed concern about the need for a burn ordinance because of the potential fire hazard and fumes from burning items other than wood near her property. She supports fire pits but not unattended burn barrels or bon fires. Claire Remington stated that it was on the agenda. Wayne Figner and Jake Adamitis discussed the distance from the property line.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion made by Frank Hutta. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report / Approval of Bills:**

- Motion made by Frank Hutta to accept Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried unanimously.
- Motion made by Frank Hutta to pay the bills when money is available. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried unanimously.

**Police Report:** Read by Yvonne Stoffey.

- April 2023: Total money collected was \$412.39; Total miles patrolled were 1,441; and Total number of calls for service was 63.
- Motion made by Frank Hutta to accept Police Report. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried unanimously.

**Mayor's Report:** None.

**President's Report:** Given by Angela Krapf, President

- \$545.98 collected in April from PLA for delinquent sanitation.
- \$540.00 collected in April from PLA for delinquent sewer transmission.
- \$1,146.97 collected in April from PLA for delinquent real estate taxes.
- The Klines Hill Grant to include a new base and the paving of the street, along with a walking path was approved by Penn DOT three years ago. However, since the project was delayed costs have increased. As a result, the money will not accommodate the walking path. Coaldale paid their portion of the costs and was not the cause of the delay. As such, action will be taken to pursue the original agreement.

**Secretary's Report:** Given by Jill Figner.

- The ARPA Grant: There was an issue adding myself to the account which resulted in calls for assistance but was ultimately completed on time.
- Diversified Technologies is working on adding the Sewer Transmission billing, but the Sanitation billing is not complete and the QR code still needs to be added for online payments.
- Computer Pals:
  - Server: Our current server malfunctioned on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and was not replaced with a temporary server until May 9<sup>th</sup>. Even though it functioned for us for 5 years, it was used when we purchased it so repairing it would not be inadvisable. A proposal for a new server would cost \$3,858.40.

- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to purchase a new server. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.
- Laptops: There is an outstanding invoice of \$445.20 for the laptops in the police cruisers.
  - **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to pay the invoice. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.
- Software: The current software we are using is a trial version. Two computers are operating independently, causing extra work for the secretary, so a decision needs to be made about upgrading the software and completing the project. There are several price options for \$64.75 monthly or \$1,250.00 for a lifetime purchase. Another option is Microsoft Enterprise for \$49.99 monthly for 10 devices in one organization.
- Overhaul: Another issue includes fixing the way the computers are operating in the office for a one-time fee. However, Kyle Kentner wants to discuss what we want to do because the issue includes the phone system.
- Website: Computer Pals is currently hosting our website on their cloud server for free. He has thoughts about protecting our website. He can manage it, but he does not want to design it.
- Backups: Computer Pals is doing our backups, but we don't have something in place for this.
- Maintenance: The agreement will need to be updated based on the borough's choices.
  - **Motion** made by Claire Remington for Council President to make an agreement with Computer Pals that would best benefit the borough, not to exceed \$2,000.00. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried **unanimously**.

**Solicitor's Report:** Given by Attorney Robert Yurchak.

- The Portnoff Ordinance needs to be accepted.
  - **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to accept the ordinance. Seconded by Wane Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.

**Fire Report:** Given by Jake Adamitis, Chairperson.

- Fire Chief reports 11 calls for April 2023 and 46 calls YTD.

**Code Enforcement/Zoning Report:** None

**Jr. Council Report:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Building/Complex:** None.

**Demolition/Grants:** None

**Finance/Utilities:** None

**Handicap:** None.

**Police:** None

**Police Pension:** None

**Recreation/Memorial:**

- Coaldale Crime Watch would like to host a National Night Out on August 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 PM with an hour before and after for set-up and clean-up and would like permission to use the Complex field.
  - **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to give permission to use the field. Seconded by Jake Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.

**Streets:** Given by Claire Remington.

- There is a sewer problem on Ruddle St. between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. There is at least one cracked pipe but we are waiting for some special equipment to come in. Tamaqua helped and it was determined that there were two additional breaks. Repairs are expected to occur after Memorial Day.
- There is a request to purchase a bagger for the mower.
  - **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to purchase a commercial bagger not to exceed \$5,000.00. Seconded by Wane Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.

- The banners will be hung before Memorial Day.
- The street sweeper blew the motor. It will be posted on Facebook that if people sweep the debris into piles, the borough workers will remove it. The post will say the borough garage should be called.
- The bus stops will remain with an increased crack down on kids in the street and on the resident's property at 5<sup>th</sup> and Phillips Streets.

**Old Business:**

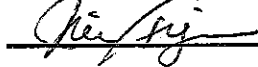
- The Burn Ordinance needs to be advertised.
  - **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to advertise the Burn Ordinance. Seconded by Jake Adamitis. There were questions as to whether the ordinances were on the website and if the website was up to date. The motion carried **unanimously**.
- The Animal Control Ordinance needs to be drafted.
  - **Motion** made by Claire Remington to draft the Animal Control Ordinance. Seconded by Frank Hutta. There were questions as to whether the ordinance would include more than just dogs and if the ordinance on the website would be overridden. The motion carried **unanimously**.

**New Business:**

- Add a Motion about Congregational Church request.
  - **Motion** was made by Frank Hutta to add a motion. Seconded by Claire Remington and motion carried **unanimously**.
- The Congregational Church would like to build a free book kiosk and a box for those in need. Zoning Officer Carl Faust confirmed that they needed Building and Zoning Permits.
  - **Motion** was made by Claire Remington to waive fees in this instance. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried **unanimously**.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by Frank Hutta at 8:31 PM. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
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Jill Figner, Borough Secretary  
Submitted for Approval on July 11, 2023