

**COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
221/223 THIRD ST., COALDALE, PA 18218
SEPTEMBER 12th, 2023, 7:00 PM**

Executive Session: 6:30pm – 7:00pm [INSERT MATTERS DISCUSSED]

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Council President Angela Krapf followed by a moment of silence for Nancy Lorchak and 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 Francis Hutta, Councilman Wayne Figner, Junior Councilwoman Cadence Krapf, Mayor Eric Ramirez, and Treasurer Lacey Gonzalez were present. Councilman Ken Hankey Jr. was absent.

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

Public Participation:

- Jill Figner, Coaldale, PA:
 - Jill Figner stated:
I'm concerned about the public being served as well as they need to be.

I'm concerned about the fact that I have seen things as the secretary that do not get handled in a timely manner.

I do not think that the borough council has a vision for where they want to take Coaldale, a mission for how they want to accomplish that and enough transparency about what is actually happening. So it is my thought that the Council needs to take into consideration the need for being more aware of everything that happens in that office and also everything that needs to be done to serve the public. They need to be informed, they need to be informed accurately and they need to be informed in a timely manner. And also that given the fact that there were approximately 6 changes in the office over the past, I don't know, a year and a half, two years, I don't have the exact date. Things are not up to par and they need to be addressed. And I think that should be a priority because that is where the public is served in the office. So, perhaps there should be more of an emphasis on remembering that the Council is responsible for the stewardship of the funds to serve the people of this town and I don't think that is happening to the best of ability.

After Public Participation concluded Frank Hutta made a motion to add a motion to reorganize Council. Seconded by Wayner Figner. **Roll Call Vote:** Angela Krapf- no, Claire Remington - yes, Jacob Adamitis - no, Yvonne Stoffey - yes, Francis Hutta - yes, Wayne Figner - yes, and Councilman Ken Hankey Jr – absent.

Frank Hutta then made a motion to reorganize Council. Seconded by Wayner Figner. **Roll Call Vote:** Angela Krapf- no, Claire Remington - yes, Jacob Adamitis - no, Yvonne Stoffey - yes, Francis Hutta - yes, Wayne Figner - yes, and Councilman Ken Hankey Jr – absent.

Frank Hutta then made a nomination to make Claire Remington President of Council. Seconded by Wayner Figner. **Roll Call Vote:** Angela Krapf- no, Claire Remington - yes, Jacob Adamitis - no, Yvonne Stoffey - yes, Francis Hutta - yes, Wayne Figner - yes, and Councilman Ken Hankey Jr – absent.

Frank Hutta then made a nomination to make Yvonne Stoffey Vice President of Council. Seconded by Wayner Figner. **Roll Call Vote:** Angela Krapf- no, Claire Remington - yes, Jacob Adamitis - no, Yvonne Stoffey - yes, Francis Hutta - yes, Wayne Figner - yes, and Councilman Ken Hankey Jr – absent.

Approval of Previous Minutes: No prior meeting minutes are available.

Treasurer's Report / Approval of Bills:

- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to table the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.
- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to pay the bills. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.

Police Report: Read by Yvonne Stoffey.

- August 2023: Total money collected was \$1,629.39; Total miles patrolled were 4,054; and Total number of calls for service was 104. Office Joseph Krebs has completed his six-month probation period. Request for Micheal Sniscak to be hired part-time officer.
 - **Motion** made by Jacon Adamitis to accept Police Report. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried **unanimously**.
 - **Motion** made by Angela Krapf to forgo the remainder of Joseph Krebs probationary period. Seconded by Jacob Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.
 - **Motion** made by Jacob Adamitis to hire Micheal Sniscak as part-time officer as needed for Coaldale Police Department. Seconded by Angela Krapf and motion carried **unanimously**.

Mayor's Report: Given by Eric Ramirez, Mayor

- The Mayor thanked the Coaldale Police for stepping up to make sure the children of Coaldale Borough remain safe at the bus stops in lieu of Crossing Guards. **Recommendation:** Council sends a resolution to Panther Valley School Board to hire a Crossing Guard at Third and Phillips with the potential for a greater overall need. The Solicitor made research recommendations on the Crossing Guard matter.
- The Mayor stated that it has come to his attention that approximately \$50,000 worth of entry gear was purchased and remains unused at this time. **Requested:** Documentation of the unused items. **Recommendation:** Selling items to recoup money to help purchase Body Cameras for the Police.
- The Mayor is looking into applying for a grant to purchase Body Cameras for Police. Council discussed pros and cons of the purchase of Body Cameras.
- **Recommend:** Luis Negrón to be hired. At this point, the Council has not received a final cost from Luis Negrón and/or his company.
- Questioned why the complex is not open to the public during the week. Council explained that there is a rental fee to cover the cost of the building being open; however, it is available.
- Questioned DCED peer program and when it will begin. Council explained they have approved the peer program and are waiting to hear back for DCED at this point.
- Question from the audience regarding blighted properties. The mayor indicated he would review the information.

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

- **Motion** made by Angela Krapf for Lacey Gonzalez to receive an hourly pay rate equal to that for which she is currently receiving as treasurer for the extra secretary work she is currently doing in the office. Seconded by Jacob Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.
- **Motion** made by Angela Krapf to advertise for the secretary position. Seconded by Frank Hutta. **Roll Call Vote:** Angela Krapf- yes, Claire Remington - no, Jacob Adamitis - yes, Yvonne Stoffey - yes, Francis Hutta - yes, Wayne Figner - yes, and Councilman Ken Hankey Jr – absent.
- Fall Cleanup Day - September 30th, 2023.
- Fall Community Yard Sale – first weekend in October.

- Computer Pals will be sending over a proposal based on what we have already agreed to.

President's Report: Given by Claire Remmington, President (**NONE**)

Secretary's Report: (**NONE**)

Solicitor's Report: Given by Attorney Robert Yurchak.

- Recommended updating the ordinance book. Stated he will get some quotes for us. Potentially be able to receive a grant.

Fire Report: Given by Jake Adamitis, Chairperson.

- Fire Chief reports 24 calls for August 2023 and 109 calls YTD.
- As of September 11th, 2023 Coaldale Fire Department and Tamaqua Ambulance have partnered to launch a quick response service based on the call type.
 - Wayne Figner asked if there was a way to separate in-town and out-of-town calls. Jake responded that there were 23 in Coaldale and 1 was out of Borough.

Code Enforcement/Zoning Report: None

Jr. Council Report: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building/Complex: Given by Claire Remmington

- Exterior drop box was researched. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to purchase an exterior drop box not to exceed \$2000 including installation. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.

Demolition/Grants: None

Finance/Utilities: None

Handicap: None.

Police: None

Police Pension: None

Recreation/Memorial: Given by Angela Krapf

- Rock the Block went well given the rain. Everyone was still supportive.

Streets: Given by Claire Remington.

- Milling will be starting in town.
- Special Purpose Parking Zones was introduced and will be discussed further next meeting.
- Tamaqua often sends over vacuum truck and have asked us to borrow our crack sealer. They sent over insurance documentation and would be 100% responsible for the equipment while in their possession. They need it for about a week. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to allow Tamaqua Borough to use the crack sealer under the condition that they are 100% responsible for it while in Tamaqua Borough's possession, they would operate it, they would return it when they are done, and they would insure it while it is in their possession. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.
- Peter J. Radocha & Sons winter price schedule was included in the packet.
- Schuylkill Paving proposal was included in the packet. They are already working, Claire stated we use them every year, but the proposal came too late to be included in last month's meeting. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to approve Schuylkill Paving for milling of Streets. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.
- Angela Krapf restated that she thinks for safety purposes we should have a sidewalk on Klimes Hill. Frank Hutta reiterated that the sidewalks will also require the Borough workers to maintain the sidewalks.

- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to re-advertise for a Full-Time Public Works employee. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**. Interviews will be done before the next meeting with the intention of hiring at the next meeting.
- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to purchase a new tailgate and lightbar for the 2016 F-550 for \$3090 from SMF. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.

Old Business:

- Course Vector will be addressed at the next meeting.
- **Motion** made by Angela Krapf to accept the resignation of Jill Figner. Motion was not seconded. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to reinstate Jill Figner as Secretary. Seconded by [INSERT NAME] and motion carried **unanimously**. Treasurer Lacey Gonzalez, after careful consideration of the cost to the borough, recommended approval to be trained on diversified software at a cost of \$600 to the borough so that if the borough was without a secretary again or if the secretary needed help, she would be able to keep the diversified system current and continue to do the treasurer job without interruption. Jill Figner, Secretary, stated the reason for the delay was due to a programming glitch that lasted over a month. Lacey Gonzalez reiterated that she simply wants to know what the program does and how to do it in the happen chance the borough would be without a secretary again during her own time at the borough. Jill Figner stated she had her own reservations about how the borough was operating without manuals and at that point Claire Remmington interrupted the conversation. Jill Figner continued to discuss her own need for support, but no motion was made on training Lacey Gonzalez on the Diversified Program. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to rescind the motion to advertise for the secretary position. Seconded by Wayne Figner. Angela Krapf requested clarity on the resignation / quitting process of the borough. No vote was taken on this motion.
- Member of the audience interjected regarding the chicken ordinance.

Adjournment: Motion made by Frank Hutta at 8:25 PM. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lacey Gonzalez, Treasurer submitted to Jill Figner, Secretary on October 2nd, 2023