

LEETSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL met in Regular Session at 7:12 PM on Thursday, October 12, 2023 in Council Chambers.

Council President Napolitano called the meeting to order and announced the meeting was being recorded.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Nanni announced the passing of Bob Patina who was a past councilman and held a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Patina

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council President M. Napolitano; Councilors A. Awad, B. Carroll, W. James, R. Nanni and J. Weatherby

EXCUSED: Councilor P. Lee

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor S. Ford; D. Conlon, Esq., Tucker Arensberg Attorneys; D. Slagle, P.E., Nichols & Sagle Engineering, Inc.; Seargent M. Slawianowski

Mayor S. Ford swore in Junior Council Members; Ryan James and Reagan Fowler

REPORTS RECEIVED

MINUTES: September Regular and October Workshop Sessions

TREASURER'S: August

TAX COLLECTOR'S: September

LIST OF BILLS

MOTION BY Mr. Awad to approve the September Regular Session and the October Workshop Session Minutes, second by Mr. Nanni

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to approve the August Treasurer's Report, second by Mr. Awad

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to approve the September Tax Collector's Report and the List of Bills, second by Mr. Awad

MOTION CARRIES

AUDIENCE ADDRESSING AGENDA ITEMS

No Comments from the audience

SOLICITOR

D. Conlon, Esq.

- Announced that Council held Executive Sessions on October 3, 2023 and tonight prior to the Regular Session Meeting for Litigation and Attorney Client Privilege
- A Public Hearing was held this evening, Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM for the 2023 Housing Demolitions located at 175 Beaver Street and 300 Beaver Street and the SALDO update

MOTION BY Mr. Nanni to adopt the Resolution for the 2023 Housing Demolitions at 175 Beaver Street and 300 Beaver Street, second by Mr. Awad

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to advertise the Police Ordinance to provide traffic control for borough road construction, second by Mr. Awad
MOTION CARRIES

ENGINEER**Dan Slagle, P.E.**

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to approve Estimate 1 for payment to Folino Construction for the 2023 Paving Project in the amount of \$74,287.60, second by Mr. James
MOTION CARRIES

- Mr. Slagle reviewed the Engineer's monthly report
- Ms. Napolitano confirmed that the borough received a legal letter from the Quaker Valley School District waiving the clock for the plan review.
- Ms. Carroll confirmed the location of the Henle Park ADA Parking Pads and requested that Mr. Slagle meet with council for pre-construction meeting to discuss the location. The location being considered is along Ferry Street near the Broad Street intersection next to the bike rack.

MAYOR'S REPORT**Sandra J. Ford**

- Mayor Ford congratulated and welcomed the new Jr. Council Members on their appointments and thanked the food pantry volunteers for taking care of the deliveries while Mayor Ford was away
- Mayor Ford announced a Leedsdale Low-Income Seniors and handicap Leaf Cleanup being held on November 3, 2023, services being provided by Degori Lawncare, must register for this cleanup

MOTION BY Mr. Nanni to approve the purchase of 58 - \$20.00 gift cards for the current food bank recipients, total amount \$1,160.00, cards to be distributed in December, second by Mr. Awad

Discussion on the motion:

Mr. Conlon advised that the Borough Code is very specific on what council can appropriate money for and the list is in section 1202, subsection 42, specifically states that borough council can appropriate money for the handling, storage and distribution of surplus foods, not for gift cards and advised that it's council decision to vote on it or not

Mr. Awad mentioned past practice

Mr. Nanni believes that means what you can spend money on, that's not all you can spend money on
Mr. Conlon stated, no it's pretty specific that it has to fall into one of those categories and the category that comes closest is subsection 42, that states the handling, storage and distribution of surplus foods and advised that having paid borough employees at the food bank is allowed and that gift cards are not. Council discussed other options briefly.

Mr. James stated that donations were received in the past from a resident to cover the cost of the gift cards for the food bank

Roll Call: Mr. Awad, yes; Ms. Carroll, yes; Mr. James, yes; Mr. Nanni, yes; Mr. Weatherby, yes; Ms. Napolitano, yes

MOTION CARRIES

FINANCE/BUDGET/TAXES**Jeffery Weatherby, Chairperson**

- The draft 2024 Budget is being prepared

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to reappoint Jennifer Simek to collect the 2024 Local Service Tax, second by Mr. James

Discussion on the motion:

Ms. Napolitano stated that the appointment is taking place now since the work for the 2024 collection year needs to start now and cannot wait until the reorganization meeting in January. Conditions of the job will be the same.

Mr. Nanni stated that the appointment taking place now is highly irregular and thought this was discussed at the beginning of the year, this collection was part of the job up until last year with no commission

Ms. Napolitano confirmed the conditions; yearly reappointment, collection completed off work hours and 3% commission on tax collected

Mr. Nanni opposed to the motion

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to ratify the payment to the Leetsdale Fire Association the Foreign Fire Insurance Allocation in the amount of \$10,178.44, second by Mr. Nanni

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to transfer the Road Tax Collect from the General Fun to the Road Reconstruction Fund in the amount of \$310.97, second by Mr. Awad

MOTION CARRIES

- Received notification that the estimated Liquid Fuels allocation for 2024 will be \$44,947.29

ORGANIZATION ADMINISTRATION**Beth Carroll, Chairperson**

- The TreeVitalize applications are open for the Spring 2024 planting
- Received the 2023 State Aid of \$87,418.32 for the pension funds

MOTION BY Ms. Carroll to pay the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligations and the Borough's Contribution to the Pension Plans as follows; Police Pension \$58,278.88 State Aid and \$41,303.12 for the Borough Contribution and Non-Uniform Pension \$29,139.44 State Aid and \$3,220.56 Borough Contribution, second by Mr. Weatherby

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Ms. Carroll to ratify the certification of the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation to the Leetsdale Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$88,015 and the Leetsdale Non-Uniform Pension Plan in the amount of \$4,411, second by Mr. Weatherby

MOTION CARRIES

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE**Jeffery Weatherby, Chairperson**

- Sergeant Slawianowski reviewed the Police Department's monthly report
- Ms. Napolitano and Mayor Ford confirmed the full-time officer hiring process and who attends the oral interviews

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to approve handicap parking for 66 Broad Street as recommended by Chief Raible, second by Mr. Awad

Mr. James abstained as this request is from his father

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to approve handicap parking for 202 Broad Street as recommended by Chief Raible, second by Mr. Awad

MOTION CARRIES

PUBLIC SAFETY/FIRE**Wesley James, Chairperson**

- Mr. James will review the Fire Department's monthly report

STREET DEPARTMENT/BOROUGH PROPERTY**Osman Awad, Chairperson**

MOTION BY Mr. Awad to purchase and install security cameras in Henle Park, not to exceed \$1,200.00, second by Ms. Carroll

Questions on the motion:

Mr. Weatherby confirmed the cameras will be installed by the public works department

Ms. Carroll confirmed the cameras will only be accessible by the police who will have the only key to the cameras cabinet and the cameras will have night vision

MOTION CARRIES

PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY**Beth Carroll, Chairperson**

- The Rec Board is hosting a Halloween Parade on October 31st at 5:30 PM to begin at the community room and end in Henle Park. Bonfire in the park during trick-or-trick from 6:00 – 8:00 PM

PLANNING/ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT**Maria Napolitano, Chairperson**

MOTION BY Mr. Nanni to adopt the updated SALDO Ordinance, second by Mr. Awad

MOTION CARRIES

- Waiting to receive the comments from Allegheny County on the Comprehensive Plan, once received the plan will be advertised and adopted in November

NEW BUSINESS

- The following will be on the Washington Street Alternative Exit Working Group: Mr. Weatherby, Ms. Carroll, Mr. Awad and Mayor Ford
- Ms. Napolitano will provide an intent letter to Hussey Copper requesting access to their property for emergency use

OLD BUSINESS

- One vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board, Alternate, term ending 2023
- Two vacancies on the Parks & Rec Board, terms ending 2024

CORRESPONDENCE

- Nothing new received

AUDIENCE ADDRESSING COUNCIL

Tony Rosenberger, Chapman Properties, 100 Leetsdale Industrial Drive, provided a project timeline for the newly constructed building, located at 1201 Brickworks Drive and requested the release of a temporary occupancy permit.

Dominic Napolitano, 15 Valley Lane, expressed concern with the motion to purchase gift cards. Mr. Conlon confirmed that he provided the statutory authority that limits the use of Borough funds for the handling, storage and distribution of surplus foods. Mr. Napolitano suggested that according to subsection 41, (section 1202 subsection 41 of the Borough Code), council may appropriate in any year out of the general funds for the observance of holidays or centennial or other anniversaries, and council agreed.

Audience Members and Council discussed the Pilsie Project and the request for temporary occupancy permit. Mr. Conlon advised that he has been in touch with Mr. Rosenberger's legal counsel and will continue to communicate with them on the project and final matters that need to be completed before the permit can be issued.

Judy Felicion, 189 Broad Street, confirmed the Henle Park ADA Parking Pad and sidewalk locations

Jim Gilbert, 2 Main Street, suggested that Council and Mayor receive a pay for their attendance to the monthly meetings

James DeGori, Washington Street, submitted complaints in regards to the Pilsie Project and stated that none of the complaints have been addresses yet.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to adjourn at 8:21 P.M., second by Mr. Awad

MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Simek



Jennifer Simek
Borough Secretary/Treasurer