

LEETSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 14, 2023 in Council Chambers.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

ARRIVING LATE: Councilor P. Lee

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor S. Ford; D. Conlon, Esq., Tucker Arensberg Attorneys; D. Slagle, P.E., Nichols & Sagle Engineering, Inc.; Chief D. Raible; Douglas Ford, Street Commissioner

Ms. Napolitano thanked the outgoing members of Council; Councilmen W. James who started his term in 2008 and Councilman J. Weatherby who started his term in 2012.

REPORTS RECEIVED

MINUTES: November Special Hearing, November Regular and December Workshop Sessions

TREASURER'S: October

TAX COLLECTOR'S: November

LIST OF BILLS

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to approve the November Special Hearing and the November Regular Session Minutes, second by Mr. James
MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to approve the December Workshop Minutes, second by Mr. James
Mr. Nanni abstained from the motion since he was not in attendance
MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. James to approve the October Treasurer's Report and the November Tax Collector's Report, second by Mr. Weatherby
MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to approve the list of bills, second by Ms. Carroll
Question by Ms. Napolitano, is the cost of a Zoning Hearing covered by the applicant? Ms. Simek confirmed that the applicant pays \$800.00 per hearing and that does not cover the cost of a hearing. Ms. Napolitano questioned if there are two hearings does each applicant split the cost, Ms. Simek confirmed that no the cost is not split since two hearings would still be held, each applicant pays the fee in full.
MOTION CARRIES

AUDIENCE ADDRESSING COUNCIL

Jarrold d'Amico, Harshman LLC, provided Zoning and Code Officer information for consideration

Ms. Lee arrived at 7:26 PM

Scott Zahner, 164 Victory Lane, confirmed that Amos Cameron will remain the Emergency Management Coordinator and that Mr. Weatherby was only requesting cell phone allowance as Deputy

Jim Gilbert, 3 Main Street, confirmed the property complaint process and that the complainant's information is not released.

SOLICITOR**D. Conlon, Esq.**

- Mr. Conlon announced Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to advise Council on litigation
- Provided an update on the Court Ruling for Council making amendments to the agenda during a council meeting.

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

- Mr. Slagle reviewed the Engineer's monthly report
- Mr. Slagle confirmed that the sewer lines along Wood Spur and Winding Road would be replaced by the new Quaker Valley High School that planned to be built in Leet Township

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

- Mayor Ford recognized the food pantry volunteers and the Public Works Employees for their monthly dedication
- Hosted a Senior Christmas Party at the high rise on Friday, December 8, 2023

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

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to ratify the purchase of 58 - \$25.00 Gift Cards in the amount of \$1,450.00, second by Mr. James

Question on the Motion by Ms. Lee, why is this motion on the agenda? Mayor Ford confirmed that she purchased the \$25 gift cards in error as she stated that she thought it was approved for that amount

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to adopt the 2024 Proposed Budget, second by Ms. Lee

Mr. Nanni is opposed

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to transfer \$58,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Account before December 31, 2023; Police Department \$20,000, Fire Department \$16,000, Public Works \$20,000 and Office \$2,000, second by Ms. Lee

Questions on the Motion: Ms. Napolitano questioned the transfer and Ms. Simek confirmed that it's budgeted yearly for large purchases to pay cash and not finance the purchase. Mr. Nanni confirmed that this account was not part of the one mill that is collected.

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to transfer the Liquid Fuels to reimburse the General Fund for Public Lighting, Street Signs, Line Painting and Traffic Signals before December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$68,752.59, second by Mr. James

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to transfer the Police Reports Income from the General Fund to the Police Pension before December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$945.00, second by Ms. Lee

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to transfer \$8,743.63 from the Road Reconstruction Fund to reimburse the General Fund for the payment to Folino, second by Mr. James

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to transfer \$1,074.07 from the Escrow Account to reimburse the General Fund for the Free Lunches in Henle Park, second by Ms. Lee
MOTION CARRIES

- Council discussed and will consider a motion to participate in the QVCOG/Cohon Law Group to perform the Comcast Cable Franchise Renewal Services next month

ORGANIZATION ADMINISTRATION**Beth Carroll, Chairperson**

- TreeVitalize Grant submitted

MOTION BY Ms. Carroll to advertise the 2024 Council, Committee and Board Meetings, second by Ms. Lee
MOTION CARRIES

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

- Chief Raible reviewed the Police Department's monthly report

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to approve the purchase of one speed table for \$2,500.00, second by Mr. James

Questions on the Motion: Council and members of the audience discussed the pros and cons, no recent speeding complaints received from Leetsdale residents

ROLL CALL: Mr. Awad, No; Ms. Carroll, No; Mr. James, No; Ms. Lee, No; Mr. Nanni, No; Mr. Weatherby, No; Ms. Napolitano, No

MOTION DID NOT CARRY

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to renew the RAVE Alert subscription for 5-years at \$1,250.00 yearly, second by Mr. James
MOTION CARRIES

- Council discussed Jeffery Weatherby to receive a monthly cell phone allowance as the Emergency Management Deputy in the amount of \$65.00 and did not move forward with a motion to approve. It was confirmed that Mr. Weatherby will remain the deputy for the borough.

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

- Mr. James reviewed the Fire Department's monthly report
- Mr. James reviewed the Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority Annual Report that was submitted by John Linko, Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority borough representative

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

- Mr. Awad is working on a Code Enforcement Officer Job Description

MOTION BY Mr. Awad to accept the quote from Hill Top Paving for the Oak Drive sewer repair in the amount of \$10,980.00, second by Mr. Weatherby
MOTION CARRIES

- Mr. Awad confirmed that the water runoff along Winding Road has since been repaired by the homeowner

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

- The Rec Board hosted Christmas Caroling on December 10, 2023

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

- Received the Building Inspections and Code Enforcement Monthly Report

MOTION BY Ms. Carroll to adopt the Comprehensive Plan Resolution, second by Ms. Lee
MOTION CARRIES

- The Planning Commission provided a recommendation for Council's consideration for the QVSD plan
- A Zoning Officer needs appointed for 2024

MOTION BY Mr. Nanni to adopt the Resolution for the Buncher Building #27 Subdivision/Consolidation Plan for parcels 601-A-170 and 601-G-20, approved April 13, 2023, second by Mr. Awad
MOTION CARRIES

OTHER BUSINESS

- Requested a letter from Hussey Cooper to access their property for the Washington Street Alternative Exit. Mr. Awad is working to form a committee with Ambridge Borough Council
- One vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board, Alternate, term ending 2023
- Two vacancies on the Parks & Rec Board, terms ending 2024

CORRESPONDENCE

- Local Government Academy Newly Elected Officials Course started December 2, 2023
- PSAB is offering Newly Elected Municipal Officials Boot Camp, January 26-27, 2024 located in Greensburg
- PSAB is offering Newly Elected Municipal Officials Boot Camp on February 16 & 17, 2024 located in Cranberry
- The ACBA Annual Banquet is February 3, 2024 at the Rivers Casino, tickets are \$85.00

MOTION BY Ms. Lee to purchase a Half Page Ad in the ACBA Yearbook for \$350.00, second by Ms. Carroll

ROLL CALL: Mr. Awad, Yes; Ms. Carroll, Yes; Mr. James, Yes; Ms. Lee, Yes; Mr. Nanni, Yes; Mr. Weatherby, Yes; Ms. Napolitano, No

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Mr. Nanni for Mr. Awad, Mayor Ford, Scott Zahner, Ms. Simek and Chief Raible to attend the ALOM Spring Conference at Seven Springs, April 4-7, at a cost of \$1,185.00 per person, second by Mr. Awad

Question on the Motion by Ms. Carroll confirmed that no policy in place only allowing the attendance to a limited conference. Ms. Lee confirmed that the number of councilors attending is not against the Sunshine Law

MOTION CARRIES

- Received the December QVCOG Executive Director's Report

AUDIENCE ADDRESSING COUNCIL

Suzie Falcon, 11 Winding Road, confirmed that when the sewer lines are replaced along Winding Road would be straight not like the existing curve

Jim Gilbert, 3 Main Street, suggested that Council consider sending letters requesting donations to cover the splash pad water bill.

Craig Zahner, Victory Lane, advised that a speed hump is broken on Victory Lane and needs repaired and requested another speed hump be installed at the end of the lane.

James DeGori, Washington Street, confirmed Elite Towing violations still in court, next hearing in February 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to adjourn at 9:13 P.M., second by Mr. Awad
MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Simek



Jennifer Simek
Borough Secretary/Treasurer