

**LEETSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL** met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 11, 2021 in the Leetsdale Community Room due to COVID-19.

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Moment of silence in memory of Elizabeth Petalino, Retired Borough Secretary and Bob Bagans, Chairman of the Board for the Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority**

### **ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Council President W. James; Councilors B. Frederick, O. Awad, T. Belcastro, T. Michael, R. Nanni and J. Weatherby

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Mayor P. Poninsky; M. Turnbull, Esq., Weiss Burkardt and Kramer LLC; D. Slagle, P.E., Nichols & Sagle Engineering, Inc.

**ATTENDED BY PHONE:** Jennifer Simek, Borough Secretary

**EXCUSED:** Daniel Raible, Police Chief and Douglas Ford, Street Commissioner due to COVID restrictions on attendance

### **REPORTS RECEIVED**

**MINUTES:** January Regular Session

(workshop session was not held due to the current pandemic)

**MOTION BY** Mr. Frederick to accept the January Regular Session Minutes, second by Mr. Michael  
MOTION CARRIES

### **AUDIENCE ADDRESSING COUNCIL**

Judy Felicion, 186 Broad Street, attended by phone due to the pandemic, advised Council of Mr. Bagans' passing.

### **SOLICITOR**

**M. Turnbull, Esq.**

- Ms. Turnbull is currently in the process of gathering Borough Owned Properties to be appraised for a possible sale in the future
- An email was provided to council for review in regards to the Leetsdale Property Tax Collection and the current vacancy. Council discussed different options available and the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

**MOTION BY** Mr. Weatherby to adopt the Resolution Establishing Tax Collector Compensation, Procedures and Rules for Borough Real Estate Taxes starting January 1, 2022 and continuing thereafter until changed by Council. The compensation to be 2% of the sum of the face collected during the discount period and at a commission rate of 3% of the sum of the face collected during the face and penalty period and \$500 per year paid to the tax collector for deputizing an approved third-party collector and the Deputy Tax Collector at a rate of \$3.50/property, second by Mr. Frederick

MOTION CARRIES

- Jordan Tax Service will remain as the tax collector for the Borough Real Estate Taxes until December 31, 2021. Chris Bell with Jordan Tax Service confirmed that all the accounts have balanced from prior collections and was working on 2020. Ms. Turnbull suggested that in a few weeks she would follow-up with Mr. Bell to confirm all accounts are balanced and at that time Council can decide if an audit is needed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT****Peter A. Poninsky**

- Mayor Poninsky requested that Dan Slagle's office assist by writing an acknowledgment letter to Ambridge Borough in regards to a possible emergency bridge study since the original letter that was sent has since been misplaced.

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

- Mr. Slagle reviewed the Engineer's Monthly Report
- Council questioned the Quaker Valley High School Site Plan, Mr. Slagle suggested that anyone with questions to attend the Leet Township Zoning Hearing in regards to this project. After it's approved in Leet Township then Mr. Slagle will have an opportunity to review the plans.

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

- Henry Sallusti with RBC Capital Markets contacted the Borough advising the Borough Bond can be refinanced in July with a NET savings of approximately \$140,000.00. Council discussed and no decision was made this month and requested more details for the refinance.

**ADMINISTRATION, BENEFITS & PENSIONS****Jeffery Weatherby, Chairperson**

- Nothing new to report this month

**PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE****Thomas Michael, Chairperson**

- Council received the Police Department's Monthly Report by Chief Raible

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

- Council received the Fire Department's Monthly Report by Chief Logan
- The LVFD will be presenting Mr. Brad Silk with a plaque for his 45 years of service as of January 26, 2021. He has served on numerous offices over the years, including Fire Chief.

**STREET DEPARTMENT/BOROUGH PROPERTY****Benjimen Frederick, Chairperson**

**MOTION BY** Mr. Nanni to reimburse resident at 666 Beaver Street, Leetsdale, for sewer issues that resulted in being the Borough's lines, second by Mr. Michael

Mr. Frederick voted NO

**MOTION CARRIES**

- Council discussed Tudi Mechanical repairing or replacing the furnace for the Borough Building and agreed to review the current agreement. Council discussed getting three quotes for the replacement of the furnace

**MOTION BY** Mr. Awad to allow Mr. Frederick to decide on the furnace replacement and Council will ratify the furnace replacement next month, second by Mr. Belcastro

**MOTION CARRIES**

**PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY****Osman Awad, Chairperson**

- Nothing new to report this month

**PLANNING, ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT****Roger Nanni, Chairperson**

- BIU has assigned new inspectors to the Borough; Code Enforcement Officer is Ken Kealey and the Building Inspector is Canaan Bay.
- Received the Code Enforcement Monthly Report by Jason Saver and the Building Inspection Monthly Report by Ron Mulcahy

**ORDINANCES & TAX COLLECTION**

**Thomas Belcastro, Chairperson**

- Discussed the Code Enforcement Officer's position and if it should be an employee of the Borough instead of an outside company.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Two vacancies remain on the Recreation Board with terms ending December 31, 2026

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Please complete the 2020 Ethic Form and return to the Borough Office by May 1, 2021

**LIST OF BILLS**

**MOTION BY** Mr. Nanni to accept the List of Bills, second by Mr. Frederick

MOTION CARRIES

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION BY** Mr. Weatherby to adjourn at 8:20 PM, second by Mr. Frederick

MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,

*Jennifer Simek*

Jennifer Simek

Borough Secretary/Treasurer

