

LEETSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL met in Workshop Session at 7:00 PM on Thursday, July 7, 2022 in Council Chambers.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council President P. Lee; Councilors B. Carroll and J. Weatherby

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

EXCUSED: Councilors O. Awad, W. James, R. Nanni, and M. Napolitano

REPORTS RECEIVED

TREASURER'S: June

MINUTES: May Regular Session

Councilors M. Napolitano arrived at 7:02 PM and W. James arrived at 7:03 PM

AUDIENCE ADDRESSING COUNCIL

Bill Jasper, 24 Winding Road, provided additional information and discussed concerns in regards to the new Quaker Valley High School. Mr. Jasper advised that the Leet Township Zoning Hearing Board would have approved the plans if the school had an emergency only road. Mr. Slagle added that the school district will be presenting an agreement to Leetsdale Borough and it will include stormwater requirements for the new location.

Judy Felicion, 186 Broad Street, thanked all for the great 4th of July Celebration

Suzie Falcon, 11 Winding Road, advised that the water issue at 15 Winding Road looks to be repaired at this time.

SOLICITOR

M. Turnbull, Esq.

- The Special Hearing request from 3 Elm Lane to consider allowing chickens was held on June 7, 2022. Council met in Executive Session on June 9, 2022 and a motion will be considered for the hearing decision next voting meeting.
- County Comments on the Oil & Gas Ordinance and SALDO have not yet been received and suggested that Council consider advertising for an adoption in August.
- Advised Council of an ongoing legal challenge to the Allegheny County Common Level Ratio (CLR) of 81.1% for the 2022 tax year. On June 15, 2022, the STEB certified the Allegheny County CLR at 63.6% for the 2023 tax year. This is a significant drop from the current ratio and signals a direction for the revised 2022 value. Litigation is closely being monitored; guidance will be provided whenever there is a significant update.

ENGINEER

Dan Slagle, P.E.

- Mr. Slagle discussed the school property along Camp Meeting Road and prior to building there will be agreements in place to help with the drainage issues from the hillside.
Mr. Gilbert, 3 Main Street, advised that the drainage pond in Leet Township along Pilgrim Drive is a concern because Mr. Gilbert resides below it and fears it breaking and coming down the hillside.
- Council and Mayor Ford hosted a roundtable and heard resident's ideas for an Washington Street emergency exit; a gated road through Kohlmeyer Park, a foot bridge where the Leet Street Bridge was located or an access road through Hussey Cooper with an emergency bridge to be located near the Ambridge Industrial Park.

- The Washington Street Realignment Project is being designed and Mr. Slagle will need to meet with Edgeworth water and the power company to relocate their utilities in order to accommodate the realignment.

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

- Mayor Ford and Mr. Awad toured the new school property
- Council reviewed the draft ordinance for parking restrictions for the Borough parking lots except from 11:00 PM until 7:00 AM and during street sweeping months from 7:00 AM until 11:00 AM, otherwise the lots are for Borough Business Parking only as well as Church Alley being a one-way street and no parking on the side of Winding Road.
- Mayor Ford suggested a new Borough Welcome sign to be placed in the ramp-garden at Maroni's, quotes will be provided next meeting.

FINANCE/BUDGET/TAXES**Patricia Lee, Chairperson**

- Council will consider a motion to amend the amount transferred for the Road Tax Collected from the General Fund to the Road Reconstruction Fund from \$62,954.84 to \$69,496.42 for May, an additional report was submitted after accepted at last Regular Session Meeting.
- Council will consider a motion to transfer the June Road Tax Collected from the General Fund to the Road Reconstruction Fund in the amount of \$1,310.81.

ORGANIZATION ADMINISTRATION**Maria Napolitano, Chairperson**

- Council agreed that RFP's are needed for the appointment of Borough Auditor
- Leetsdale resident, Rob Cobourne, is assisting Council by obtaining new website quotes and presented the new design proposal for a possible motion for next meeting.
- Ms. Napolitano presented the idea of creating a Leetsdale Talent Bank Database for committee and board vacancies.

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

- Chief Raible will review the Police Department's monthly report next meeting
- Council will consider a motion to accept the resignations of Part-time Patrolman Todd Cappetta and Cameron Grace at the voting meeting next Thursday.
- Council and Mayor Ford discussed the shortage in available part-time officers for hire and the possibility of hiring a full-time officer. Ms. Turnbull provided details of the hiring process and how the Civil Service is used for creating an Eligibility list for Council's consideration.
- Mr. Weatherby requested a moment of silence for Charles Stipetich an off-duty Oakdale police officer killed in a road rage shooting.

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

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

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

- Ms. Lee advised that Mr. Awad will provide a Public Works Department Update next meeting and an update on the Free Lunches in Henle Park
- Council will consider a motion to participate in the Joint Rock Salt Agreement with the SHACOG for the 2022-2023 winter season will be considered next meeting.

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

- Council will consider the following motions next meeting
 - I. Motion to accept the following resignations from the Parks & Rec Committee
 - a. Tom Eshenbaugh
 - b. Elizabeth Surmacz

- II. Motion to appoint the following to the vacant Parks & Rec Committee
- a. Caitlin Gresham with a term ending 2023
 - b. Libby Moore with a term ending 2022
- Ms. Turnbull advised that a quorum in person is needed for a voting meeting and then whomever needed to attend by phone could do so and would be able to vote as well.

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

- Council received the Code Enforcement and Building Inspector Monthly Report
- Dominic Napolitano provided a Planning Commission Update and thanked Doug Ford, Leetsdale Street Commissioner, who wasn't in attendance for fixing the flooding issues along Valley Lane. The Planning Commission has two recommendations for Council consideration; amended fence ordinance from the example provided by PSAB and possible changes to the Animal Ordinance and how the appeal process is handled. Ms. Turnbull will provide an updated fence ordinance to Council for their consideration.
- The Western PA Conservancy TreeVitalize program will provide 10 to 15 trees to the Shade Tree Commission if Council would approve the submission for this opportunity. Mayor Ford confirmed that the Borough has a Shade Tree Commission currently. Ms. Lee advised that Ms. Napolitano would need to meet with the commission and see if they are interested in such a program, if so, a plan would need to be submitted to Council for consideration.
- Ms. Napolitano suggested a possible Resolution to create an alternate position on the Planning Commission and advised that the commission is in the process of writing their own by-laws and learning how other commissions function around the area. Ms. Turnbull will provide an appointment resolution that can be filled with the name of whom is being appointed and advised that another position would need to be addressed in the SALDO Ordinance.
- Ms. Napolitano advised that this Motion to appoint Carol Weatherby or Thomas Belcastro to the Planning Commission with a term ending 2023 needs to be discussed in Executive Session and was advised by Ms. Turnbull that since this is not a personnel issue that it could not be discussed in Executive Session as stated in the Sunshine Law for appointments of vacancies.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A Hard to Recycle Collection Event is being held at the Quaker Valley High School on July 23, 2022 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM, advance registration is required and flyers are available in the lobby.

LIST OF BILLS

- Council received the draft List of Bills to be accept at the next meeting
- Ms. Lee announced that the Regular Session Meeting will be for voting only with no discussion as this is the purpose of a Workshop Meeting

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION BY** Mr. Weatherby to adjourn at 9:31 PM, second by Ms. Napolitano**MOTION CARRIES**

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Simek



Jennifer Simek
Borough Secretary/Treasurer