

LEETSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 12, 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 O. Awad, J. Weatherby and M. Napolitano

EXCUSED: Councilors B. Carroll, W. James and R. Nanni

ALSO, PRESENT: Mayor S. Ford; D. Guarascio, Esq., Weiss Burkardt and Kramer LLC; (M. Turnbull is in transit) D. Slagle, P.E., Nichols & Sagle Engineering, Inc.; Police Chief D. Raible; Douglas Ford, Street Commissioner

Councilor B. Carroll arrived at 7:05 PM

Mr. Gilbert, Main Street, requested that Council turn up microphones. Council advised that chambers does not have microphones, just the one at the podium.

REPORTS RECEIVED

REAL ESTATE TAX: April

TREASURER'S: March

MINUTES: April Workshop Session

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to accept the April Real Estate Tax Report, March Treasurer's Report and the April Workshop Minutes, second by Ms. Napolitano
MOTION CARRIES

Ms. Lee addressed the public and asked for respect for each other

AUDIENCE ADDRESSING COUNCIL

Debra Canney, 2 Oak Drive, thanked the Public Works Department for all their hard work and reviewed the Code Enforcement property enforcement process. Ms. Napolitano advised that she is contact with Helping Hands, a volunteer organization that helps the elderly upkeep their properties.

Martha Gilbert Golden, 102 Victory Lane, Victory Lane stop sign needs straightened and the one-way in Victory Lane needs additional signage. Also suggested painting the curbs for no parking at the Henle Park sidewalk to help vehicles to see the children entering Victory Lane from the park.

Robert Ford, Beaver Street, Questioned the street sign cost being an issue and was advised that the Borough General Fund is reimbursed for such purchases by the Borough's Liquid Fuels Account.

Susan Falcon, 11 Winding Road, took a branch from a fallen tree in Henle Park and made a wooden tree statue for the Borough.

Henriette Kretzler, Washington Street, with the upcoming Special Hearing to consider chickens in the Borough, Ms. Kretzler advised that she is against allowing chickens in the Borough.

Jennifer Farmerie, Sewickley Library, provided additional information on hosting Family Storytime in Henle Park on Fridays at 10:30 AM

SOLICITOR

M. Turnbull, Esq.

- The Special Council Hearing request from 3 Elm Lane to consider allowing chickens was postponed and will need to be rescheduled. Council discussed hosting the hearing by ZOOM. Debra Canney, 2 Oak Drive, discussed the old owners having chickens and never knew they had them until the new owner moved in and now, she wants chickens. Ms. Napolitano questioned why submitted on a Zoning

Application not an appeal forms and was advised by Ms. Simek that on first thought a variance to the ordinance was needed but after submitting to the Zoning Hearing Attorney the Borough was advised that Hearing should be held by Council.

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

- Mr. Slagle reviewed the Engineer's Monthly Report

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to approve Final Estimate No. 1 for the Kohlmeyer Park ADA Parking Project to Swede Construction in the amount of \$28,619.00, second by Ms. Napolitano
MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Ms. Napolitano to authorize the Engineer to prepare bids to clean the Route 65 Storm Sewer and to find a solution for the catch basin drainage issues along Valley Lane and Beaver Street, second by Ms. Carroll

Question on the motion by Mr. Awad, if there was additional work that needed to be done to help with the Henle Park and Rt. 65 drainage and was advised by Mr. Slagle that the new Quaker Valley High School will install detention ponds and gates on the hill. Debra Canney, 2 Oak Drive, questioned why the Borough wasn't getting the proper permission to install the gates on the hillside to stop the rocks and debris from entering the pipes on the Borough property and Mr. Slagle advised that the information needs prior approval from the DEP and the information was submitted.

MOTION CARRIES

- Mr. Slagle obtained preliminary quotes for a 288-foot-long pedestrian bridge over Route 65 and Norfolk Southern railroad at a cost of approximately \$1,900,000.00. The original Norfolk Southern Agreement had restrictions regarding the replacement of this bridge. Mr. Slagle suggested authorizing the Solicitor to research the restrictions in the agreement prior to proceeding. Council discussed and decided it was not a project they wanted to move forward with since the cost was much higher than first thought.

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to reopen the Washington Street Realignment Project due to safety concerns with the blind spots, second by Ms. Napolitano

Mr. Slagle advised that the motion is not on the agenda and needs to be to be considered, and he also advised that he was granted prior authorization for this project and that his firm is continuing to work on the project

Mr. Weatherby and Ms. Napolitano both rescinded their Motion

- The traffic study was completed on May 4, 2022 which revealed that the turning radius was inadequate resulting in the repeated damage to the guide rail and traffic signal. The recommendation from the Traffic Engineer was to stripe the approaching lane narrowing it to a single lane and installing the Ramp Barrier project to protect the signaling devices. The low bidder was El Grande construction at a bid of \$75,150. Mr. Slagle is recommending that Council award the bid to move forward with the project.

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to award the Overpass Ramp Barrier Project to El Grande Construction in the amount of \$75,150, second by Ms. Napolitano

MOTION CARRIES

- The 2022 Paving Project was awarded to Youngblood Paving with a bid of \$81,377.50 which includes reimbursement component from Columbia Gas for all the leak repairs. The project should begin in June.
- Currently reviewing the Mike Maruca Memorial Bridge inspection report. The center line should be painted in the upcoming week.

- Columbia Gas has requested several road opening permits on Valley Lane. The gas company will be making required repairs on Valley Lane and Beaver Street which will require temporarily closing the roadways.

MOTION BY Ms. Napolitano to authorize the Solicitor advertise the Ordinance to adopt the updated Construction Standards, second by Mr. Weatherby

MOTION CARRIES

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

- Community Shoutouts and Recognitions; Mayor Ford mentioned it was Administrative Day on April 27th and wanted Jennifer Simek, Borough Secretary to know that she is appreciated and all acknowledge her hard work for the Borough. Mayor Ford recognized Osman Awad, Councilor for all his involvement in the community and volunteering his time for the recent spaghetti dinner fund raiser for the 4th of July Committee, helping with the Leetsdale Food Pantry, Community Cleanup and cooked lunch. Thanked residents; Thomas Belcastro and Debra Canney for paying for the Senior's Spaghetti Dinner
- Mayor Ford thanked everyone who was involved and help on April 23rd for the Annual Cleanup Day
- Mayor Ford thanked all the volunteers that help with the Leetsdale Food Pantry. The next food distribution is May 18, 2022. The county will be at the Manor on June 29, 2022 from 1:30 until 3:00 signing seniors up for the Farmer's Market Vouchers.
- Mayor Ford placed old photos in the downstairs display case
- Mayor Ford is currently working with the Sewickley YMCA, Sewickley Borough, Union Aid and Valerie Gaydos to form a committee, to apply for a transportation grant for the highrise residents to provide rides to The Quaker Village Shopping Center and to other senior activities
- Mayor Ford met with Trish Hooper, CEO of The Sewickley YMCA to have a monthly therapist provide an exercise program to promote good mental health.
- Mayor Ford requested that the Public Works Department start picking up the highrise recycling, Doug Ford agreed and asked that the recycling be placed on the front sidewalk.
- Received a new Poem of the Month from David Rosinsky "Our Small Town"

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

- The Finance Committee will discuss and review the Revenue Pie Chart before the next meeting

ORGANIZATION ADMINISTRATION**Maria Napolitano, Chairperson**

- The committee met at 6:00 PM on Thursday, June 2, 2022 and discussed the borough website and new email update. There are currently two quotes with new vendors to update our website and will meet with a Google Workspace representative for new email and document storage.
- Council and Mayor Ford are hosting a Borough Building Open House on Sunday, June 5, 2022 from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM. Council discussed the \$2,500.00 budget for the event and how it was going to be utilized for educational giveaways and that the 4th of July Committee would be selling food as a fundraiser for their upcoming event.
- The committee is working on the Council committees, commissions, and borough jobs descriptions

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

- Chief Raible suggested a possible Ordinance to post the rear parking lot for Borough Business Parking Only and discussed the parking issues along Church Alley. Resident Only Parking was discussed and Chief Raible mentioned several issues with such permitted parking, such as it's for residents only and family would not be permitted to use the space. Handicap Parking was discussed and Chief Raible confirmed that any such space can be utilized by anyone with a handicap plate or placard.

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to accept the Handicap Parking Space to be place at 305 Beaver Street, second by Mr. Awad
MOTION CARRIES

- Mr. Weatherby advised that current handicap spaces need to be reviewed, Chief Raible advised that the renewal will be sent out in the coming weeks to residents who already have a space and the spaces that need removed will be review at that time as well.
- Chief Raible reviewed the Police Department's monthly report

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

- Ms. Lee reviewed the Fire Department's monthly report
- The fire department was having water issues from a roof leak above the police department and it is being repaired by Ehrlich

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

- Allegheny County Health Department Solid Waste Management Program conducted an inspection of the Leetsdale Leaf Composting Facility and was found to meet the minimum requirements
- Three stainless steel tables are being order for the Henle Park Concession Stand
- Mr. Awad questioned the agreement for the leaf compost with Sewickley Borough and if the agreement included equipment sharing between both Boroughs. Mr. Slagle acknowledged the agreement with Sewickley Borough and the grant that made the composting site possible as well as the equipment that was purchased with the grant money. Mr. Slagle advised that the agreement included shared equipment, but the Sewickley employee running their machine in Leetsdale would require Leetsdale to pay the Sewickley wages for those man hours.

MOTION BY Mr. Awad to hire two part-timers for the Summer Program

Jim Gilbert, 3 Main Street, questioned if the Street Sweeper was part of the agreement with Sewickley, then why is the Borough paying a company to come and do the street sweeping.

Ms. Turnbull advised Council that the motion to hire was not on the agenda and the motion would need to be considered next month due to the new Sunshine Law and gave another option to amend the below motion to hire under parks. Council agreed.

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

- The Henle Park Splash Pad will be open 7 days a week from Noon until 6:00 PM
- Mr. Awad will be hosting Free Lunches in Henle Park on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays

MOTION BY Ms. Carroll to advertise and interview for a part-time seasonal employee for the Henle Park concession stand at \$12.00 an hour during splash pad hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and amend the motion to add the hiring of two part-time seasonal public works employees with a pay range based on their experience and the amount can be ratified at next month's meeting, second by Ms. Napolitano

Ms. Turnbull announced a pause for Public Comment on the Motion with no responses

MOTION CARRIES

- Recreation Board Member, Debra Canney, 2 Oak Drive, gave an update for the Parks & Rec Committee. The Committee is working to provide a twice a month parks program and once a month movie night in Henle Park.

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

- Received the Building Inspection and the Code Enforcement Monthly Reports

MOTION BY Ms. Napolitano to adopt the Oil & Gas Ordinance Amendments and send the amendments to the County for review, second by Mr. Weatherby
MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Ms. Napolitano to refer the amended Special Exceptions Standards in Zoning Ordinance to the Borough Solicitor for review and comment, second by Mr. Weatherby
MOTION CARRIES

- Council is continuing to review the Complaint Process and Procedures. Ms. Carroll suggested mailing a postcard to warn the resident and list services that are offered to assist with the cleanup. Mayor Ford advised that BIU uses a standard letter.
- Ms. Napolitano thanked Ms. Simek for attending the last Planning Commission by phone and providing the information on the how the commission can access eCode on the Borough Website to search for the Borough Ordinances. Ms. Napolitano advised that the entire Ordinance is not on the website but can be obtained through the Borough Office. Ms. Lee asked Ms. Simek if it would be possible to have the Ordinances scanned as searchable PDFs on the website, Ms. Simek advised that it would be almost impossible and would be a full-time job as there are a large number of Ordinances that would need to be scanned. Ms. Turnbull advised that eCode provides a codified Ordinance on the website and it is normal practice submit a right-to-know to the Borough for a copy of the entire Ordinance as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Received a quote from Affordable Pest Solutions LLC to replace our current provider Ehrlich and it is not being accepted by Council at this time.
 - a. Affordable Pest Solutions LLC
 - i. Office \$49.95 and PD/FD \$29.95
 - b. Ehrlich
 - i. Office \$66.00 and PD/FD \$33.00

CORRESPONDENCE

- Primary Election will be held Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM
- The 4th of July Committee is hosting an Election Day Bake Sale

LIST OF BILLS

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to accept the list of bills, second by Ms. Carroll
MOTION CARRIES

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Mr. Weatherby to adjourn at 9:21 PM, second by Mr. Awad
MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Simek



Jennifer Simek
Borough Secretary/Treasurer