

BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2020

60 N. Washington Street

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Thomas Jr., Council President Steven Miller, Councilmembers: Larry Faight, Joel Amsley, H. Duane Kinzer, Matthew Smith, Jeremy Layman, and Wade Burkholder. Also present was Borough Manager Lorraine Hohl, Finance/HR Manager Emilee Little, and Chief of Police John Phillippy.

President Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

An invocation was given by President Miller.

President Miller led the Council, staff, and audience in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

President Miller noted that the meeting was being recorded by staff.

On an Amsley/Burkholder motion the Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed agenda for the June 1, 2020 regular Council meeting.

Opportunity to be Heard

President Miller invited Borough citizens to address Council with specific issues of concern, reminding them of the public comment policy.

Eddie Baxter of 117 Carowinds Drive thanked the Chief Phillippy and his officers for their service. Baxter addressed public comment procedures from a previous meeting. He also suggested possible revenues for Council meetings including Rescue Hose fire hall, a church, or Jerome King pavilion and the use of a portable microphone.

John Henson of 680 Osbourne Avenue discussed the need for signage on an alley running parallel to S. Elm Lane.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmen Kinzer requested the proposed Consent Agenda item of the employment of Tawny Gallagher to fulfill the role of Billing & Program Coordinator be moved to the Regular Agenda and be discussed under Personnel.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Borough Council Meeting: May 4, 2020.

On an Amsley/Faight motion the Council voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

Payment of bills

On a Faight/Amsley motion the Council voted 5-2 to approve disbursements listed on the May 2020 Disbursement Report in the amount of \$90,272.38. Councilmembers Duane Kinzer and Jeremy Layman were opposed.

Reports from Elected Officials

President's Report

President Miller encouraged citizens to vote in the primary elections on June 2, 2020. Miller also discussed the departure of Georgina Cranston from the Greencastle-Antrim Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thomas discussed the Greencastle community support system noting the graduating class of 2020 procession on June 6, 2020 and encouraged citizens to support local businesses.

Chief's Report

Chief Phillippy thanked the Councilmen Larry Faight for providing Borough staff with a luncheon. Phillippy reminded citizens of weed and grass ordinances and sited an increased emphasis on traffic enforcement.

Manager's Report

Borough Manager Hohl stated the Borough office is open to the public and recommended following CDC guidelines upon entering the building. Hohl stated the 2020 Farmers Market has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Hohl also reminded citizens of Chapter 71 and 78 of the Borough code outlining the proper handling of animals and restrictions for bicycling.

Committee Action

Personnel:

On a Faight/Amsley motion, the Council voted unanimously to accept the employment of Tawny Gallagher to fulfill the role of Billing & Program Coordinator.

Public Safety:

No new business, the next meeting will be on Wednesday June 3, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Community Development:

On a Burkholder/Amsley motion, the Council voted unanimously to approve a subdivision-land development plan to reallocate "Parcel C" to add to existing lot of record owned by Paul and Audrey Clopper as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Administration & Finance:

On an Amsley/Faight motion, the Council voted unanimously to suspend the collection of the Stormwater Pollutant Impact Fee (SPIF) until further review is conducted by the Administration/Finance and Public Facilities committees.

Public Facilities:

On a Kinzer/Faight motion, the Council voted unanimously to authorize WM Hill Engineering to advertise bidding documents for the Carlisle Street Pumping Station as outlined in the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Correspondence: None

STORMWATER UTILITY WORKSHOP

On a Kinzer/Burkholder motion, the Council voted unanimously to begin the Stormwater Utility Workshop.

President Miller invited Borough Council and citizens to address concerns specific to the Stormwater Utility, reminding them of comment policies.

Borough Manager Hohl discussed the decision making tree outlining the subsequent steps after the waiver decision. Hohl identified costs under the Stormwater Utility including operational expenses, the Besore Library raingarden, and additional proposed projects that will need to be reviewed by committees.

Councilmen Burkholder stated that an advertised public meeting would be more efficient than subsequent

committee meetings. Additionally Burkholder defined the terms waiver and exoneration, stating that a waiver is a temporary deferment.

Charlie Eckstine of 64 Williamson Avenue commented that in 5 years this program could go away or be administered by Franklin County. Eckstine stated the right thing to do is to immediately return money back to churches, individuals, and businesses. Eckstine questioned the maintenance costs associated with the Besore Library raingarden project.

Councilmen Kinzer recommended the Besore Library raingarden project be discontinued, stating it is an unnecessary expense and discussed the associated ongoing maintenance costs.

John Henson of 680 Osbourne Avenue questioned why fees were collected if a waiver was an option. Henson also referred to the raingarden as a pond, and questioned why it should cost the Borough \$100,000.

Jane Shafer of 142 Carowinds Drive questioned if Antrim Township could work with the library to install and maintain the raingarden. Shafer also requested that public be provided a breakdown of all stormwater expenses.

Eddie Baxter of 117 Carowinds Drive questioned what costs will be funded by the stormwater utility. Baxter also stated that downtown businesses and Borough citizen have been negatively impacted due to COVID-19 and refunding the money could help a lot of people.

Pat Fridgen of 781 S. Allison Street discussed refunding money and crediting accounts. Fridgen stated "lumping MS4 plus water/sewer into that one fund was sort of a sneaky way of you to raise taxes without raising the mil rate."

Darlene Reynolds of Danco Inc. stated her business had great difficulties paying this fee and that in her opinion the most ethical option for the Borough would be to refund the money.

William Reynolds of Danco Inc. stated that during this time the community and the school district need this money back. Reynolds hypothesized the school district may also be raising taxes, creating more of a hardship for citizens. He asked that Council "consider the people that make up this community" and understand their difficulties.

Kendra Phiel of 30 Baumgardner Drive expressed that these funds were collected to support the MS4 program and with the waiver, the money should go back to the community.

Councilmen Amsley questioned if Council would have formed a stormwater utility if there was no MS4 requirement and what services the utility will now be funding.

Tim Fetterhoff of 180 Baumgardner Drive questioned what happens to the money if the Borough waits to refund it and landowner passes away or sells the property.

Councilmen Faight questioned if anyone told residents that money wouldn't be refunded. He stated that Council needs to meet and determine what is happening next.

Councilmen Kinzer stated that he had been opposed to stormwater from day 1. Kinzer stated that all of Council has received an education and Council had relied on our engineers to calculate this fee. Kinzer specified he would like the raingarden project to be given to Antrim Township and all the remaining funds returned to the citizens.

Councilmen Layman thanked the Mayor and Borough Manager for their work to secure the MS4 waiver. Layman stated this is a reprieve and it would be beneficial for everyone to be in the same room to discuss this and streamline the decision making process.

Mayor Thomas stated that he appreciates all the comments from the community about the stormwater issue.

Thomas stated Council has to make an important decision as quickly as possible and he would recommend a well-organized strategic work session to reeducate Council and allow them to make the best decision going forward.

Full Council special meetings were tentatively scheduled for June 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. and June 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at a venue yet to be determined.

On a Kinzer/Amsley motion the Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine K. Hohl
Borough Manager