

**MINUTES  
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Vice President Stoddard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. A Zoom was set up for anyone that was not feeling well or not comfortable attending in person.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

The roll was called to establish a quorum.

**Council Members Present:** Elaine Palmer, Christine Carnevali, Katie Coban, Mark Lombardi, and Vice President Randall Stoddard.

**Council Members Not Present:** President Deborah Laskey

**Also Present:** Mayor Anthony Gross, Solicitor Dalfonso, Engineer Gordon Taylor and Borough Manager Kathy Ulanowicz. Assistant Borough Manager Mallori McDowell via Zoom.

**Comments from the Public** – No Comments

**Agenda Items**

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting.

**Moved: Mr. Stoddard**

**Second: Ms. Palmer**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for March in the amount \$120,537.16.

**Moved: Mr. Stoddard**

**Second: Ms. Coban**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

Motion to Accept the resignation of Meghan Kennedy from Borough Council effective March 13<sup>th</sup>

**Moved: Ms. Coban**

**Second: Ms. Palmer**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

**Finance Committee**

- 1) 2023 Audit – The Audit has been completed and filed with the DCED. Manager Ulanowicz shared that if we would like the Auditor would come to a meeting. Council asked if there were any issues and Manager Ulanowicz shared that there were not they just asked that we make some written policies for things we are already doing.

**Property and Planning**

- 1) Committee met for Community Park Planning – Nothing New

**Strategic Planning** – Nothing at this time

**Public Safety**

- 1) Update on Discussion with O'Hara Township about Combining Police Departments – Going to begin weekly meetings; There was an actuarial study of the Pension done and it is good; The Borough is also having a study done on the Pension for our current retired officer and current spouse receiving benefits.
- 2) Fire Department Volunteer recruitment/ incentives for fire fighters, capital improvement budgeting. – The Borough and O'Hara Township are having a meeting next Tuesday at O'Hara.
- 3) Fire Department Application for a SAFER Grant – The Fire Department put in an application in conjunction with O'Hara Township.
- 4) Lighted Crosswalk Update – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the signs for the corners of Freeport Rd. and North Ave., Freeport Rd. and McKinley Ave., Freeport Rd. and Cable Ave., and Freeport Rd. and Humboldt have been ordered. Once they are in we have installers that will come and install them. Manager Ulanowicz would like to use the rest of the grant money to get some signs for the Fire Department.

### **Public Works**

- 1) Meter's ownership size and right away – Councilman Stoddard is making some phone calls to find out how other water providers handle these large meters.
- 2) Leak Detection Invoice – Solicitor Dalfonso has sent the property owner a letter and we have heard nothing else.
- 3) Water Line Inventory – The flyer is ready and Manager Ulanowicz would like the Council Members to scan the code on the copy in the packets and try to do the survey by the end of this weekend. The first group of surveys should go to residents with their water bill for May.

### **Community Events**

- 1) PA System – Councilwoman Coban got a bid from Piano n' Stuff for a new PA System. She shared that they gave us their rate which was very nice. It's \$1,223.99. This will be to use for our events like Memorial Day.

Motion to Approve the purchase of the new PA System

**Moved: Ms. Coban**

**Second: Ms. Palmer**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

- 2) Memorial Day – We are starting to prepare and call people, the veterans and the car people. We have decided to move on from the Picnic at the Park and will instead grill hot dogs at the Monument.
- 3) Best of Blawnox
  - a. Egg Hunt March 24<sup>th</sup> – It was a wonderful event put on by Howard Hanna. There were approximately 150 kids that came for the event. Mike Divittorio from the Herald did a very nice article on the event.
  - b. Earth Day April 20<sup>th</sup> – There will be a table and a dumpster at the Borough Building. Any volunteers should come to the Borough Building to get their vest/

- gloves/ bags. We will be cleaning up Freeport Road so that it looks nice for Memorial Day. If you are coming bring a shovel.
- c. Spring Art Fling June 15<sup>th</sup> – Blue Rose is sponsoring and scheduling the event again this year. Councilwoman Carnevali has some questions and Manager Ulanowicz said she would put her in touch with the organizers.

### **Reports (Available Upon Request)**

#### **A. Manager's Report – No Questions**

#### **B. Engineer's Report – No Questions**

1. Consent Order – We are required to do O&M CCTV work starting this year and going through 2029. Engineer Taylor says they will be looking to bid out the work next month.
2. Water System Improvements – Phase 1 Contract B – We need to send for a permit change because the project has changed.
3. Community Park Sidewalks – KGD will get back to us to schedule a date for the preconstruction meeting.

### **Old Business**

Mrs. Dolhi – Manager Ulanowicz took the citations to her house; She was wonderful but didn't know why people were making such a big deal about her birthday.

ALCOSAN Multi Municipal Sanitary Sewer Line Transfer – Manager Ulanowicz believes we have signed the final paperwork. We are just waiting for a fully executed contract.

363 Walnut Street & 933 Cable Avenue Water Meter Replacement – Solicitor Dalfonso has written a couple of letters, and the owners have until the end of April to get back to us with repairs.

38 Riverside Ct – The property was posted for sheriff sale yesterday.

Pompeao – A few months ago we spoke about the Pompeao property. Solicitor Dalfonso was looking at the best options because the property is in two zoning districts. Since Self Storage is not in the zoning ordinance we have three options. The first would be to add it as a conditional use in one of the zones and then get a variance for the second zone. The second option is to amend the zoning map so that the whole property is in one zone and make it a conditional use in that zone. The third option would be to amend the ordinance to add a catch all that anything not in the ordinance would be a conditional use that comes before council. Solicitor Dalfonso recommends the third option because it is the easiest and gives Council the control. There are no questions from council and Councilwoman Palmer says she trusts Solicitor Dalfonso's recommendations.

Motion to bring the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance and to authorize advertising.

**Moved: Mr. Stoddard**

**Second: Ms. Coban**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

Centennial Committee – As everyone is aware our original Centennial Committee stepped aside at our last meeting. We already have a new committee set up. The first step is to try to brand the Centennial with one logo. We have two options and we would like Council's opinion. There is a Blue and Yellow logo that the history committee was planning to use for the history book or there is a seal logo like the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Council prefers the blue and yellow logo.

The committee is not planning a parade because they do not feel they can have a parade that does justice to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Instead they are planning a day long celebration at the community park.

Anti-Retaliation Ordinance – Vice President Stoddard does not think its necessary and wonders how we would enforce the ordinance. Council has decided to take this off the agenda at this time.

Creative Communities Initiative Grant – The Borough was granted the grant and we have received the money. Our mural is going to be started in the next three weeks and should take 30 days start to finish. The property owner at 352 Freeport where the mural will be does not want to give us an easement they would prefer an agreement. Solicitor Dalfonso said we could do a revokable license.

### **New Business**

MS-4 Update – Assistant Borough Manager McDowell shared that we did not do a ton of MS-4 work last year. We did help several residents with stormwater issues during the year. Also the Annual MS-4 report was submitted on time. The Borough is also having our Earth Day clean up which helps keep the rivers clean. In addition the Borough has requested the stencils from ALCOSAN so we can repaint our storm drains. There have also been several blurbs in the newsletter about Stormwater.

### **Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items**

Grow Pittsburgh is currently in the process of building new beds for the Community Garden. Once that is done, they will need volunteers to fill the beds.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

### **ATTEST:**

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Kathy Ulanowicz  
Borough Manager

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Deborah E. Laskey  
Borough Council President