

**MINUTES
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting February 11th, 2021**

Call to Order

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. on Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The roll was called to establish a quorum.

Council Members Present: Jessica Dayhoff, Katie Coban, John Simmons, President Deborah Laskey and Vice President Randall Stoddard

Council Members Not Present: Meghan Kennedy, Elaine Palmer

Also Present: Solicitor, Sam Dalfonso; Borough Engineer, Gordon Taylor; Borough Manager, Kathy Ulanowicz; Assistant Borough Manager, Mallori McDowell; Junior Council Person Mona Gerges; and Borough Mayor Anthony Gross were present.

Comments from the Public

No Comments from the Public

Agenda Items

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting.

Moved: Mr. Simmons Second: Mr. Stoddard Motion Carried: 5-0

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for January in the amount of \$160,027.17.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Coban Motion Carried: 5-0

Finance Committee

- 1) Motion to approve Resolution 2021-03 Setting the Tax Collector Salary.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 5-0

The Salary will be set at \$5505.00 for the term from 2022-2025.

Property and Planning

- 1) Ms. Dayhoff shared that the Property and Planning Committee will be meeting next week with Tom Costello to go over his review of the Zoning Ordinance.

- 2) Motion to approve the Stanczak lot consolidation.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Coban Motion Carried: 5-0

Senate has a few issues that can easily be fixed by the surveyors. They recommend conditionally approving the consolidation and then they can fix the issues.

Strategic Planning – Nothing to Report

Public Safety

- 1) Motion to approve Resolution 2021-05 Honoring George McBriar's Service to Blawnox
Moved: Ms. Coban Second: Mr. Stoddard Motion Carried: 5-0
- 2) Mayor Anthony Gross presented George McBriar a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives sponsored by Representative Anthony Deluca.
- 3) Mayor Matthew Rudzki from Sharpsburg Borough presented George McBriar with a Proclamation for Service to Blawnox Fire Department from Sharpsburg.
- 4) Motion to approve Resolution 2021-06 Honoring John Simmons's Service to Blawnox
Moved: Ms. Dayhoff Second: Ms. Coban Motion Carried: 5-0
- 5) Mayor Anthony Gross presented John Simmons a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives sponsored by Representative Anthony Deluca.
- 6) Mayor Matthew Rudzki from Sharpsburg Borough presented John Simmons with a Proclamation for Service to Blawnox Fire Department from Sharpsburg.
- 7) Councilman Simmons asked for a moment to speak. He sent a Thank You to council and the borough and also to Mayor Rudzki and the Borough of Sharpsburg. Mr. McBriar also shared his thanks to the council and borough and to Mayor Rudzki.

Public Works – Nothing to report

Community Events

- 1) Councilwoman Coban shared that the state is not currently issuing Parade Permits so Memorial Day is on hold for the moment. Chief Goodman continues to check in on the status of permits and Councilwoman Coban will inform Council as soon as she hears something definite.

Reports (Available Upon Request)

A. Manager's Report – In the packets no questions

B. Engineer's Report – Gordon Taylor – In the packets no questions.

Motion to approve Resolution 2021-04 the pre-application for the CITF Grant

Moved: Ms. Coban Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 5-0

Old Business

Motion to approve the Mobile Truck Vendor Permit/ Application, Ordinance 614

Moved: Ms. Dayhoff Second: Mr. Stoddard Motion Carried: 5-0

Carr Property – Manager Ulanowicz shared that Mr. Carr once again filed for bankruptcy so we are again at a standstill with the property.

Glass Recycling – Manager Ulanowicz shared that she had received a call from O'Hara township asking if we are interested in partnering for Glass recycling. They are working on finding a spot in their municipal park where they can place the bin.

Royston Update – Manager Ulanowicz shared that Royston fought their assessment and had their properties reassessed and received a considerable reduction. Manager Ulanowicz spoke with Joe Dalfonso and Matt Rudzki and both felt it was not beneficial for us to try to fight the assessment. We will have to give them a refund for their 2020 taxes.

Chicken's – The Borough has a hearing with the Magistrate, but it has been postponed until May. Manager Ulanowicz spoke with the owner of the property because the people that live there are considered tenants. The owner was unaware of the rules and will talk with the tenant.

New Business

Mandy Steel presentation of Coal Tar – Coal Tar based asphalt sealant is dangerous and they feel it causes cancer. The sealant can flake off and can be washed off the surface into our water or can be tracked into our houses on our shoes. Ms. Steel says it has been banned in Fox Chapel and they are planning to ban it in Sharpsburg and Aspinwall as well. Councilman Stoddard wanted to know if homeowners are banned from using in Fox Chapel. Everyone is banned in the borough. Councilman Simmons wanted to know what the alternative is for use as a sealant. Ms. Steel said there is an asphalt-based sealant that works just as well and is similar in price. Manager Ulanowicz asked how you enforce the ban. Ms. Steel says you reach out to all the distributors and then the word gets out.

Carla Drive Lighting – Carla Drive wanted to additional lighting put in for them. Manager Ulanowicz spoke to Duquesne Light and was told that if the lights were within 10 ft. of the transformer, they would cost \$2,500 per light. There would be an additional cost for lights beyond that distance. If the lights were put in the cost would be \$14 and change per light. Manager Ulanowicz has let the homeowner's association know that the borough will not pay to put the lights in, they would need to do it themselves. Borough Council would need to decide if the Borough would be willing to pay the additional charge monthly if they were to put in lights or if they would need to pay for that as well.

100th Anniversary of Blawnox – The 100th Anniversary of Blawnox is coming up in April of 2025. We need to begin to think about putting together a committee to begin planning. We will need to raise money.

- Mayor Rudzki shared that Sharpsburg worked with the County to participate in the Open Streets Program. They started the year before and got money from the county, then they combined the two events.

Mayor Gross asked for a moment to speak about Trash. He heard that the recycling truck has been taking all the stuff they collect directly to the landfill. He understands wanting to recycle but if we are not getting the service why are we paying for it? Solicitor Dalfonso is going to ask around in the Sanitation Community to see if the person that told the Mayor was allowed to and if we can discuss this with the provider. Manager Ulanowicz shared that we will need to decide if we want to go to bid or extend our contract at the end of this year.


Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items – No Comments

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager


Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President

