

**MINUTES
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting February 8th, 2022**

Call to Order

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6:33 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, John Simmons, Katie Coban, President Deborah Laskey, Vice President Randall Stoddard, and Jessica Dayhoff-Mayo.

Council Members Not Present: Meghan Kennedy

Also Present: Engineer Gordon Taylor, Solicitor Samuel Dalfonso, Junior Council Member Jacob Anthikad, Mayor Anthony Gross, Borough Manager, Kathy Ulanowicz, and Assistant Borough Manager, Mallori McDowell.

Comments from the Public

No Comments from the Public.

Agenda Items

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the January 11th, 2023 meeting.

Moved: Ms. Laskey

Second: Mr. Stoddard

Motion Carried: 6-0

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for January in the amount \$204,805.05

Moved: Mr. Stoddard

Second: Ms. Palmer

Motion Carried: 6-0

Finance Committee – Nothing at this time

Property and Planning – Meeting Next Week

Strategic Planning – Meeting Next Week

Public Safety

- 1) Mike Yonas, the president of the Blawnox Volunteer Fire Company, was present to discuss the Fire Company's interest in purchasing a used Fire Engine. The department would like to make a purchase over \$25,000 which per the by-laws needs council approval. They have been aggressively looking for a new engine, the current one is not always starting consistently. They are looking to make an offer on one they found in New York. It mostly only needs cosmetic work done. The goal will be to finance the engine although they have money for a downpayment. They are offering \$225,000.00. The engine is currently not being used at this time. Our current engine is just not reliable.

Motion to Amend the Agenda to discuss the purchase of a fire truck.

Moved: Mr. Simmons Second: Ms. Coban Motion Carried: 6-0

Motion to Allow the Fire Department to move forward with purchasing a fire truck.

Moved: Mr. Simmons Second: Mr. Stoddard Motion Carried: 6-0

- 2) Motion to Approve Ordinance #633 Amending Chapter 515 Vehicles and Traffic – Article III parking regulations

Moved: Mr. Simmons Second: Mr. Stoddard Motion Carried: 6-0

- 3) Motion to Accept the Municipal Police Agreement for the Blawnox Police Department to join the DUI Task Force.

Moved: Mr. Simmons Second: Ms. Dayhoff-Mayo Motion Carried: 6-0

Public Works

- 1) Consent Order and Agreement – we have sent information to the DEP that they requested and are waiting to hear back from them.

Community Events – Nothing at this time.

Reports (Available Upon Request)

A. Manager's Report – In the packets

B. Engineer's Report – Gordon Taylor – In the packets

- 1) Motion to award Roto-Rooter the CDBG 48 Water Source Removal contract \$56,265.00.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Dayhoff-Mayo Motion Carried: 6-0

- 2) Motion to award KGD Constructing the Community Park Phase II contract \$129,247.00.

Moved: Ms. Dayhoff-Mayo Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 6-0

- 3) Motion to Amend the Agenda to discuss Approving payment of the 5% retainage funds for the Water System Improvements Grant.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Coban Motion Carried: 6-0

- 4) Motion to Approve final payment subject to Gordon's Approval.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Coban Motion Carried: 6-0

- 5) Valve Replacement – The Contractor is Started and we are moving along with the project. He hopes to be done by the end of the month.

- 6) Mortimer Excavating will have the vault by the end of next week. They are looking to maybe begin the following week.

- 7) Regionalization – We are getting closer → 2 to 3 months for the DEP to review.

- 8) Councilman Simmons asked if since the ARLEE Grant was declined again if we can reapply. Engineer Taylor says we can once the applications reopen. We do still have the LSA Grants outstanding. We may hear about them in March.

Old Business

231 Freeport Road – No response from the property owner sent citation court date February 7th. Solicitor Dalfonso, Manager Ulanowicz, PW Foreman Belotti and Code Enforcement Officer Wright all attended the hearing. The property owner did not show. She was found Guilty. Solicitor Dalfonso will send a letter about the judgement and next steps.

537 Fountain Street Carr Property – No response from the property owner sent citation court date February 7th. Solicitor Dalfonso, Manager Ulanowicz, PW Foreman Belotti and Code Enforcement Officer Wright all attended the hearing. The property owner came to court and was given 1 month to fix the issue.

201 Summit Drive getting closer to listing the property. Also Mr. Petre is not deceased.

Building Inspection Underwriters new inspector assigned – Dennis has been in our office 3 days this week.

New Business

Allegheny Together Grant application – strategic planning for revitalization of the business district. They sent someone and assisted us with the grant application.

Property Appeal – The large apartment building on Freeport Rd sold for 2.4 million. School district is appealing again.

Real Estate collection changes – School is no longer allowed to host the borough taxes.

Councilwoman Coban would like us to look into Silver Alert for our community.

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

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager


Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President

