

**MINUTES
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting July 14th, 2021**

Call to Order

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. in Council Chambers. A Zoom was set up for any Council Members or Public who were not comfortable or did not feel well to still be able to attend.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The roll was called to establish a quorum.

Council Members Present: Elaine Palmer, John Simmons, Jessica Dayhoff, Meghan Kennedy, Vice President Randall Stoddard and President Deborah Laskey

Council Members Not Present: Katie Coban

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

Comments from the Public

No Comments from the Public

Agenda Items

Motion to approve the Zoning Public Hearing Minutes of the June 9, 2021 hearing.

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

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the June 9, 2021 meeting.

Moved: Ms. Laskey Second: Ms. Kennedy Motion Carried: 6-0

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for June in the amount of \$97,055.11.

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

Finance Committee - Nothing to Share

Property and Planning

- 1) Councilwoman Dayhoff shared that the Property and Planning Committee continue to meet with Tom Costello on the Zoning Ordinance. They are making great progress on the ordinance. Their next meeting will be August 31st.

Strategic Planning – Nothing to Share

Public Safety

- 1) Motion to Advertise Ordinance #618 Setting Parking Fines

Moved: Mr. Simmons

Second: Ms. Dayhoff

Motion Carried: 6-0

Public Works – Nothing to Share

Community Events

- 1) Manager Ulanowicz shared an update on the Best of Blawnox. The Community Garden group is having a vegetable give away today at the monument. This is the first of many for the summer from the Community Garden. Also, the Best of Blawnox has been working on planning an event for National Night Out. It will start with a dog walk that goes from the corner of Lewis Ave. and Fountain St. to the Community Park. All Dogs must be on a leash and under control of their owner. After the walk finishes there will be a blessing of the animals at the park. Finally, there will be an ice cream social with the Police and Volunteer Fire Department.

Reports (Available Upon Request)

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

B. Engineer's Report – Gordon Taylor

1. Motion to approve periodic estimate #2 final invoice \$84,215.20, with a change order decreasing the original contract by \$1,580.00.
Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Kennedy Motion Carried: 6-0
2. Phase 2 Order – should be coming this month. We are currently sitting good with the order most likely. Gordon will sit down with Kathy and maybe Sam once the order comes out. We currently fall below the Gold Line Standard but will still be required to do some work. It will be a several year process.
3. We received our Water Allocation Permit!
4. Solicitor Dalfonso is working on the Park Ancillary issue. He is trying to find a way for the asphalt to be ancillary. Once the issue is solved, we can move on with the project.
5. We did submit the Arlee Grant.
6. Kathy received the motion to proceed paperwork for Thompson Electric.

Old Business

Petre Property – Manager Ulanowicz shared that there is a Zoom hearing that she will be attending for an investment company to become Conservator of the property. If they should become conservator, they can choose to fix up the property and sell or sell it as is. When the property sells, they get any money they spent back plus 20% of the proceeds. The owner gets the rest.

Schultz Property – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the Land Bank has the property up for Sheriff's Sale on August 2nd. The owner is not interested in owning or taking care of the property.

Carr Property – Manager Ulanowicz shared that our Sheriff Sale was also scheduled for August 2nd. However, any sales that were filed after January of this year have been pushed to September.

Wysocki Property – Betty Thompson still owns the property, and she does not want to deal with it in anyway. The Borough has been trying to push on property maintenance and back taxes to see if that gets her interested in dealing with selling the property. Unfortunately, there was a mortgage on the property that no one can find.

Khan Storage Property – Manager Ulanowicz shared that in order to build the Storage building the Brothers Khan need not only Zoning to work but they need to be able to get a building and occupancy permit. Currently those two things are at odds for them. A storage building is permitted in the area they want to build but for a building or occupancy permit it is considered a garage since they are storing automobiles. Garages are not permitted in the area. They need a UCC Appeals board for the project which we do not have in the Borough. Solicitor Dalfonso is attempting to work with Etna to allow us to use their board because they have one. It will be a few months before we have the issue all worked out.

New Business

Custom Feather Flags, Wind Blade Flags – Manager Ulanowicz is having some issues with complaints about temporary banner flags and wants to know if this is something we should deal with now or wait to deal with as we get to this section of the new Zoning Ordinance.

Councilwoman Dayhoff and the rest of Council feel we should leave it until we get to it in the Zoning Ordinance. The Property and Planning Committee will be dealing with signs in August. Council feels we need to address how many of these types of signs we want to have in town? If these temporary/ banner signs need to go in at night. We also need to consider the sign that is in front of the Borough Building.

Mayor Gross would like Council to decide where the Mayor Photos we have collected are going to go and have them hung up. Council would like Mayor Gross to submit a photo and then they will get them hung up. The wall to the left of Council Chambers when facing the Council Members has been chosen for the picture wall.

Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items

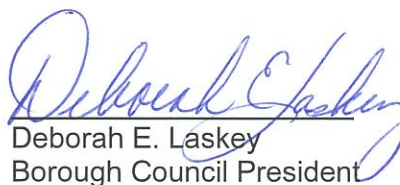
No Comments from the Public

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager


Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President

