

**MINUTES
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting June 11, 2020**

Call to Order

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6:40 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: President Deborah E. Laskey, Vice President Randy Stoddard, Jessica Dayhoff, Katie Coban, John Simmons, and Meghan Kennedy

Council Members Not Present: Elaine Palmer

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

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Items

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting.

Moved: Ms. Kennedy

Second: Ms. Coban

Motion Carried: 6-0

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for May \$109,506.71.

Moved: Ms. Kennedy

Second: Mr. Stoddard

Motion Carried: 6-0

Finance Committee

Property and Planning

Strategic Planning

Public Safety – Councilman Simmons

- 1) Councilman Simmons shared with Council that the railroad crossing on Center Avenue would be closed one day next week and that he would let us know what day when they know.
- 2) Councilman Simmons let Council know that the Blawnox Fire Company is looking into adding on to the Number 2 Fire Station.
- 3) Solicitor Dalfonso suggested that the Borough should look at our Police Policies and make sure they are current and up to date. Mayor Gross shared that he had spoken to Chief Goodman and the policies are as up to date as they can be.

Public Works – Vice President Stoddard

- 1) Vice President Stoddard shared that we had a water main break in a 12-inch line on Cable Avenue that has been repaired. The paving has started on that area.

Community Events

Reports (Available Upon Request)

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

B. Engineer's Report – Gordon Taylor

1. Paving – the paving has commenced. They have started on the full depth reclamation on 4th Street, but the asphalt has not been done.
2. Senate met with Councilman Simmons about the ARLE Grant for the emergency lighting at the bus stops and fire department for which they are helping with the application.
3. Motion to proceed on the CDBG 46 Phase VII Sanitary Sewer & Manhole Repair
Motion: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 6-0
4. Motion to proceed on the CDBG 46 Phase IV Water System Improvements [Tank Vault and Tank Mixing System]
Motion: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Coban Motion Carried: 6-0

Old Business

Motion to Approve Resolution 2020-07 that will rescind Resolution 2020-06.

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

Borough Manager Ulanowicz wanted Council to discuss their feelings on reopening the community park. Borough Manager Ulanowicz is concerned with the regulations on maintaining social distancing and sanitation that is required to reopen. The Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society have come up with strict guidelines for all different types of outdoor recreation. Solicitor Dalfonso said that many communities have decided to keep their parks closed for the time being. Mayor Gross shared that Randy Adams the head of the Blawnox Baseball Association has the training and ability to sanitize the ballfield, restrooms, and any other areas the Baseball Association would use during their time at the field if they were allowed to resume their season. Ms. Ulanowicz asked what we would do about the other leagues that rent our field. Ms. Kennedy suggested that the other leagues would have to agree to pay to have the sanitization done after their use in order to be allowed to play. Mayor Gross was going to see if Mr. Adams would be willing to do that and what the cost would be. No one felt comfortable opening the playground at this time since there is not enough room for children to social distance.

Borough Manager Ulanowicz asked to speak about the Portal Signs that we had made for the community. One was supposed to be placed on the property of the new development at the corner of Freeport Rd. and Center Avenue however there is not enough room with their current design. The development plans to have a marquee sign for the plaza which will be called Fox Chapel Village and somewhere on the sign it will say Welcome to Blawnox Borough. There were no objections at this time. Borough Manager Ulanowicz is going to have the company place the portal sign at the other end of town on the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority land.

New Business

Motion to accept the option year for the Morton Salt Contract [Road Salt]

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

Motion to allow Borough Administration and Senate Engineering to apply for the GROW Grant
Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 6-0

Borough Manager Ulanowicz wanted to discuss grass cutting at the Petre, Skibo, and Schultz properties. In the past the Borough had paid to cut the grass at these properties but this year we have not. Borough Manager Ulanowicz said she wanted to try to create a case for blight at the Petre property, so she had not been having that grass cut. She explained that the Code Enforcement Officer would be beginning the violation process for the property. Solicitor Dalfonso stated that we can start the process for municipal liens for the water and the grass mowing at the property. In addition, he said that every day can be treated as a new violation with the Citations for Code Enforcement. Councilman Stoddard suggested we also begin the same process for the Schultz property.

Borough Manager Ulanowicz wanted to hear Councils opinions on Opening the Office to the Public. Mayor Gross asked how Manager Ulanowicz felt about it. The consensus was that the office should remain closed until further notice. It can eventually be opened for appointment only. Solicitor Dalfonso reminded us that we need to follow the CDC guidelines and post appropriate signage about COVID-19. We will work to get the correct signage up immediately.

The July Council Meeting was also something that Borough Manager Ulanowicz wanted to discuss with Council. There were concerns from everyone about the ability to social distance in Council Chambers. Solicitor Dalfonso suggested that it was possible to move it to another building with a hall and Manager Ulanowicz said that O'Hara Township has done that. This was discussed but Council decided that the July Meeting should be another Zoom Meeting.

Borough Manager Ulanowicz and Mr. Stoddard had a meeting with Waste Management about Recycling Right. Waste Management would like us to change our contract to eliminate Glass and Plastics Nos. 3-7. Solicitor Dalfonso asked what Waste Management was giving as an incentive. Manager Ulanowicz said that they would provide all the education and give a six-month grace period but that they were not offering anything monetary or even anything like recycling bins. Solicitor Dalfonso suggested asking for a longer grace period and having Waste Management put the proposal into writing for us to view and discuss.

Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items

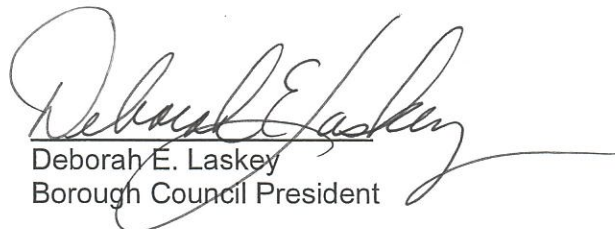
There were no comments from the public.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager


Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President

