

**MINUTES  
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting June 9th, 2021**

**Call to Order**

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6:33 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:** Elaine Palmer, Katie Coban, Jessica Dayhoff, John Simmons, and President Deborah Laskey

**Council Members Not Present:** Meghan Kennedy and Vice President Randall Stoddard

**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 May 12, 2021 meeting.

**Moved: Ms. Laskey**

**Second: Mr. Simmons**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for May in the amount of \$55,750.38.

**Moved: Ms. Coban**

**Second: Ms. Laskey**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

**Finance Committee**

- 1) Motion to approve the Morton Salt Agreement for 2021-2022, with a one-year option.

**Moved: Ms. Dayhoff**

**Second: Ms. Palmer**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

**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. Councilwoman Dayhoff is still feeling confident about a Quarter 3 adoption of the ordinance. She also wanted to thank Mayor Gross and Manager Ulanowicz for their help with the ordinance process.
- 2) Motion to Approve Ordinance #617 Amending the Zoning Ordinance for Sit Down Restaurants.

**Moved: Ms. Palmer**

**Second: Ms. Coban**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

### **Strategic Planning**

- 1) Update "First Fridays" – Councilwoman Laskey shared that she met with the Best of Blawnox group last night. They were very receptive of the idea of holding First Fridays in the Borough. She felt the meeting was a great way for the group to hear about what else was happening around the state.

### **Public Safety**

- 1) Motion to Approve Ordinance #616 Adopting the International Fire Code 2021  
**Moved: Ms. Coban                      Second: Ms. Palmer                      Motion Carried: 5-0**
- 2) Motion to approve beginning the application process for the ARLE Grant  
**Moved: Ms. Dayhoff                      Second: Ms. Palmer                      Motion Carried: 5-0**
- 3) North Hills Special Response Team municipal membership  
Mayor Gross shared that the North Hills Special Response Team offers a social membership for \$1500 that he thinks we should consider. The team offers members the opportunity for police departments to take different free trainings. It also allows the community the opportunity to ask for the team to deploy if there is a situation (like an active shooter or a hostage situation). The Council was interested in joining.

Motion to approve a membership to the North Hills Special Response Team  
**Moved: Mr. Simmons                      Second: Ms. Coban                      Motion Carried: 5-0**

### **Public Works**

- 1) Update from the committee meeting – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the meeting was spend discussing the recent water breaks. They have started the discussion about potentially replacing water lines in the Borough.

### **Community Events**

- 1) Update from the Committee Meeting – Councilwoman Coban shared that the committee discussed what would be the next community event and it was decided that Halloween and Night of the Lights would be next. The committee will discuss with Chief Goodman if there is anything that is needed for Halloween and in what ways they can assist. Councilwoman Coban also shared that Memorial Day was a success. It was wonderful and people are still talking about the parade.
- 2) Update on Best of Blawnox – Councilwoman Coban shared that the Best of Blawnox Group is a very good volunteer organization. The next event the group will be working on is National Night Out on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Councilwoman Coban shared that it was so nice because everyone in the group has their own little niche and takes on their own projects.
- 3) Memorial Day – Motion to Approve a Payment to the Samba Dancers  
Councilwoman Coban shared how the Samba Dancers really made our parade this year. When we were coordinating the event the Dancers had asked for a payment of around \$700 and we were not in a position to pay them so they volunteered to participate for free. They were such a hit that the committee would really like to pay them about \$500 for participating.

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

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

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

5&6. We are working on a plan for moving the original location of the basketball court to where the old tennis courts are located. If we keep the project around \$110,000 it will be fully funded by the Grant money we have been awarded. The project is slowly moving forward. Manager Ulanowicz has a meeting about the project next week.

7. CDBG 46 – we are down to only four spot repairs and one seal for a manhole left to fix on the project.

8&9. We are waiting to get a schedule from Thompson Electric for the Water System Repairs. We also have received approval to submit a change of scope for the project and we will add replacing 2 check valves.

11) CDBG 47 Water Valve Replacements – the Grant was awarded and since we are able to do 2 check valves with the Water System Repairs project we will need a change of scope for this project as well.

12) CITF – we were awarded the grant to do the water meter replacement project and we are waiting for a contract.

13) ARLE Grant – This grant is undertaken by Senate and their Transportation Contractors and it is one they submit for free. So they will resubmit the Grant application for us this year.

### **Old Business**

Motion to Approve Resolution 2021-10 Coal Tar Best Practices

**Moved: Ms. Dayhoff**

**Second: Mr. Simmons**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

Glass Recycling – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the Glass Recycling area is all set up and ready to go. The Grand Opening Event will occur on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 12 pm. She would love for Council to come if they are able.

American Relief Program – Manager Ulanowicz received an email last Tuesday that we had 5 days to apply for our American Relief Program Money. She filled out the application and is waiting to hear back. The Borough should be receiving \$145,000 and some change. We will have 4 years to spend the money although as long as we have a contract in place for the money by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 we will be okay.

Waste Management Contract – The Borough must decide if we plan to execute the one or two year option we have left on our Waste Management Contract. Manager Ulanowicz has been discussing contracts with the COG and has found that our rate for both years of the extension will be less than what the COG contract would be and the other members suggest we sign our extensions because they don't expect to get a better rate than what we have. Council feels that we should go ahead and sign for two years.

Motion to sign the two-year extension on our Waste Management Contract.

**Moved: Mr. Simmons**

**Second: Ms. Coban**

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

### **New Business**

Building Inspection Underwriters citations – BIU has been working since 2019 to get all rental properties in the Borough inspected however, they have 17 property owners who have never responded. They have already sent 3 regular letters, a certified letter, a violation, and now they are up to the citation phase. Manager Ulanowicz shared that the cost to send citations to the 17 property owners will be about \$600, she wondered if this is something we want to do? Council feels that we should go ahead and send the citations but also, we should see if by our ordinance we can ask for the property owner to pay for some of the cost.

Parkview E.M.S. – Parkview will be changing from a donation service to a subscription service. This is being done for a Medicare Compliance issues. The cost for the subscription will be the same as the donation has been.

Shut Off Notices – During COVID we stopped posting doors and began to mail our shut off notices so that people were not embarrassed if they were having trouble paying their bills. Manager Ulanowicz wanted to know if she could begin posting doors again? Council felt that it would be acceptable to begin again.

Council Meetings – Manager Ulanowicz wanted to find out if Council was ready to begin meeting in person again and how they wanted to handle the situation. Everyone was interested in beginning in person meetings again. Solicitor Dalfonso encouraged that we continue to provide a Zoom option for the public. There was some concern about what to do about masks but it seems that it is too hard to require them so they should be optional. Council members feel that we should try to spread out the chairs for the public more and provide less seats. July's council meeting will be in person with an option for Zoom.

Office Reopening – Manager Ulanowicz is interested in finding a way to begin reopening to the public but also have Assistant Manager McDowell come safely back to the office. Council and Mayor Gross said that what makes Manager Ulanowicz and Assistant Manager McDowell comfortable should be what is done. Manager Ulanowicz also shared that during our liability insurance audit the woman who comes out felt that it would be better if the front door was locked full time. The Police Department has a camera that they can see out front but the office cannot. Mayor Gross suggested one of the video doorbells. We will look into that option.

President Laskey asked if Mayor Gross had anything to add. He did not. However, Councilwoman Dayhoff wanted to know from the Mayor if the Police Department has been citing the trucks that drive down Jackson? He did not know the answer and would discuss it with Chief Goodman because it is becoming a problem.

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

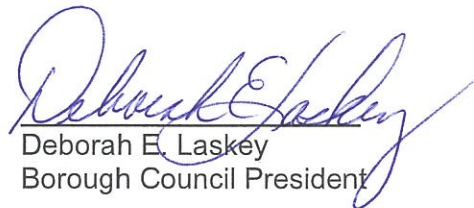
No Comments from the Public

**Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
Kathy Ulanowicz  
Borough Manager

  
Deborah E. Laskey  
Borough Council President

