

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

Call to Order

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6:35 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: Meghan Kennedy, Elaine Palmer, Katie Coban, John Simmons, President Deborah Laskey and Vice President Randall Stoddard

Council Members Not Present: Jessica Dayhoff

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 February 11, 2021 meeting.

Moved: Ms. Laskey

Second: Ms. Coban

Motion Carried: 6-0

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for February in the amount of \$70,685.50.

Moved: Ms. Kennedy

Second: Mr. Simmons

Motion Carried: 6-0

Finance Committee

- 1) Motion to approve Resolution 2021-07 Verizon Cable Franchise Agreement

Moved: Ms. Kennedy

Second: Mr. Stoddard

Motion Carried: 6-0

Mr. Stoddard questioned if Solicitor Dalfonso had read over the agreement.

Manager Ulanowicz shared that the agreement had been negotiated through the COG. Mr. Stoddard was worried about losing some of the franchise fee.

Everyone agreed to continue with the motion.

Property and Planning

- 1) Manager Ulanowicz shared that the Property and Planning Committee continue to meet with Tom Costello on the Zoning Ordinance. They have a meeting set with him next Thursday. They are hoping to finish in the next couple of months and then we will have a public hearing on the new ordinance.

Strategic Planning – Nothing to Report

Public Safety

- 1) Councilman Simmons shared that there was a misprint in the Fireman's Report and that they had voted not to join the North Hills Fireman's Association. Not the North Hills COG like it was written.
- 2) Councilman Simmons also shared that the Borough has ordered a new police car. The new car is a 2021 Explorer from Schultz Ford and it comes equipped with a camera. We were able to get a \$5,000 trade in for the White Police Car. Some work needs to be done on the Black Police Car before we can trade in the White Car and take possession of the new car, but it is expected to happen in the next week or so.

Public Works

- 1) Councilman Stoddard shared that we had a water break along Pine Ave. that was in a line that feed the Mill and that was tricky to reach. The PW department did an excellent job getting the break repaired.
- 2) Mayor Gross shared that he was with Public Works and there had been some talk about a new truck for them. We will discuss with the Foreman and look into their needs for next year.

Community Events

- 1) Councilwoman Coban shared that the Best of Blawnox Group is now a thriving volunteer organization and have several events coming up. The group is working on the Community Garden, with Carol Hillwig spearheading the effort. Councilwoman Coban says we are working to get some supplies to make working the garden easier. Also, the group is planning Earth Day for April 24th and in conjunction they plan to relaunch their Adopt A Block Program and attempt to find volunteers for that program. Finally, Junior Councilwoman Gerges is assisting the group with a program Pen Pals for Seniors which will be starting up soon.
- 2) Councilwoman Coban shared that Officer Goodman had heard today from PennDot that they will be issuing road closure permits for Memorial Day Parades. Councilman Simmons spoke to the local Fire Departments and since none of the local communities are doing a Memorial Day Event, they were all very interested in joining our parade. The plan is for a Drive through only parade, with no program at the Monument and no luncheon. Council is thinking maybe a 10:00 am start time for the parade.

Reports (Available Upon Request)

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

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

6) GTRG – The meeting to decide on the Greenways Trail Grant was canceled for March 2021. No decision will be made before the May meeting. The May meeting is just before the application is due for 2021. Do we want to apply for 2021 and then withdraw our application if we receive the grant in the 2020 cycle? Borough Council thinks this is what we should do. Gordon will send us the application to apply for 2021.

7) CDBG 46 Sanitary Sewer Repairs – Found an issue up on Walnut St with water from a Spring infiltrating the sewer lines. The company can not line the sewer with water running through it. Spring will have to be taken out of the

system eventually. Senate is evaluating the CCTV footage to see if we can spot repair the issues to the line and fix the spring later.

8) CDBG 46 Water System Repairs – Senate is getting ready to submit the permits to get the project started.

Old Business

Ordinance 615 Eliminating PAH Discussion – Manager Ulanowicz wanted to discuss with Council Ordinance 615 which would prevent the use of coal tar sealant on driveways and parking lots in the Borough. She shared that there was a lot to the process and that there are concerns about how to enforce the ordinance. Councilman Simmons shared that even though Ms. Steele offered to contact local companies to let them know we had banned the use of Coal Tar that you get a lot of fly by night companies that might not know the rules and could seal many driveways in a community and then what would we do. Manager Ulanowicz also shared that O'Hara Township had tabled the ordinance for now and Sharpsburg will be voting at their meeting but are unsure what will happen with the ordinance. Council decided to table this issue.

Motion to Table Ordinance 615 Eliminating PAH until a later time.

Moved: Mr. Simmons

Second: Ms. Coban

Motion Carried: 6-0

Glass Recycling – Manager Ulanowicz shared that she was still working on the glass recycling. She spoke with Mr. Pasquarelli from Waste Management and he says we might be able to keep our glass recycling for now since we have a contract with a two-year option. Manager Ulanowicz is still waiting to hear back from O'Hara Township about the permanent glass recycling location.

Chicken's – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the Borough had a home visit at the home with the Chickens. All that is left at the property are the original therapy chickens that the owner is permitted to have. For the time being the Borough has kept the court date we currently have, and the plan is to do a second home visit close to the court date and if nothing changes the charges will be withdrawn from the Magistrate.

New Business

Will Pickering with Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority Addressing recent charges and remedial steps – Mr. Pickering gave a presentation on the issues with the Allegheny River Water Quality and charges against PWSA. He shared that in the past the Aspinwall Treatment Plant was only fixed as it failed. They are now focusing on improvements to the plant before things fail to meet current WQ Guidelines. They had been charged with releasing solids directly into the river in 2017 but neither of the compliance issues from those events impacted the quality of the drinking water. They have since fixed the plant so that it can no longer discharge solids. They also have installed new leadership at PWSA. Their goals are to invest in the plant, build staff capacity, and facilitate cultural change. He also addressed the issues they have had with lead. Since 2019 they have started to add orthophosphate to the water and have met the consent order requirements with declining lead levels.

Councilman Stoddard asked if there was long term impact from the orthophosphate? It is a food grade additive and is completely safe for potable water. It can promote algal growth like and phosphorous product. They had some concerns about algal blooms in the Highland Park Reservoir, so they don't treat until after the water leaves the reservoir. They may eventually phase out the use after they remove all the lead lines.

Councilman Stoddard asked if PWSA has any programs to help small water systems with their engineers or system managers? Not that he knows of at this time but thinks it is a good idea and will take it back to PWSA leadership to discuss.

Mayor Gross asked if the Orthophosphate is a coating agent or does it eat lead? It is a coating agent that when it works properly lines the pipe.

Mayor Gross asked what happens to the sludge if it cannot be released back to the river? It is sent to ALCOSAN to be cleaned, treated, and released back into the river.

100th Anniversary of Blawnox – The 100th Anniversary of Blawnox is coming up in April of 2025. The Borough is beginning to take the names of people interested in helping with the organization of the event.

Solicitor Dalfonso asked to speak to the Council about a favor he would like to ask of them. The law firm picked up a new client who meets at the same time as our meeting and is a bit of a headache so he was wondering if it would be possible for us to move our meeting date to the Second Wednesday of the month so that he could continue to be our Solicitor. No council member present had an issue with the change. Manager Ulanowicz had spoken to Councilwoman Dayhoff and she had no issue. She will reach out to Councilwoman Kennedy who had to leave early and get her opinion and then let everyone know. Senate Engineering had no issue, nor did Borough Staff or Junior Councilwoman Gerges.

Council sang Happy Birthday to Mayor Gross.

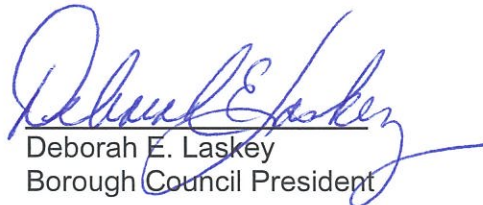
Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items – No Comments

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager


Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President