

**MINUTES
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting March 9th, 2022**

Call to Order

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6.30 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: John Simmons, Katie Coban, President Deborah Laskey, Vice President Randall Stoddard, and Jessica Dayhoff-Mayo in person; Meghan Kennedy via Zoom.

Council Members Not Present: Elaine Palmer

Also Present: Engineer Gordon Taylor, Solicitor Samuel Dalfonso, Borough Manager, Kathy Ulanowicz, Mayor Anthony Gross 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 February 9th, 2022 meeting.

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

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for January in the amount of \$160,300.65.

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

Assistant Borough Manager McDowell did an update on MS-4 in the Borough. She shared that while she has been working from home during the pandemic, she has updated the plans for the different MCM's and updated the website with MS-4 information. The DEP came in December for an audit of the Boroughs MS-4 program. The auditor met with Ms. McDowell and Manager Ulanowicz to discuss the program paperwork. Then, Public Works Foreman Belotti and Ms. McDowell showed the auditor our facilities and our stormwater outfalls. We had no violations and only a few comments of things to follow up on after the audit was complete.

Finance Committee – Nothing to report

Property and Planning

- 1) Councilwoman Dayhoff shared that there was no update on the Zoning Ordinance. The next step is to redo the Zoning Map and then send everything to the County for review. The committee should be meeting this month.

- 2) UCC Appeal Kahn Storage update – The UCC board met to hear the appeal via zoom. They decided that with the few changes (including security, insulation, and fire alarms) that were proposed by the builders that they would approve the plan.

Strategic Planning

- 1) Council President Laskey shared that she had spoken with Emily from Duquesne Light and they are getting approval from the PUC to handle the electric infrastructure for charging stations. This allows them to install and own the infrastructure right up to the charging station. President Laskey has another call with Emily coming up to discuss getting a charging station in Blawnox.

Public Safety

- 1) Councilman Simmons would first like to congratulate the Fire Department on their 100th Anniversary and ask if we could as a Borough do some sort of proclamation.
- 2) Motion to send a letter of intent to the DCED to have a Fire Department Regionalization Study prepared
Moved: Ms. Coban Second: Ms. Dayhoff-Mayo Motion Carried: 6-0
- 3) Street Lighting on Fountain and Pine Streets – Assistant Manager McDowell reached out to our contact at Duquesne Light and asked that they focus on Pine Street. The technician shared that there are two current poles (one near Humboldt and one fairly close to the current light) that we could add lights too. There is also a Verizon pole closer to Lewis that would need to be replaced but then could potentially be used. Manager Ulanowicz and Assistant Manager McDowell asked for a light to be put on the pole near Humboldt and then they are going to see how the lighting is in the area. They would like to avoid having to work with Verizon as they don't even know where to start to get that done. The light was installed on Saturday 3/5/22.
- 4) Motion to approve Ordinance 623 amending and replacing Ordinance #614 Food Truck Ordinance
Moved: Mr. Simmons Second: Ms. Kennedy Motion Carried: 6-0
- 5) Motion to approve Resolution 2022-04 to apply for a Local Share Account Grant in the amount of \$45,000 for Sidewalk Replacement and Landscaping at the Community Park.
Moved: Mr. Simmons Second: Mr. Stoddard Motion Carried: 6-0

Public Works

- 1) Vice President Stoddard shared that the Public Works Department had approved their contract.
- 2) Motion to Increase the Public Works Department Life Insurance
Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Failed: 0-6
- 3) Motion to amend the agenda to add a motion to increase the public works department life insurance.
Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 6-0
- 4) Motion to Increase the Public Works Department Life Insurance
Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 6-0
- 5) Motion to approve resolution 2022-03 to apply for a Local Share Account Grant in the amount of \$81,875.00 for a Public Works Truck
Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Kennedy Motion Carried: 6-0
- 6) Sewer Lateral Discussion – we are working on changing our Sewer Lateral Ordinance to put the burden on the homeowner. Right now, it requires a 110% deposit and Solicitor

- Dalfonso is concerned about the Borough getting into keeping and refunding that money. The Council decided to have the Closing Company escrow the money for the Borough.
- 7) Motion to advertise Ordinance #624 amending the Sewer Lateral Ordinance.
Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 6-0

Community Events

- 1) Events Update – Councilwoman Coban shared that the next Best of Blawnox events will be the Egg Hunt on April 10th and Earth Day on April 23rd. The Best of Blawnox is doing a lot of great stuff. The next Borough Event will be Memorial Day. Assistant Manager McDowell shared that she put a blurb in the newsletter about Memorial Day asking for Veterans and for any groups interested in being in the parade.

Reports (Available Upon Request)

A. Manager's Report – In the packets

- 1) Mayor Gross asked about the SRT Meeting that Manager Ulanowicz attended with the COG. Manager Ulanowicz shared that they are working on funding for a large, armored vehicle. Also, they are working on long term (5 and 10 year) budgets and plans for updating the officer equipment so that it isn't an all at once burden on the communities.

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

- 1) CITF meter replacement grant update – The Gun broke for reading the older meters so there is an urgency to get the meters replaced. Senate has asked the contractor if it will require a change order for them to come and install the meters we already have as soon as possible and then come back to install the rest when they finally get the meters in stock. We have not yet heard back.
- 2) Motion to approve resolution 2022-05 to apply for a Local Share Account Grant in the amount of \$556,400 for 8 sets of lighted cross walk signs.

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

- 3) Motion to accept/ reject the bid for CDBG 47 Water Improvements Phase 1 Contract B

Motion to table this until the April 13th Council Meeting

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

Old Business

Fire Code – The committee met and gave some example forms to Mallori to make up for them before they meet again.

Pine Street Lighting – Discussed during the Public Safety portion of the meeting.

Office Hours – Manager Ulanowicz shared that we are working towards Assistant Manager McDowell coming back to the office, hopefully around June 1st. Manager Ulanowicz would like to continue to keep the office door closed and leave the Borough Building by appointment only for now. Council was fine with this plan.

Civil Service Commission residence requirement? Manager Ulanowicz asked Solicitor Dalfonso if there is a residency requirement for the civil service commission. He said yes. Manager

Ulanowicz shared that we will need to look for someone to fill one of the seats because a member moved out of town.

New Business

North Hills Community Outreach Food Distribution – The 3rd Friday of the Month they will be coming to distribute food from March – August.

Code Enforcement Officer – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the Borough is looking for a code enforcement officer and we would like to advertise on indeed. Borough Council was fine with that.

Best of Blawnox Art Event – Best of Blawnox would like to host an Art Event in our Business district. They are planning to bring in someone to do pottery and a watercolor painter. It will be held June 4th. Manager Ulanowicz wanted to make sure everyone is okay with this. Council is fine with it. We should have the Auxiliary Police out for the event.

Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items

- 1) Geno Girasole, who has a restaurant in Shady Side, is interested in 257 Freeport Road, where the Gold Store was. He is looking for a small space where he can have a walk-up wine store. He plans to have different Italian Wines and allow for tasting and sale. Manager Ulanowicz shared that there is already a business in that location, but that 352 Freeport Road has a small storefront available.
- 2) President Laskey shared that she is having issues with cracking in her house due to the trucks coming through town. She was wondering if anyone else was having issues and if anyone has ideas as to why. She was concerned about the Ash the houses are built on in parts of town. Mayor Gross is wondering if we are having a truck weight issue. President Laskey shared that this has been happening for about a year. Mr. Taylor shared that it could potentially be a ground frequency issue for a new type of tires or something like that. Manager Ulanowicz said she would ask around about the potential weight issue.

Executive Session

Entered into Executive Session at 7:23 pm.

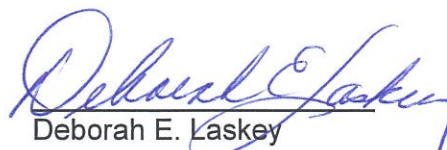
Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

ATTEST:



Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager



Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President