

**MINUTES
BLAWNOK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting May 12th, 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, Jessica Dayhoff, John Simmons, President Deborah Laskey and Vice President Randall Stoddard (joined at 6:38 pm)

Council Members Not Present: None

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

Jim Gerdun is on the Zoom, he is the design builder for the Kann Storage Project and is here to answer any questions that Council may have.

Agenda Items

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting.

Moved: Ms. Laskey

Second: Ms. Palmer

Motion Carried: 6-0

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for April in the amount of \$180,767.45.

Moved: Ms. Kennedy

Second: Ms. Dayhoff

Motion Carried: 7-0

Finance Committee

- 1) Councilwoman Kennedy had nothing at this time but did have some things to discuss in the Executive Session.

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. They are currently looking at consolidating a few of the zoning areas.
- 2) Councilwoman Dayhoff also shared that the Property and Planning Committee had reviewed the plans for the Stanczak variance. The Stanczak's live on North Avenue and

are requesting a variance to allow the garage they are building to be 20 ft instead of the 14 ft allowed in our Zoning Ordinance. The committee has no issue since they will not be blocking anyone's view.

- 3) Motion to Advertise Ordinance #617 Amending the Zoning Ordinance for Sit Down Restaurants.

Moved: Ms. Dayhoff

Second: Ms. Palmer

Motion Carried: 7-0

Councilwoman Dayhoff explained that this ordinance would amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow for sit down restaurants in the C-1A District.

- 4) Motion to Approve the Kann Storage Building, 128 4th St.

Moved: Ms. Dayhoff

Second: Ms. Palmer

Motion Carried: 7-0

Councilwoman Laskey had a few questions about the building and if it was up to code. Ms. Laskey was concerned about potential fires in the building.

Strategic Planning – Nothing to Report

Public Safety

- 1) Motion to Advertise Ordinance #616 Adopting the International Fire Code 2021

Moved: Mr. Simmons

Second: Ms. Coban

Motion Carried: 7-0

Now that we have sworn in George McBriar as the new Fire Marshall we need to adopt the International Fire Code.

Public Works

- 1) Councilman Stoddard shared that the breaks from this past week have all been fixed. Public Works used a giant clamp on the area after the line blew out between two previous clamps. The line was not split it was just three holes.
- 2) Councilman Stoddard also shared that Contract Negotiations are up coming.

Community Events

- 1) Councilwoman Coban shared that the Best of Blawnox Group is a very good volunteer organization and have several events coming up. They have many new people and have already had a honey sale for a fundraiser. In addition, the community garden has been started and has lots of volunteers. Earth Day and the Adopt a Block Program were also a success. They have some new stuff coming up soon including a pen pal program with the high rise, which Junior Councilperson Mona Gerges is helping with, and also a light pole decorating activity.
- 2) Councilwoman Coban also shared an update on Memorial Day. They currently have 14 antique cars, 15-16 fire trucks, they have some veterans including George Bucha, there will be Samba dancers who are volunteering their time for free, several council members will be walking or riding in the parade, Senator Lindsey Williams has also agreed to join the parade, and there will be several people dressed as vegetables from the Community Garden. The parade will go from the Sunoco Station to Center Avenue.

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. Motion to approve the design and location change for the Community Park Phase 2, basketball court rehab

Moved: Ms. Kennedy

Second: Ms. Dayhoff

Motion Carried: 7-0

Motion to approve the low bid for the Water System Improvements Phase 1 contract A, Thompson Electric \$98,800.00

Moved: Mr. Stoddard

Second: Ms. Palmer

Motion Carried: 7-0

7. JetJack continues to work on repairs.

Old Business

PAH Update – Manager Ulanowicz shared that she has a copy of a new resolution from the COG Members. Several of the COG members have removed the term PAH from the resolution and instead used the term Coal Tar. Manager Ulanowicz felt the resolution was too complicated to get ready for tonight's meeting and will work to have it ready for next month.

Glass Recycling – Manager Ulanowicz shared that she has spoken with O'Hara Township and the pad has been poured for the Glass Recycling. The pad needs to cure for 28 days. They have also started to purchase the signage that will be needed for around the bin. With Aspinwall in as well all the costs will be divided three ways. We should be able to recycle in the bin by mid-June.

American Relief Program – Manager Ulanowicz received a little more guidance and we should be able to use the money we receive to do Stormwater repairs. Solicitor Dalfonso says he is going through the rules now but it will take some time because it is 150 pages. We will have four years to spend the money. Manager Ulanowicz will sit in on a webinar about this tomorrow with Maher Dussel.

New Business

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 feels that signing our 1 year extension will be cheaper than anything we will receive going out to bid. Right now glass is in our contract and WM is not going to incentivize us in anyway to remove glass but we may want to let the residents know that we are no longer recycling glass so they can get used to separating it out before we no longer have it in a contract. The COG is going out to bid but their current contract is higher than the cost in both of our option years. Manager Ulanowicz is still hoping to see their documents before we make our decision.

President Laskey asked if Mayor Gross had anything to add. He said that the Police have been doing a really good Job. President Laskey asked for the police to begin monitoring Freeport Rd. especially in the middle of town.

Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items

No Comments from the Public

Executive Session

Entered into Executive Session at 7:20 pm.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager


Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President