

**MINUTES  
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting November 12, 2020**

**Call to Order**

Vice President Stoddard called the meeting to order at 6:46 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, Jessica Dayhoff, Katie Coban, Elaine Palmer, John Simmons and Vice President Randall Stoddard (although with some connectivity issues).

**Council Members Not Present:** President Deborah Laskey

**Also Present:** Solicitor, Jack Cambest; 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 October 8, 2020 meeting.

**Moved: Ms. Coban                      Second: Ms. Kennedy                      Motion Carried: 5-0**

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for October in the amount of \$159,140.38.

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

**Finance Committee**

- 1) Motion to advertise the 2021 budget.

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

**Property and Planning**

- 1) Attorney Tom Costello continues to review our Zoning Ordinance.  
2) Motion to Approve, Krenn Lot Consolidation, reviewed by Senate, Allegheny County and Planning Committee

**Moved: Ms. Dayhoff                      Second: Ms. Coban                      Motion Carried: 6-0**

**Strategic Planning**

**Public Safety**

**Public Works**

## **Community Events**

- 1) Councilwoman Coban shared that the Little Free Library has been installed and is open. We have many books and people are really enjoying it.
- 2) Councilwoman Coban would like to know from Council what we should do about Christmas. Kathy spoke with Pat and they have concerns about gathering anyone together. Councilman Simmons wondered if we could have Santa drive around on the firetruck? Yes everyone liked the idea very much. Manager Ulanowicz will discuss with Ray if he will be Santa and Councilman Simmons will discuss with the Fire Department.
- 3) Councilwoman Coban would like to know what everyone thought about having Halloween during the day? Councilman Stoddard said he had low turnout but that he never has great turnout on North Avenue. Councilwoman Dayhoff says she has no opinion but that her turnout was better. Councilman Simmons and Mayor Gross both said their turnout was high this year. Council will consider doing daytime trick-or-treat again next year since Halloween is a Sunday.
- 4) Councilwoman Coban shared that her committee will meet with the Blawnox Community Sports Association to discuss the need, due to our grants, for all teams to pay to use the field. The meeting will take place on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**B. Engineer's Report – Gordon Taylor**

- 1) – 4) There have been no changes.
- 5) Community Park – We have moved the Community Park Project to 2022. We are also considering moving the project to the tennis court area to have more space.
- 6) No Change
- 7) CDBG 46 Sanitary Sewer Repairs – We are waiting for the contract to be executed and the project to be scheduled.
- 8) CDBG 46 Water System Improvements – We are working on the design plan.
- 9) PA Small Water and Sewer – We are looking to see if we can change the scope and use this money to replace four check valves.
- 10) ALCOSAN Grow Grant – We were awarded the money and Kathy is working on the paperwork with Tim Prevost. We are also waiting for flow monitoring data from Tim Prevost.
- 11) ARLE – No Change
- 12) CDBG 47 – Water Meter Replacement project pre-application was denied. Water Improvements Phase II application can proceed. This will include four check valve replacements.

Motion to Approve Resolution 2020-12 Water System Improvement Phase II

**Moved: Ms. Kennedy**

**Second: Ms. Coban**

**Motion Carried: 6-0**

## **Old Business**

Borough Manager Ulanowicz shared with Borough Council that the Borough has contracted Budget Pesticide to bait for vermin. They came and checked the sewers and saw evidence in three sewers. They have baited those sewers 3 times and two of those times there was

evidence that the vermin had taken the bait. Now we have to wait for 25 days to make sure it worked.

Borough Manager Ulanowicz has been discussing Mobile Truck Vendor Licenses with the local communities. O'Hara township does not allow Mobile Food Vendors except for special occasions and they have a temporary permit for them on that occasion. Sharpsburg, Aspinwall and Springdale all allow Mobile Food Vendors but they do not require permits. Sharpsburg and Aspinwall allow them from Wednesday through Sunday during the warm months and have had no complaints. Mr. Sacco would like to bring his food truck into the community 1 day a week every week in 2021. Borough council suggested that we maybe encourage the trucks onto the side streets instead of Freeport Road. The concern there is that a big part of the draw for food trucks is convenience and it will be better if they are visible on the main street. Do we want to have a permit? No but maybe we should have an application. Solicitor Cambest thinks we would need an ordinance if we are limiting the food trucks in any way.

Motion to Approve Ordinance #612 Codification of the Borough Ordinances.

**Moved: Mr. Simmons**

**Second: Ms. Coban**

**Motion Carried: 6-0**

Motion to Approve Ordinance #613 Amending the Nuisance Ordinance.

**Moved: Ms. Kennedy**

**Second: Ms. Coban**

**Motion Carried: 6-0**

### **New Business**

Borough Manager Ulanowicz shared that we are having trash issues in the Riverside Court Area. Manager Ulanowicz is trying to work with the residents to make sure trash is not put out too early and that it is put out in cans. The Code Enforcement Officer has been down there to check on the issues as well. We may have to adjust the pick up in that area.

Borough Manager Ulanowicz wanted to discuss the Mechanical Device Fee and what to do about it for 2020. Solicitor Cambest shared that due to the wording in the ordinance in order to prorate the fee we would have to amend the ordinance. We would not have to amend the ordinance if we waived the fees for this year. Solicitor Cambest suggested that it may be possible to do a resolution make the fees half for this year through our emergency declaration earlier this year.

Borough Manager Ulanowicz shared that she has been receiving calls in regard to the Veterans Banners. We do not have a grant at this time, and we will not hear about that for a while. Manager Ulanowicz has a call in to the company who made them last time to see if we could order them without a grant and how much they would cost. Last time we did the program the Applicants paid \$15 but the banners cost about \$150. This may be more this time, it has been two years. Borough Council was in support of doing the program with or without the grant.

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

(Due to a technical issue the public comments were typed into the chat function of Zoom, this is a transcript of that chat.)

**Ray Hughes:** Eddie Crates moon dog and George are with me along with rick

**Meghan Kennedy:** Hello Eddie Crates, George and Ray and Rick; please chat away. We cannot hear you.

**Rick Edwards:** Maenam Thai and Starlight object to food trucks so near their popular restaurants

**Ray Hughes:** Rick from Maenam Thai and Moondog are concerned with the food trucks, Eddie is upset with one-way street  
Moondog says in Pittsburgh they have to be 500ft from a restaurant.

**Rick Edwards:** Food is a big part of our businesses. We are less than 50 yards from the Old Thunder who proclaimed they would put our menus on their counter.

**Ray Hughes:** Eddie wants to know what was done besides ordinance about the 1-way street. Was there a traffic study done? After all these years why was it changed?

**Rick Edwards:** The breweries are all doing well. Mr. Essex says it's an insult that there are no restaurants here after twice being on Diners, Drive ins and Dives!  
Esser of Starlight  
After such a Dix  
After such a difficult year, food trucks are a huge concern.

**Joshua Taylor:** Maple is now one way correct?

**Rick Edwards:** Weekend parking has always been a challenge. The new

**Ray Hughes:** Ok thanks from Ray

**Rick Edwards:** brewery will create much extra

**Joshua Taylor:** Yes we are here

**Joshua Taylor:** Our intent is to bring more people into Blawnox that will patronize all the current businesses.

**Rick Edwards:** Image Moondogs has been closed for 8 months. Folks will be parking there.

**Joshua Taylor:** We have to offer food on the premise and the food trucks will allow us to do that.  
We have two parking lots on premise and another lot leased down the street.  
We have 35 parking spots.

**Rick Edwards:** How about an application to buy the Spruce Street house. Ron will sell it for a reasonable price

**Joshua Taylor:** Under the liquor code we have to offer food.

**Joshua Taylor:** And under the state mandates we have to offer a meal with alcohol

**Rick Edwards:** The house and two lots. Just keep the darn food truck off Freeport Municipal Parking lot

Put meters in your lot

**Joshua Taylor:** Food trucks will park directly in front of our building, which is the safest area for patrons to access them.

**Rick Edwards:** Competition is the concern. Ron had accepted an offer in the past for the two lots and the house.

Tony Deluca could be an asset for obtaining the grant.

**Joshua Taylor:** One truck per day and one spot.

Trucks cannot park on maple and be accessible by handicap patrons.

**Joshua Taylor:** We love Ron's pierogis FYI

**Rick Edwards:** Already, on a Friday or Saturday people walk a long way to visit.

After the past 7 months, it's not fair to compete on food.

We need to speak, wishing we could talk about this.

You need to do nothing until we speak.

**Joshua Taylor:** We plan to open by the end of the year.

**Rick Edwards:** In the city food trucks can't be within 500 feet of any restaurant

Moondogs is empty. Anytime for a meeting!

We DO NEED a conversation

**Joshua Taylor:** We will gladly host a special meeting at Old Thunder

**Joshua Taylor:** Evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> works for Old Thunder

**Rick Edwards:** We'll make time. Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> is fine

**Joshua Taylor:** Perfect

**Rick Edwards:** 6:00 works!

Ron press not at Old Thunder

Firehall is okay

Let's discuss parking lots also

This is Ron. Thanks for insulting me

**Joshua Taylor:** Thank you everyone. See you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Entered Executive Session 8:22 p.m. Exited 8:43 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

**ATTEST:**



Kathy Ulanowicz  
Borough Manager



Deborah E. Laskey  
Borough Council President