

**MINUTES
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting November 8th, 2023**

Call to Order

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

Council Members Not Present: Meghan Kennedy and Christine Carnevali

Also Present: Mayor Anthony Gross, Junior Council Member Jacob Anthikad, Engineer Gordon Taylor, Solicitor Samuel Dalfonso, and Borough Manager Kathy Ulanowicz in person. Assistant Borough Manager Mallori McDowell on Zoom.

Comments from the Public – No questions

Agenda Items

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the October 11th, 2023 meeting.

Moved: Ms. Laskey

Second: Ms. Coban

Motion Carried: 5-0

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for October in the amount \$339,621.28.

Moved: Ms. Laskey

Second: Mr. Stoddard

Motion Carried: 5-0

Property and Planning

- 1) Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-10 for an LSA Grant to replace the steps at McKinley Ave. and Freeport Rd.

Moved: Ms. Coban

Second: Ms. Palmer

Motion Carried: 5-0

- 2) Final Inspection of the Basketball court, we will put in for the reimbursement from the DCNR – The new court has had the inspection. They added the tension wire and the extra fencing. Might want to address some lighting in the Spring. Will have to address if we want people to play at night.

Strategic Planning

- 1) Allegheny Together Meeting Update – We had a meeting with Allegheny Together. They gave us a power point of their strategic plan. Manager Ulanowicz shared it with council for their opinions.

Public Safety

- 1) Fire Department regionalization – Public Safety Committee will meet next week. Councilman Simmons also thinks it might be good to meet with the Chief and the President of the Fire Department to discuss this. Aspinwall and Sharpsburg are not interested in re-regionalizing and O'Hara tabled until next week.
- 2) Sidewalk at park – We are first in line for the spring. We will need a change order for time – we will give them through March.
- 3) Lighted Cross Walk Update/ Emergency Lighting – We have heard nothing since the meeting with the State. No crosswalk out front. Recommended a traffic light for the fire department.
- 4) Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-09 for an LSA Grant for a new police car.
Moved: Mr. Simmons Second: Mr. Stoddard Motion Carried: 5-0

Public Works

- 1) Water System Update – Met a few weeks ago about water breaks. We need to do something. We will be applying for some grants. Looking at the pressure reduction valve. Gordon will update.
- 2) Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-11 for an LSA Grant for a Skid Steer.
Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 5-0

Community Events

- 1) Movies/ Music in the park – We are still working on this.
- 2) Best of Blawnox Update – Had a board meeting. Next event is the Cookie Tour during the day on the same day as the Night of the Lights. Best of Blawnox will also be starting up Snow Angels again for the Winter. Santa Ray has been confirmed for Night of the Lights.
- 3) Centennial Committee Update – The Bar Crawl made \$400. Nox's will be doing a special dinner and will donate back some of the proceeds for every purchase. They are interested in doing a Christmas Ornament. They will also be restarting shirts again for sweatshirts.

Reports (Available Upon Request)

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

B. Engineer's Report – Gordon Taylor – In the packets

- 1) Motion to approve final pay application to KGD Contracting in the amount of \$22,244.70
Moved: Ms. Laskey Second: Ms. Coban Motion Carried: 5-0
- 2) Motion to approve concurring resolution 2023-12 CDBG 50 water valve replacement \$88,270.00
Moved: Ms. Laskey Second: Mr. Stoddard Motion Carried: 5-0
- 3) The Pressure Reducing Valve – Larry Lennon Jr. is assisting us with investigating. They have put data loggers in, they have been pulled and the data is being analyzed. Larry is currently getting estimates and ideas. We have grant money so we will need to get a change order. Engineer Taylor thinks that in a week or so they should have a comprehensive plan.

Old Business

Chuvalla Sherriff Sale Postponed - filed for payment modification – still under a payment modification, waiting on court.

Carr Sheriff Sale 209 Summit Drive filed for bankruptcy waiting on court.

Rock Snake Update – It was installed on North by the monument. A few people have painted rocks and added to it.

LSA Sidewalk Money Update – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the estimate was less than the grant money, so she asked the state to repurpose some of the money to do the sidewalk on the side of Kathy's office.

New Business

Stormwater Access Easement 469 Walnut Street – Asked to drain their stormwater into our drain. This has been gone over by Solicitor Dalfonso and Engineer Taylor.

Moved: Ms. Palmer

Second: Ms. Laskey

Motion Carried: 5-0

Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items

A Gentleman, John Lisowski, from Fairview has some questions for council. He also has an issue with 1050 Fairview Ave. There is a car that hasn't got a license plate, why don't the police do anything? The police can not do anything on private property, we will have code enforcement look into it.

Budget Questions/ Comments:

- 1) Recycling: Right now we recycle but we will be stopping in 2024. The recycling would create a 38% increase in refuse collection fees instead of the 14% we had for just trash. The total with recycling would have been \$95 per quarter. We are not allowed to negotiate with the trash companies.
- 2) Administrative Fee on Bills: ALCOSAN charges a per bill fee for every bill per quarter. Our cost is not just for producing and sending the bill but the vast majority of our day is fielding calls about water/ sewer/ trash. We take care of the billing to make it quicker and less expensive for the residents. The \$45 fee is also partially used to pay for sewage.
- 3) Why can't we have trash in our taxes: The tax rate would have to be raised by at least 2 mills.
- 4) Why aren't we considering merging with O'Hara: There are things we would not get if we were part of O'Hara – Trash is totally different. Yes they get trash cans from waste management but only for automated pick up which is not something we can do in the borough. Mr. Lisowski feels we should have a referendum on the ballot to approach O'Hara about a merger.
- 5) The Sportsmens Club would like us to look in to putting lines on the street for parking. Mayor Gross shared that this actually will cut down on the parking allowed.

Finance Committee

- 1) Motion to Advertise the 2024 Budget

Moved: Ms. Laskey

Second: Mr. Stoddard

Motion Carried: 5-0

Executive Session

Entered Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. Adjourned from Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager


Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President