

**MINUTES
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting October 13th, 2021**

Call to Order

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in Council Chambers. A Zoom was set up for any Council Members or Public who were not comfortable or did not feel well to still be able to attend.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The roll was called to establish a quorum.

Council Members Present: Elaine Palmer, Katie Coban, John Simmons, Jessica Dayhoff-Mayo, Vice President Randall Stoddard and President Deborah Laskey

Council Members Not Present: Meghan Kennedy

Also Present: Solicitor, Sam Dalfonso; Borough Manager, Kathy Ulanowicz, Mayor Anthony Gross and Junior Council Person Mona Gerges were present in person; Assistant Borough Manager, Mallori McDowell was present via Zoom.

Comments from the Public

No Comments from the Public. There was no public on Zoom for this meeting.

Agenda Items

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the September 8, 2021, meeting.

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

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for September in the amount of \$87,090.79.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 6-0

Finance Committee

- 1) Motion to approve ordinance #620 setting the boroughs pension contribution for the Non-Uniform fund at 8% for the years 2022-2024.

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

- 2) Motion to consider an Ordinance, prepared and presented by Bond Counsel, authorizing the issuance of a general obligation note in an aggregated principal amount not to exceed \$2,675,600.00, for the purpose of refunding all of the Borough's outstanding General Obligation Note, Series 2016 and paying the costs of capital projects, all in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Unit Debt Act. Ordinance #621

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

Property and Planning

- 1) Councilwoman Dayhoff shared that the Property and Planning Committee continue to meet with Tom Castello on the Zoning Ordinance. They will meet again on Monday.

Strategic Planning

- 1) President Laskey shared that the committee will meet next Thursday, and they have a representative coming from Duquesne Light to discuss electric vehicles and charging stations. The meeting will begin around 7:00 pm.

Public Safety

- 1) By-Laws – Councilman Simmons shared that the Fire Department had reviewed our three suggestions for the Fire Department By-Laws and came back with some new suggestions of their own. The first change where it said fire calls and Council had suggested it say emergency calls the department would like to see it say all calls. Council agrees with this change. The second comment from Council about the section regarding Junior Firefighters the department says they will follow all state rules when it comes to the Junior Firefighters. This is acceptable for Council. Finally on the issue of a second Assistant Chief, despite Council's suggestion the department would still like to have a Second Assistant Chief. Council is suggesting that if we add a Second Assistant Chief, we lose one Captain.
- 2) Gravel the Grassy area behind Fire Station #2 – Councilman Simmons shared that the Fire Department would like permission to gravel the grassy area behind Fire Station #2. Overbeck's has been out, and they will dig out, lay felt paper and then gravel the area for about \$2000-\$2500. Council is okay with the Fire Department doing this project.

Public Works – Nothing to share

Community Events

- 1) Night of the Lights – Councilwoman Coban shared that she and her committee would like Council's opinion on what to do for Night of the Lights this year. No one thinks it is a good idea to have a big gathering at the church. Everyone thinks we should once again light up the town and have Santa drive around and wave to everyone. In addition, Councilwoman Coban would like to order blank yard signs and let members of the community get one and decorate it for display in their yard. Council thinks this is a good idea and said to order the designs.
- 2) Councilwoman Coban shared an update on the Best of Blawnox. She said that the group is really starting to get their name on the map. She said the Fall Festival was a big success and they had about \$1800-\$1900 in proceeds from the event. People loved the mums that were sold. In addition, the Knox Walks continues to be a success each week with around a dozen people gathering to walk.

Reports (Available Upon Request)

- A. **Manager's Report** – In the packets no questions.
- B. **Engineer's Report – Gordon Taylor** – In the packets no questions
 - a. Recommend to award CITF grant contingent on Allegheny County DCED approval of unit reduction from 179 to 158. Per letter dated September 30, 2021.

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

- b. Motion to approve Resolution 2021-13 authorizing Blawnox Borough to execute and the signing of the Consent Order and Agreement from the Allegheny County Health Department and to forward the signed order and agreement to the Allegheny County Health Department in a timely manner.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 6-0

- c. Motion to approve concurring resolution 2021-14 Water valve replacement CDBG 48

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

- d. Motion to approve concurring resolution 2021-15 Underground stormwater source removal CDBG 48

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

Old Business

Motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with O'Hara Township establishing a joint Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Appeals Board – Solicitor Dalfonso shared that he was still waiting on the Solicitor from O'Hara Township. He suggested that we may want to start looking for people within the community to fill our own board.

Petre Property – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the hearing was postponed and has not yet been rescheduled. The judge was sick. Penn Pioneer has shared with the Borough that they are going to be asking to do a full renovation of the property.

Carr Property – Manager Ulanowicz shared that Mr. Carr is still living in his house despite not yet fulfilling the requirements. Solicitor Dalfonso has been in contact with the City of Pittsburgh about how they manage this type of situation. They are one of the few places nearby that have actually removed people from their homes for safety reasons. Manager Ulanowicz shared that the electric company has shared that he still does not have electric service.

Hero Banners – Our Hero Banner information will be up on the website beginning in November.

New Business

2020 Census Results – The Borough of Blawnox population as of the 2020 Census is 1,454. This is a population increase for the Borough.

Tenant Landlord Ordinance – Tomorrow are the hearings for the people who did not comply with the ordinance and get life safety inspections. Mike from BIU who does our inspections thinks we should start the process again because the two years was supposed to restart in 2021. Council agrees.

Authorize Solicitor to prepare transfer of lot & block 293-e-205 – The Borough is looking to transfer back an area that was at one time a well site for the borough. The well has since been capped. The piece of property was deeded to the Borough by Royston and we would like to deed the area back to them.

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

Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items

- 1) Sandy Michelin – Ms. Michelin wanted Council to know that she sent out letters to all of the Council Members and the Mayor but only Councilwoman Dayhoff-Mayo responded to the email. She is concerned about rats in the area of Blawnox below the train tracks near the river. She lives on second street and knows of at least three houses with rats inside. One of those houses was her neighbor Nick who recently moved. Manager Ulanowicz shared that the Code Enforcement Officer is aware of the issue and has inspected and sent letter. Manager Ulanowicz also shared that since rats are a public health concern it is beneficial to let the Allegheny County Health Department know and they will open a case and are able to handle the situation faster. We are severely restricted in what we can do to help with rats.

Executive Session

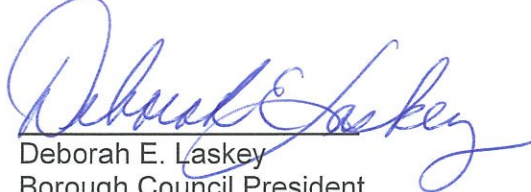
Entered into Executive Session at 8:07 pm.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager


Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President