

**MINUTES
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting September 10, 2020**

Call to Order

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6:40 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: President Deborah E. Laskey, Jessica Dayhoff, Katie Coban, Elaine Palmer, John Simmons and Vice President Randall Stoddard (arrived around 6:42 pm).

Council Members Not Present: Meghan Kennedy

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

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Items

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the August 13, 2020 meeting.

Moved: Ms. Coban

Second: Ms. Palmer

Motion Carried: 5-0

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for June in the amount of \$81,398.04.

Moved: Mr. Simmons

Second: Ms. Palmer

Motion Carried: 5-0

Finance Committee

- 1) Borough Manager Ulanowicz shared that the office has received the End of Month Reports for August and that Assistant Borough Manager McDowell has inserted the August Actual numbers into the budget.

Property and Planning

- 1) The Final plan for the lot consolidation has been signed Manager Ulanowicz has received a signed copy back from the County.
- 2) Attorney Tom Costello continues to review our Zoning Ordinance. Manager Ulanowicz spoke to him this week and he said it is coming along and he will let us know when it is done.
- 3) Motion to approve Resolution 2020-11 appointing John Ruggeri to the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3 Year Term.

Moved: Ms. Coban

Second: Mr. Simmons

Motion Carried: 6-0

Strategic Planning

Public Safety

- 1) Motion to advertise Ordinance #610 to make Maple Avenue one way from Freeport Road to Pine Street.

Moved: Ms. Dayhoff

Second: Ms. Coban

Motion Carried: 6-0

- 2) There was an incident at the playground at the Community Park where a young boy climbed up the slide and got stuck. The Fire Department was called out to free him from the equipment. Mr. Simmons would like to know if we are liable if someone got hurt on the playground. Solicitor Dalfonso shared that if the equipment was broken and we did not fix it and someone got hurt we would be liable but for something like this situation where the playground equipment was not being used properly we hold no liability.
- 3) Solicitor Dalfonso shared that he has been working with Police Chief Goodman on reviewing the Police Policies that Chief Goodman has written. He shared a Memo with Chief Goodman today on his thoughts about the policies.

Public Works

- 1) Motion to advertise Ordinance #611 Deduct Meter

Moved: Mr. Stoddard

Second: Ms. Dayhoff

Motion Carried: 6-0

Community Events

- 1) Councilwoman Coban shared that the Little Free Library is almost here. Part of the set up is already on Ms. Coban's porch and the rest should be here soon. We already have many books to place in the library once it arrives and is installed.

Reports (Available Upon Request)

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

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

- 1) – 6) There have been no changes.

- 7) 2019 Paving Program – We have received the final bill which included a change order for the widening done on 4th St. and the work done on the soft spot on Humboldt. The change order includes an increase of \$22,035.14. Included in the report is a table of the cost for each item.

Motion to approve the summary change order for Youngblood Paving \$22,035.14.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard

Second: Mr. Simmons

Motion Carried: 6-0

Motion to approve the Youngblood invoice in the amount of \$175,115.38.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard

Second: Ms. Coban

Motion Carried: 6-0

Old Business

Borough Manager Ulanowicz gave an update that she has been in contact with the Land Bank about the Petre Estate at 201 Summit Drive and the Schultz property at 721 Spruce Street. The Land Bank has come to Blawnox and looked at both properties. Now they are doing a title search on the properties. In the meantime, Manager Ulanowicz has been in touch with Mr. Petre about his property and has made it clear to him that he needs to clean up the property.

Borough Manager Ulanowicz shared that the Borough has met with Mr. Mangis and Zak the supervisor for the Freeport Road Development about the issue with 921 Center Avenue. Manager Ulanowicz shared that this could potentially be an ongoing issue. The current plan is for the Freeport Road Development to put up some fences in the areas where Mr. Mangis has his concerns. Mayor Gross asked if the Borough is certain that the developers have done everything to code in concern to the grading. Assistant Manager McDowell shared that she had been in contact with the Allegheny County Conservation District who oversaw the Erosion and Sediment Plan and did all of the inspections and that they said the development has completed and passed all of their inspections up to this point. Manager Ulanowicz shared that the development was told by the county what grade needed to be used on the property.

Solicitor Dalfonso shared an update with Borough Council about the tennis courts at the park. Allegheny County has agreed to return the tennis court land back to the Borough. Solicitor Dalfonso sent them a Deed and the County had a few changes regarding some wording but that is all. He is just waiting for them to get back to him at this point in order to sign the land back over to the Borough.

New Business

Borough Manager Ulanowicz shared with Borough Council that there has been a situation with rats occurring in the Borough, not on Borough property, and that homeowners have been calling looking for the Borough to handle the situation. The idea for someone in the public works department to get certified for pesticide application and vermin baiting has been suggested. However, Solicitor Cambest is not comfortable with the Borough exploring that option. Manager Ulanowicz wanted Council's opinion on the issue. Council does not think it is a good idea either.

Borough Manager Ulanowicz shared that we have been receiving a few calls about Halloween. Police Chief Goodman would like to still hand out the bags as they do every year but does not think we should have a parade or that it should be done in the Church Basement. Everyone felt that handing out bags at the Fire Department, which was okayed by Councilman Simmons, made the most sense since we could have a line and have kids come in one door of the fire station and back out the other door. Manager Ulanowicz wanted opinions on what to do about Trick or Treating. Solicitor Dalfonso said it isn't really something we can regulate. It was decided that Trick or Treating would occur Saturday October 31st from 2:00 pm through 4:00 pm for safety purposes. Children can also pick up their bags during that time, but Masks must be worn to the fire department.

Borough Manager Ulanowicz shared that Solicitor Dalfonso is working on a Mobile vendor permit ordinance (food truck ordinance) for the Borough. Solicitor Dalfonso needs some input from the Borough on what exactly we want in terms of food trucks. Some things he needs to know are where in the Borough we want them to be allowed, what type of permit (daily, monthly, yearly) do we want, and how much the permit will cost. He will pull some comparisons of how it is done in other communities for us.

Borough Manager Ulanowicz shared that there is an issue with Water Bills at 604 Center Avenue. A company purchased the property at sheriff sale and claims not to have known there was outstanding water bills. The property has two outstanding water bills of significant value. Council decided that it is not our fault that the company did not do the proper research on the property before purchasing and that we need to receive our money.

Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items

There were no comments from the public on non-agenda items.

Entered Executive Session 7:33 p.m. Exited 8:13 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager


Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President