

**MINUTES
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting September 8th, 2021**

Call to Order

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6:33 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: Katie Coban, John Simmons, Jessica Dayhoff-Mayo, Vice President Randall Stoddard and President Deborah Laskey

Council Members Not Present: Elaine Palmer and Meghan Kennedy

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

Comments from the Public

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

Agenda Items

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the August 11, 2021 meeting.

Moved: Mr. Simmons

Second: Ms. Coban

Motion Carried: 5-0

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for August in the amount of \$77,245.45.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard

Second: Ms. Dayhoff-Mayo Motion Carried: 5-0

Finance Committee

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

Moved: Mr. Stoddard

Second: Ms. Dayhoff-Mayo Motion Carried: 5-0

Property and Planning

- 1) Councilwoman Dayhoff shared that the Property and Planning Committee continue to meet with Tom Castello on the Zoning Ordinance. They have set their meetings through the end of the year.

Strategic Planning – No Updates

Public Safety

- 1) Motion to approve Police Department Mental Health Policy
Moved: Mr. Simmons Second: Mr. Stoddard Motion Carried: 5-0
- 2) By-Laws – Councilman Simmons shared that the Fire Department meeting had been canceled due to the Labor Day Holiday so they would not be meeting until next Monday.
- 3) Appoint Civil Service Commission
Motion to approve Resolution 2021-12 appointing members to the Civil Service Commission, Motion to appoint Robert Ulanowicz 6 year term, Motion to appoint Gianni Santella 4 year term, Motion to appoint Elaine Palmer 2 year term, Motion to appoint Thomas Castello as Civil Service Commission Solicitor.
Moved: Mr. Simmons Second: Mr. Stoddard Motion Carried: 5-0

Public Works

- 1) Motion to approve ordinance #619 amending requirements for curb box responsibility
Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 5-0

Community Events

- 1) Halloween – Councilwoman Coban asked council to confirm that we would host Halloween on October 31st from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.
- 2) Councilwoman Coban shared an update on the Best of Blawnox. The Board met last night and they are still working on planning the Fall Festival.

Reports (Available Upon Request)

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

B. Engineer's Report – Gordon Taylor – In the packets no questions

1. We have received our Phase 2 Consent Order this week. We will need to have a resolution for the next council meeting to execute the consent order.
2. Phase 2 Community Park Project – we have to make some decisions about moving the basketball court. Senate met with Kathy to share their engineering estimate which was \$36,000.
3. Water System Improvements – we are waiting on the contracts
4. Small Water and Sewer
5. Sanitary Sewer – 100% of the construction cost covered.

Motion to authorize Senate to prepare a scope change for the grant

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 5-0

6. CITF – The Bid opening will be on the 23rd of the month.
7. ARLEE Grant – the grant has not been announced yet.

8. CDBG 47 – We have been awarded the grant.
9. Spring/ Water Infiltration issue on Walnut St. – Senate suggests we investigate what the problem is first. Then we may want to get one time access to the property to televise and fix the issue. Once we fix it Senate suggests we make the homeowner responsible going forward. Questions we need to answer include: Do we want the homeowner to fix it? Will they fix it? Councilman Stoddard thinks its best to spend the money to investigate the problem.

Motion to spend the money to investigate the spring/ infiltration issue

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 5-0

10. Councilman Simmons wanted to know if it was possible to use our park grant to fix the sidewalk along Center Ave. at the park. Mr. Taylor shared that the project is tight with the money we have received but that it would be possible to apply for CDBG 49 to try to fix the sidewalks.

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 the agreement was not quite ready yet but should be very soon.

Petre Property – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the conservatorship was granted and that they have been moving along in cleaning up the property.

Carr Property – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the Borough recently found that Mr. Carr did not have water, electric or gas. For this reason the code enforcement office started the condemnation process and Mr. Carr was informed he needed those utilities. He paid the water and told the Borough he had electric. There are some discrepancies with how he had electric and Duquesne Light is looking into the situation. The Sheriff Sale has been stopped because he has once again filed for bankruptcy.

Hero Banners – Our application to do the Hero Banner program again in 2022 has been approved. They will start accepting applications in January. Do we want them to put a notice up on the website now or wait until later? Council thinks we should wait until like Dec. to put up the information.

New Business

Mayor Gross received a question from Diane asking if it was possible for the Community Garden Group to put their sign up on the baseball field side of the fence? Councilwoman Dayhoff wanted to know the size of the sign. It is large. Officer Hawk measured the sign for us and it was 3'x8' so it was acceptable.

Mayor Gross also shared that the Police Department were very busy in August and have been in the beginning of September as well. He also shared that the courts are open once again.

Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items

No Comments from the Public

Executive Session

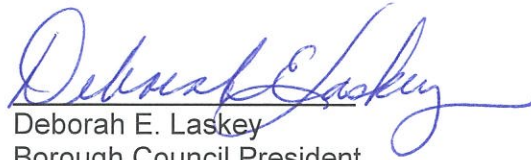
Entered into Executive Session at 7:20 pm.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager


Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President