

The September committee meeting 9/5/2023 was called to order by Borough Council President Bruce Markovich and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following items were discussed by committee topic in a contiguous manner beginning at 4:00p.m.

Council members attending were Martin Ditsky, Gwyneth Collevchio, Jennifer Staines, Bruce Markovich, John Turcmanovich, and William Chuma. Jay Doyle and Mayor Hugh Vrablic were not in attendance.

Public Works:

The Committee is William Chuma, John Turcmanovich, and Jay Doyle.

William Chuma stated that the Borough crew is going to be starting line painting as soon as they have a full crew back in 2 weeks. The loader needs 2 tires, 2 tires for the red dump truck, and 4 tires for the black truck for the winter. The cinder spreader on the International still needs to be fixed and the tailgate on the new truck needs to be fixed. William said they are contemplating doing more streets because they have only spent about \$30,000 of the \$50,000. He said they are thinking about milling the unit block of West Ridge and paving the driving lanes which will cost the borough roughly \$9,500. The skate park and old skating park were measured to see how much it would cost to repave that and it will be about \$27,000 and that would have to come out of Parks and Recreation. Bill also had a guy down there to check out the lights. 3 out of the 4 work, but the electrician said the electric is okay. Once we have a price on the new lights we can go ahead and have them replaced with the same lights up at the pool park that will be on a timer. Rosemary Cannon asked if there were plans to turn this back into a skating rink. William said no they are better off putting in a basketball court there. Bruce asked William if the borough crew would be able to put in the poles for the basketball hoops and William said the crew can do it, they would need to drill into the concrete and then cement them down. Bruce told William we would need to get a cost on the posts, the rims, and backboard to see how much it is going to cost. Gwyn said she would like to see some of the heavy duty benches they have at Ashton Park down at the skatepark. William said they cost about \$500 a piece and he thinks those would be the best ones to put down there because they are heavy duty and not aluminum. We were supposed to start paving down in Coaldale on the 11th but it has been postponed until the 26th. Bruce asked if we have a date set to start downtown. Bill said that since Coaldale has changed their date to start, he is thinking we can start milling next week the bad spots and we can see what exactly is under the road. There is a bad spot next to the Cancer Society that we can get fixed and then start the two driving lanes. Bruce said about closing the road to do this and William said there is only about 60-70ft that needs to be done and it could be done with keeping one lane of traffic open. William also said that the curbs along West Ridge are bad, some are even nonexistent. Bruce asked how much William thought it would cost to mill, pave, and do the curbs and sewers on the lower blocks of West Ridge and William said we are looking at a quarter of a million dollars just for 2 blocks. He said we can do what we are doing now with just patching and fixing sections, but it is only a band aid. The streets that we did this year where we milled with the zipper and repaved the street, the street looks great. Coaldale is using a company to come in and using their machine to do some of the sifting, a regular milling machine, and their price went from \$14,500 to \$24,000 because they are not milling it themselves. William stated we saved a lot of money by buying that zipper and doing the blocks that we did. We did down by the fire company, Coal St, Abbott and Water St. If we said \$24,000 for a block of road that we do, in 3-4 years the zipper will pay for itself.

Municipal Administration:

The Committee is Bruce Markovich, Martin Ditsky, Gwyneth Collevchio.

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Bruce met with Dave Argall and Doyle Heffley about the Fire Company grant, they are both in support of it and Bruce plans to get that filled out next week. We are hoping to get them new turn out gear and radios. Bruce asked everyone if they had a chance to look at the Code Enforcement job description and if anyone had any changes. Bruce suggested adding Quality of Life to the job description, he believes the Code Enforcement officer should be able to enforce this. He said he would like to add as much now to the job description for the Code officer to enforce now rather than coming up with it all later. He would like to get the Job description approved at the next meeting and get an ad out as soon as possible for the job, everyone agreed. Arro has agreed to do Zoning for the Borough, they have sent us an agreement and are willing to take on those cases. Rosemary Cannon asked if Arro will be taking on Zoning that Jim Dean had sent out before he left the borough. She said she is referencing the fence that was put up on her property without a permit and Dean gave the resident 10 days to get a permit or take down the fence. Bruce said we will have to talk to Attorney Yurchak about this and decide. Maybe we can hire Arro on an as needed basis for Zoning. Gwyn stated there is a whiteboard by the front door that needs to come down and the new one needs to go up due to permanent marker being used on the old one and us not being able to erase and change things if needed.

Park and Recreation:

The Committee is Gwyneth Collevchio, William Chuma.

Bruce stated that he received an email last Friday about the lights down at the skatepark. It is going to cost around \$7,300 to replace all the lights around the park with LED lights that will be on a timer. These will be set up like the lights at Ashton Park, they will go on at dusk and go off 4 hours later. There will be 1 additional light that is going to shine right into the skatepark, there is going to be a new electrical box as well as an outlet in case any work needs to be done down there and things need to be plugged in. Bruce also mentioned that for the Splash Park, we are working with Vision Pools and Wallover & Associates on potential splash pads. Bruce received an email from them on Friday, they are putting together some prices and designs. They are hoping to have everything done in time for the Spring grant season. Council will need to get together to make some decisions on different features they will want to have at the Splash pad. They have taken an ariel view of the pool area and suggest 12-15 features in that area. They may also come up to get a better look at the pool to see how much it is going to cost to fill it in and do the piping work for the splash pad. Gwyn wanted to thank the Borough crew for painting the lines down in Ashton Park. Gwyn stated Plantfest was a success, but they will not be returning due to the poor cell reception in Kennedy Park. Friends of the Pool are going to be having another BINGO at the Lansford Legion on September 19th, 2023, starting at 5:00pm.

Public Safety:

The Committee is John Turcmanovich, Martin Ditsky, Gwyneth Collevchio.

John mentioned that again after a month of advertising in 3 different newspapers we did not get any new applications for Police officers. Gwyn stated she thinks we do not need to do a huge ad in the paper because it is a waste of money, she said she believes we should have it somewhere on our website that we are looking for officers and applications can be retrieved from there as well. Michelle Bartek asked if the ad could be shortened and then maybe be advertised in the Morning Call because it covers a broad area. She also asked if the ad was placed on the Police website. John started to state we were not sure how many applicants we had for Chief; Bruce then stated we had a grand total of 5 applications for Chief. Michelle then asked again about lessening the advertisement and to advertise it in the Morning

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Call. William Chuma then said that the hope is with getting a new Chief, they will bring in some Officers as well. Michelle stated that's fine, but they still need to be vetted and go through all the proper tests to be hired. John mentioned that Jerry Scaran is looking to resign from the Civil Service Commission Board. He said when this does happen, we will need to advertise for a replacement.

Zoning and Ordinance:

The Committee is Jay Doyle, William Chuma.

Bruce mentions that there has been an ongoing issue with 300 & 302 W Snyder Avenue. Owners of 300 W Snyder spoke to Jim Dean before his departure and Jim explained according to the Judge the 3-strike rule must be the police going to the same location, for the same crime, for the same person. He then suggested maybe amending the Rental Ordinance to include something for a nuisance property. This would be just like the nuisance bar, after the police are called there so many times the LCD pulls their license. The nuisance property would be after the police are called there so many times for an issue and it is a legitimate issue, the owners Rental License will be pulled. Council feels that this will help with the Police being called continuously to the same property, but it is different people every time which takes away from trying to catch the same person. After so many calls and the Police going down to the same address, we build a case and then pull the license. Eddie Evans mentioned that they have that in place in Allentown, Bruce suggested us getting a copy of their ordinance and looking at that. Eddie also asked about getting a citation book. He said the Magistrates office told him to obtain one from the Borough and he was looking to see who oversaw giving one to him. Would it be the Police, or would it be the Secretaries in the office? Joseph Genits mentioned that when he did Code, he got his citations from the Chief of Police. Bruce suggested maybe Ed speak to Michael Greeks office to see if they would help him out because he is not sure where they would come from. He has never come across this issue before. Katherine Evans mentioned to Committee that she would like to use the East End Park as an area for the children who attend her Preschool to be able to have recess. She started working with Jim Dean on this, Jim passed it on to William Chuma and he said it will now go to Council for a vote. Jennifer mentioned that Donna Crum will be retiring, and she stated on the news that all Boroughs and township should have their own Animal Control Officer even if it is part time. The cat issue is getting a lot worse in town, and it was agreed that something needs to be done. Jennifer said she also has someone willing to work with us with Exotic animal ordinance. Martin Ditsky mentioned that Rental Addendums are not matching the moving permits coming in and out of the office. Joe Gentis said it is a matter of enforcing the Rental Ordinance. Martin stated a lot of landlords are not filling out new rental addendums when they get a new tenant in their property. Residents not obtaining Moving permits is becoming a major issue in town. People are continuously moving in and out and not getting the proper permits. Landlords need to be held more responsible for their tenants not following the Ordinances. Even if a Rental license is pulled landlords are still renting the homes when they should not be.

Economic Development:

The Committee is Bruce Markovich, Gwyneth Collevchio.

There were no updates for Economic Development.

The meeting concluded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shantel Lauer Assistant Secretary Treasurer

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