

MINUTES
WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 19, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: President Eric Lucich, Vice-President David Moyer, Pro Tem Tim Webster, Robert Lark, Bill Novak and Mayor Stacey Curry.

Others Present: Attorney Robert Tesone, Secretary/Treasurer Sandra Ricci on Zoom, Street Department Senior Laborer Bobby Cochran, Police Chief Jason Newton, Fire Chief Rich Garrett, Brian Foster and Director of COG Recreation, Ray Lucich, Robert Lucich (father of Eric Lucich), Robert Rankin, Bryon Harmon and Jesse and Melissa Calvert.

Public Comments: Brian Foster addressed Council regarding the COG Pool funding/financing and attendance throughout the years and also passed around paperwork to everyone with explanations. Mr. Webster spoke to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Calvert (Landlord/Calvert Properties, LLC) regarding their request for a sewer bill waiver of \$2,521.62. due to their tenant leaving water on which caused pipes to burst and created a higher than normal sewer bill. Council and Calverts discussed the problem and decided to waive the bill at fifty (50%) percent for forgiveness, which amount would be \$1,280.12. Mr. Webster made a motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Moyer with all in favor.

Eric Lucich asked if anyone had any other questions. Robert Lucich said he would like some questions that are going on with the borough office and he can hardly get an answer through there. Robert Lucich asked when is the secretary coming back to work, he said the Co-Vid restrictions are lifted. Robert Lucich said when he comes over he would like to get a question answered. Robert Lucich asked if he was going to get a reduction in his taxes because he can't reach her. Eric Lucich said he didn't have an answer and that they were working on it. Attorney Tesone stated that is a personal issue and for Executive Sessions.

Robert Rankin asked how many air conditioners are running in this building and how come the lights are on in the borough office area when nobody is over there, we are wasting a lot of energy here. Eric Lucich said he doesn't know about the air conditioning or the lights over by the walkway but he does know that they leave at least one light on facing the tanker bay for emergency lighting and those are LED so it's real low energy. Mr. Rankin said he was talking about the air conditioning and the lights on over there and that he understands the lights here are for emergency purposes. Mr. Moyer said there's one over there that always stays on. Eric Lucich told Mr. Cochran that they need to make sure to turn the air conditioning off when no one is there.

Minutes of June 7, 2022, June 15, 2022, June 21, 2022 and June 30, 2022: Mr. Novak made a motion to accept all sets of Minutes presented by Ms. Ricci, seconded by Mr. Moyer with all in favor.

Bills: Mr. Novak made a motion to accept the Bills presented by Ms. Ricci, seconded by Mr. Webster with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Novak made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report presented by Ms. Ricci, seconded by Mr. Moyer with all in favor.

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Rich Garrett read the Fire Department Report. Mayor Curry, Rich Garrett and Chief Newton discussed the time frame of a fire call response at the Mayor's residence.

Police Department Report: Police Chief Jason Newton read the Police Department Report and addressed no parking areas with Council.

Committee Reports: Mayor Curry said she received a Bid for playground equipment at Sweesy Field with a price of \$70,000.00 and she said she knows the Borough does not have that kind of money to spend so she is going to submit the drawings with a Grant request. Mayor Curry explained that there may be other avenues for match money such as County Commissioners Office, etc. for costs. Mayor Curry said when she attends the Mayor Convention on July 21, 2022, she will gather more information. Mayor Curry also said she spoke with Michelle Brooks who knows of a Grant Writer that may be able to help. Mayor Curry said they must be ADA Compliant along with receiving said Grants and said additions to the playground such as a volley ball court, etc. would be nice to have.

Eric Lucich said they use Homer to pump out everything right now and another company originally contacted him and asked if they would give them a shot, he has information but not readily available. Mr. Lucich said they could pump out Kiwanis and get some of that stuff back in order.

Purchase Ball Joints for F-550 Street Dept. Truck: Mr. Cochran said the Ball Joints would possibly be at a cost of \$1,000.00. Council discussed. Mr. Moyer made a motion to accept the purchase of up to \$1,500.00, seconded by Mr. Novak with all in favor.

Fire Engine Brakes Cost: Mr. Garrett said he did not have prices yet.

Purchase millage from Campbell's for pot holes: Mr. Lucich said the millage would be coming from the State who is selling the materials. Mr. Cochran will contact Jeff Hogue to see if they need some and they may be able to haul it.

Create Parking Ordinance – Jayne Barris: Mr. Lucich, Chief Newton and Attorney Tesone discussed the parking situations at Jayne Barris' campground area. Attorney Tesone said an Ordinance is not needed for this subject. Attorney Tesone gave other suggestions such as Ms. Barris putting up a No Trespassing sign or a Do Not Block the Driveway sign. Council and Attorney Tesone discussed further.

Handicap Ordinance No. 3-2017 – Amended to remove Police: Attorney Tesone and Chief Newton discussed this Ordinance. Chief Newton stated they are not trained for the ADA requirements and responsibilities in this matter and also in regards to liability situations. Attorney Tesone and Chief Newton discussed further. Mr. Lucich asked if this should be taken up with the Code Officer instead. Attorney Tesone stated only if Jeff Richardson has the experience needed. Mr. Lucich said if Jeff Richardson isn't qualified then maybe they will find a Code Enforcement Officer that is. Attorney Tesone said they need to discuss this with Jeff Richardson to see if he would want to do it and it needs to be voted on and Attorney Tesone will then advertise an Amend to the Ordinance. Mr. Moyer made a motion to make a change to remove the Chief and designate the Code Enforcement Office if he is willing to do that, seconded by Mr. Novak with all in favor.

Code Enforcement Officer Discussion: Mr. Moyer said he referred to coding within the Borough and how they react toward property maintenance. Mr. Moyer said the purpose was to ensure that they are going to work on the private properties that they are not paying Jeff Richardson for. Mr. Moyer addressed high grass and charges for mowing and to ensure that is covered under the labor rate, equipment and fuel. Mr. Moyer said the other thing that set him off is that we are being charged \$100.00-\$105.00 for every time Richardson comes out. Mr. Moyer said the misunderstanding that he had was it wasn't for property maintenance issues, it was for non-compliance issues for charges, not for Zoning and building codes.

Mr. Moyer said if it's for high grass that's one thing, but if he is going out for any other property maintenance issues then they need to make sure that the amount of restitution is all there, which indicates the collecting of the fines. Mr. Moyer spoke regarding costs and court cost payments. Mr. Moyer said Mr. Richardson is welcome to talk with Council. Mayor Curry discussed the sign across from her property and was curious on why it has not come down. Mr. Lucich said because it is a State road that it's on, some of that kind of falls on PennDOT. Mayor Curry said if it's Zoned Residential there shouldn't be any commercial signs. Mr. Lucich said if someone does roofing on his house for a discount they're going to put up a sign. Mayor Curry agreed but said that isn't a cemented in structure and the Day Care wasn't allowed to put up a sign and that's in the commercial part of town, so they can't have a permanent structure and it's not fair to the other people they are turning down in the commercial part of town. Attorney Tesone said their zoning ordinance is forty (40) years old and it needs to be updated

Progressive Energy Prices for 2023: Ms. Ricci stated that Jefferson Sommers (Account Manager for Progressive Energy Consultants) called and emailed her at 3:40 p.m. on July 19th and said that he might join the Zoom meeting, but was not in attendance. Ms. Ricci explained that Mr. Sommers said he would like Council to review the electricity renewal paperwork with locked-in prices that she had emailed to Council and Mayor with his contact information for their reference or questions. Mr. Lucich advised that Mr. Sommers attend the next Council Meeting for any questions pertaining to this topic.

Tim Webster to resign from Zoning Hearing Board: Mr. Novak made a motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Moyer with all in favor, and Mr. Webster abstaining.

Appoint Zoning Hearing Board Members: Council and Mayor Curry discussed anyone who may be interested and concluded that Robert Rankin who was present volunteered. Mr. Webster made a motion to appoint Robert Rankin as a Zoning Hearing Board Member, seconded by Mr. Novak with all in favor.

Meeting Recessed @ 8:10 p.m. for Executive Session-Personnel

Adjournment @ 8:30 p.m.: Mr. Novak made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moyer with all in favor.

Meeting Recessed @ 8:10 p.m.

Executive Session - Personnel

Adjournment @