

MINUTES
West Middlesex Borough
Council Meeting
May 23, 2023

Call to Order: The West Middlesex Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. By Borough Vice President Mr. Dave Moyer

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: Vice President Mr. Dave Moyer conducted the Council Meeting, Mr. Tim Webster, Mr. Robert Lark, Mr. Bill Novak, Mayor Stacey Curry. Mr. Eric Lucich was absent.

Others Present: Attorney Robert Tesone, Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, WMVFD President Rich Garrett, Ray Lucich, Pam Mickley, Susan Garrett, Gerald Williams, Laurie Anderson, Mr. Robert Rankin, Mr. James Guttman

Public Comments: Pam Mickley spoke on behalf of her, and her sister Susan Garrett, and brother Dan Grundy They are concerned with the house located at 3066 Main Street. She added, the grass needs to be mowed. The sidewalk on the side that is on Haywood Street is crumbling, making it a challenge and unsafe to walk on. They feel something needs to be done. They are very concerned about the appearance of the home, yard, and walkways. And feels the sidewalks are a safety issue. Mr. Bill Novak assured them that the issue is already being addressed. He personally, after the most recent storm, cleaned up the fence and moved it off the sidewalk. Richardson Inspection Service has already been notified to start the process of an inspection. And hopefully the issue will be resolved. Ms. Mickley also added her concern with the recent increase of the garbage service. She added it would have been nice to have read about the increase in the newsletter so that when the bill arrived it would not have been such a shock. Mr. Bill Novak offered an apology on behalf of the Borough Council. Mr. Dave Moyer added that the Council tried to reach out to other companies. Laurie Anderson, another resident, said she was told payment had to be paid by the 26th otherwise they would cut her off. Her concern is that it is only her and her son. They don't have much garbage. It is a concern of her neighbor also, but she was unable to come to the meeting. Mayor Stacey Curry suggested that Ms. Anderson, and her neighbor, reach out to Tri-County and inquire about the option to pay by the bag. Ms. Anderson also wanted to bring to the attention of the Council that there is a large dip in the alley behind her garage, and the sidewalk in front of her house is also bad. Ms. Mickley asked if there are any grants available to fix sidewalks. Mayor Stacey, suggest they keep an eye on the Newsletter, she is putting together a meeting that will be available to the public concerning grant money they will be available.

Mr Gerald Williams also said he felt the garbage increase was terrible. Mr. Webster spoke on the increase of the garbage bills. He understands that it is a terrible increase in cost. But, if the Council would have not signed the contract, Tri-County would stop picking up the garbage. It was explained that Mr. Moyer reached out to Waste Management, and Mr. Novak reached out to Republic Services, but neither wanted to bid. We did receive one other bid, from E&P in Sandy Lake. The cost would have been \$90.00 and was not unlimited. They however did not include a bond in the bid and the bid was not able to be accepted. That was the only other bid received. It was explained that we did not have a contract for the past 2 years. It was a hard decision to make, but it was a decision the Council had to make.

No other public comments.

Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Lark to accept the Minutes from the April 18th Council Meeting and second by Mr. Bill Novak. All in Favor.

Police Department Report: The Police Department Report was presented to Council.

Fire Department Report: The Fire Department Report was read by Chief Rich Garrett.

Treasurer's Financial Report: A motion was made by Mr. Robert Lark to accept the Treasurer's Report and seconded by Mr. Bill Novak. All in Favor.

Mr. Novak asked if a letter can be sent to Penn Power concerning the Street Lights that are out. Secretary Paula Luca will check with Bobby for a list of the lights that are out, and send a letter.

1. **Homecoming Parade Permit Approval-** The homecoming Parade is scheduled for September 15th. Novak motioned to approve the Homecoming Parade Permit. Seconded by Mr. Tim Webster. All in Favor.
2. **Amending Resolution 9/96-** Attorney Tesone said concerning the Resolution, it has to be distinguished between the charge to use the equipment and the fee to have the work completed. The \$50 is the cost if the equipment is being leased. He suggests that an Ordinance needs to be done. He also mentioned the list that has the cost of all fees. He would like to draft an Ordinance, and the fees can all be updated. This will be tabled until next Month's Council Meeting.
3. **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Report -** Mr. Lark will have the information ready to submit at the next meeting. Mr. Novak suggests we include the addition of street lights coming into West Middlesex. No lights begin until around Nancys, or even possibly the Dollar General/Diner area. Table until the next meeting.
4. **Planning Committee -** 4 residents have volunteered to be a part of the planning Committee. Mr. Dennis Bollinger, Mr. Harry Korbau, Ms. Barb Lipinsky, and Mr. Jeff Incerto. Mr. Tim Webster made a motion to have 7 members of the planning committee. 4 to be residents

and 2 council members and the mayor. Mr. Novak Seconded. All in Favor. The committee will be the 4 residents, Mr. Lark, Mr. Novak, and Mayor Stacey.

5. **EV Charging Facility** - Mr. James Guttman spoke concerning the EV Charging Facility. He thanked the Council for allowing him to present the information. He has discovered that the Federal Government is interested in promoting Electric Vehicles. He is interested in the location on his property on Sharon Road. He feels because it is near a major highway, it is an excellent location. He is not eligible to apply. He is looking for sponsorship from the Borough of West Middlesex to submit for the grant. Mayor Stacey is interested if the grant is issued, what is his intent with the property. His issue at this time is to submit for funding, and what all will be done if that is achieved, then that planning would come in the future. Mr. Novak asked if there is a current business in that building, and Mr Guttman replied no. Mr. Lark inquired if the old Texaco sign can be removed. Mayor Stacey added we are trying to beautify the area. Mayor Stacey also added that someone has inquired about the location and renting it for a restaurant. She will forward Mr. Guttman's contact information to the interested person. Council inquired if this project will be in the Borough of West Middlesex, only, and not in conjunction with Shenango Twp. Mr. Guttman assured it will be Borough Property. Attorney Tesone was asked by Mr. Lark if there are any legal issues the Borough should be concerned with. Mr. Guttman suggests the Borough will need to register on Grants.gov so that he can submit the application. Mr. Novak motioned to approve and Mr. Lark Seconded. All in favor. Mr. Novak also suggested we reach out to our State Representatives. He will do so and pass on Mr. Guttman's contact information. Mr. Lark added, we look forward to working with you. Paula will register at Grants.gov.

6. **Audit Meeting**- Mr. Tim Webster reported: This audit is the Borough Audit. Black, Bashor and Porsch requested all months of the Bank Statements to be reconciled. Desiree and Paula worked on it together until Desiree went on vacation, and Paula finished to have all prepared for an upcoming meeting. It's all completed with notes. Some of the accounts are inactive, but still sit on the books. The upcoming meeting is June 8th. He will explain how to remove the inactive accounts and accounts that may have been credited twice. Council will need to vote to have the accounts cleaned up. This will allow him to start the audit. Someone will need to sign an engagement letter to do the audit. Mr. Lark is concerned if we are ok with the State since the Audit has not been done. Mr. Webster explained that a letter was sent explaining why the audit is not done as of yet. He did not give a cost of the Audit, but he is not sure what he is getting into. Last year was a high cost to do the Audit. Mr. Webster will not sign the engagement letter. Attorney Tesone added, the Council President will need to sign the engagement letter. Mr. Webster added his initials to the paperwork for him to do the actual Sewer Audit. Mr. Webster will attend the meeting with Paula. Once we have the engagement letter it will be added to the agenda to vote on and sign.

7. **Swimming Pool** - Mr. Robert Lark spoke on the status of the Swimming Pool. Will open June 3rd. Close August 20th. Instead of the pool closing early, the pool will not be open on Mondays. Found potential funding: COG will continue to handle the Pool, but turned over the Softball fields to Shenango Twp. Previously, Farrell, West Middlesex, Hermitage, Wheatland

have all made contributions to the Softball Fields. Farrell \$1,000.00. Asking to transfer the money to the pool. Hermitage 2300.00, WM 150.00 Wheatland 150.00. A report was passed out that has been collected so far. Goal was \$5,000.00. If Farrell is able to transfer the month, it will reduce the deficit. Hermitage will probably not be interested. Mr. McGonigal has donated \$1.000. Have had some problems with employees. But he currently has 6 lifeguards. Mayor Stacey added she spoke with Mr. Foster, and he now has 9 lifeguards set up. Mr. Lark will send a letter out to all three communities with an update. Setting up committees. 3 members from each community. Will be setting up meetings to make next year easier than it has been this year. Mayor Stacey gave an update that the American Rescue Act stipulations have been limited. She suggested Lakawanock take all their assessment from the American Rescue Fund. If West Middlesex does the same thing, to make up the \$5,000 that WM Borough is short from the American Rescue Fund. Mr. Foster thought it was a great idea. Mayor Stacey has a To Do List from Mr. Foster. We should form our committee of 3. Mr. Lark reported there is approximately \$50 Billion not used from the American Rescue Fund and they may want it back. Mr. Novak suggested Mr. Rick White be on the committee. Mr. Novak does not feel he is able to attend the meetings. Mr. Novak made a motion to use \$5.000 from the S.L.F.R.F.(American Rescue Fund) to be issued to the Pool. Mr. Lark Seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Moyer- Yes, Mr. Lark- Yes, Mr. Webster- Yes, Mr. Novak- Yes. Motion passed. The council will now vote on the Swimming Pool Committee of 3. Mr. Webster questioned if we can vote on the committee. Attorney Tesone said someone can volunteer. Mr. Webster motioned we form a committee for the pool: Mayor Stacey Curry, Mr. Robert Lark and a member of the community. Seconded my Mr. Lark. All in favor, no opposed.

8. Fire Department- Council to vote to approve payment for the Fire Department repairs and undercoating, from the Fire Department Account. Mr. Novak made motion to approve the payments Seconded by Mr. Webster. Roll Call: Mr. Moyer: YES Mr. Lark: YES, Mr. Webster: YES, Mr. Novak: YES.

Mr. Bill Novak added: Mr. White just sent him a text stating that he accepts and will be on the committee. Mr. Webster changed his motion to include Mr. White. Mr. Novak seconded. All in Favor. No Opposed.

Back to the Fire Station, Mr. Novak mentioned that the controller needs to be moved, and to vote to have the work done. Mr. Moyer said that we will need a bid to vote to have the work done. The work will need to be done before the Truck arrives. Attorney Tesone suggested we get a bid, that we can estimate the cost without a bid. Mr. Webster asked when the truck is coming: Mr. Garrett said the truck should be here next week. We will have the estimate ready for the June meeting, Mr Garrett said that should be fine. To be added to the June Work Session Agenda. Mr. Moyer suggested we recess until a later date and add to the recessed Agenda.

9. Request for Paula Luca for more hours if needed in the future. Mr. Moyer asked would it be fair to offer 5 hours at this time. Mr. Lark made motion; Mr. Webster seconded. All in favor.

10. West Middlesex Sewer Authority U.S, Census Bureau: A letter was received certified mail. I was not sure if the Borough was already registered on the web portal. Mr. Webster added that he is not sure if Sandi did these in the past. He knew of one many years ago, but not sure what this is involving. He will stop in the office and we will work on the paperwork.

Mr. Moyer added that is the end of our items.

Mr. Lark added that there was a very nice write up in the Herald concerning the Memorial Day Parade.

Mayor Stacey also added: Today was the hearing concerning the property at 1 Erie Street. The Wessex Property. He was not releasing the liens. She asked if she could speak. She spoke on behalf of the Borough. The Judge was impressed she showed up and spoke up. The judge was inclined because she showed up. He gave advice. His town is similar to West Middlesex. He suggested the Sewer Authority purchase the property to be sold. She had an interested party contact her that they are interested in. We are 90 days out, and hopefully the interested party will bid. Mayor Stacey feels this is a good thing.

Mr. Webster made a motion to amend the agenda to add a motion for the Mayor to attend the Mayor Convention. Mr. Novak seconded. All in favor, no opposed. The cost is \$250.00. The cost for the hotel is 3 nights at \$109 a night. It does bring us over the budget. Mr. Lark motioned the Mayor attend, and Mr. Novak seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Moyer: Yes, Mr. Lark: Yes, Mr. Webster: Yes Mr. Novak: Yes.

The meeting was recessed until a later date. The meeting will be next month, Wednesday June 14th at 6:00 to be held before the June Work Session Meeting.

Council will remain for the Executive Meeting.