

**Minutes
West Middlesex Borough
Council Meeting
August 15,2023**

Call to Order: The West Middlesex Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Borough President Mr. Eric Lucich.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Others Present: Attorney Robert Tesone, Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, Mr. Adam Garrett, Mr. Ray Lucich, Police Chief Jason Newton, Ms. Thelma Barnes, Ms. Barb Lapinski, Mr. Robert Rankin, Mr. Kent Warheit, Ms. Connie Wittman, Mr. Mike Roknick, Mr. Troy Preston

Public Comments: Mr. Kurt Warheit addressed the Council on behalf of the residents of Walker Lane. President Eric Lucich suggests, for their comments to be addressed when presented on the agenda. Both residents were in favor of waiting. Mr. Troy Preston presented concerns to the Council concerning the Storm Water Sewers on Chestnut Street, across from the Dairy Queen. The Storm Box's need cleaned out. All the homes in the area are experiencing problems due to the issue. He stated that he paid his taxes today, but may consider in the future not unless something is done. He then questioned what type of Commerce is available for new business into town. He stated "Hermitage is kicking our butts". Mr. Eric Lucich reported we don't have a committee currently, however, possibly the Dollar Tree Combo store will be coming to town. Mayor Stacey Curry added, a call was received to gather zoning information for a new grocery store on the corner of Main and Erie Street. And, also there was interest of a charging station at the old Texaco Station if grant money becomes available. Mr. Webster added, in response to your request concerning the storm water sewers on Chestnut Street, the issue was presented at the Sewer Authority Meeting, and the Streets Dept. will be addressing the issue, possibly as soon as tomorrow. No other Public Comments were presented.

Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Lark, and seconded by Mr. Novak to accept the Minutes from July 12,2023 Session and July 18, 2023 Council Meeting. All in Favor, No Opposed. Mr. Moyer abstained due to being absent.

Police Department Report: The Police Report was Read and Presented to Council by Police Chief Jason Newton.

Fire Department Report: Mr. Adam Garret request, due to Chief Garrett running late, the report will be presented at the next Council Meeting.

Treasurer's Financial Report: A motion was made by Mr. Novak, and Seconded by Mr. Webster to accept the Treasurer's Financial Report. All In Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carried.

1. Information Items:

Homecoming Parade: Mr. Lark reported the Homecoming parade will be held on September 15th @6:00pm. He will not be in town, so he will be reaching out to the parade committee.

Pool Update: Mr. Lark reported the last day for the pool is Sunday August 20th. There will be a committee meeting Monday the 21st, and another mid-September.

West Middlesex Sewer Authority Meeting: Mr. Lark reported that the meeting was held this evening prior to this meeting. Sewer issues were addressed. The pump station at the West Middlesex Estate being the major issue. He reported the New Pump has been ordered. Currently the station is being pumped out 3 x a week. The pump station is in need of 2 pumps; however, the current facility can not handle 2 pumps. Also reported on the Storm Sewer issue at O'Neill Coffee and Garfield Street, Main Street and the backyards facing the school. One motion to contact GPI to address all of the issues. Also reported are the issues with Shenango TWP Sewer Authority. Two issues: The past cost & The cost associated with the construction at the plant. He reported the Sewer Authority has come up with some tentative dates to be presented to Shenango Twp. to come up with a date for a meeting.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Project: Mr. Lark passed out information concerning to the project to possibly begin in Spring 2024. Funding of \$2,600,000: Resurfacing Rt18. From 376 in Shenango Twp. through the Borough up to appx. The RT 80 ramp. Sewer items will be included in this project, all listed on the handout. Mr. Troy Preston asked if his issue on Chestnut Street can be added, and Mr. Lark said he will add it to the list presented to GPI.

2. **Lilly bridge/West Middlesex Estates Pump: Vote for the New Pump:** A Motion was made by Mr. Lark and Seconded by Mr. Moyer. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carried.
3. **Storm Water Pipe 85 Garfield:** Mr. Lark reported this is part of the issue that will be presented to GPI.
4. **Resolution No. 6 of 2023:** Increase in the cost for Grass cutting equipment and operator from \$50 to \$150.00 per hour: Motion was made by Mr. Novak, and Seconded by Mr. Moyer. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carried.
5. **Study of the Fire Department by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:** Mr. Lark summarized the discussion between the West Middlesex Council and the West Middlesex Fire Department that was held at the Work Session Meeting on August 9th. This has been going on since September 6th 2018 the two fire departments sat down for discussion, and possibly considered to merge. Several meetings were held and it had been going on for a long while. There were back and forth issues, after reviewing everything and hearing the timeline read by Adam Garrett, it seemed to be more disagreements than agreements. Mr. Lark motioned that there be No Further Discussion on this matter, Seconded by Mr. Webster. All in Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carried.
6. **Street Improvements: Walker Lane:** Council President Eric Lucich explained that currently Walker Lane is a Private Lane. Mr. Kurt Warheit spoke on behalf of the residents of Walker Lane. All of the residents received the letter from the Borough of West Middlesex. He had a petition signed by all residents requesting the Borough of West Middlesex to Adapt Walker Lane. Mr. Lark explained that Street Department worker Bobby Cochran did an assessment of Walker Lane needed for possible annexation. He passed out information that was gathered. Attorney Tesone added, The Borough needs to inquire if it is up to PENNDOT standards. Mr. Lucich added that Mr. Wilson from PENNDOT will come free of charge to check on the standard and updates

needed. Mr. Lark added this is a problem and it needs to be addressed. Mr. Lark Motioned out of Good Will we repair the existing pot holes with Cold Patch. Mr. Lucich added, it may not be repairable with the Cold Patch. Mr. Lark amended his Motion to include for Mr. Cochran, to assess the condition of the road, if able, to repair the existing pot holes with cold patch. Seconded my Mr. Moyer. Discussion: Mr. Webster addressed Attorney Tesone if legally, we are ok to repair the existing pot holes? Mr. Tesone explained that it is Private Property. Brought up another way to address the issue, like at Oak Tree, the residents all pitch in to pay for the improvements. He also brought up if we have permission from all the residents of Walker Lane to do the repairs. Mr. Warheit said, I have a petition signed by all of the residents. Mr. Tesone said but for what? Mr. Tesone asked if you can get something from all the homeowners consenting permission to use the Cold Patch if able to. Mr. Warheit said he would get the signatures and drop off at the office. The Motion by Mr. Lark was amended again, to include In Accordance to receiving the Signed Consent from all Residents, and after assessment of the condition, if able, this would be a one-time deal to repair the existing pot holes with cold patch. All in Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carried.

Fairview DR: Mr. Lark added this is the same situation: It is on the list for the Engineers.

- 7. West Middlesex Community Center Hall Rental:** Mr. Webster explained the hall was rented on Sunday 7/16/2023. There was a lack of communication between Paula Luca and Bobby Cochran. She had forgot to let Bobby know the hall was rented. The hall was not cleaned for the rental. The person who rented the hall needed to sweep and remove the garbage left in the hall. They forwarded a complaint to the office afterwards along with pictures of the hall. Paula took full responsibility for the lack of communication. Mr. Webster reported Paula had told him what had happened. We did not cash their check. He did not feel we should charge due to the condition of the hall. The solution to this issue is a calendar posted at the time clock so everyone is aware of all upcoming activities. Mr. Webster made a motion we return the check of the hall rental along with an apology. Mr. Lark seconded. All in Favor, No Opposed. Mr. Lucich abstained due to the relationship with the people involved. Motion Carried. Mayor Stacy asked if there is a better place for the Women's Club to store their items that is usually stored under the tables. Mr. Webster added let's work on finding an area and also work on getting the pictures up on the wall. Mayor Stacey also mentioned Women's Club looked into getting a storage shed, but out of funds at this time. Mr. Preston presented a question. What size of shed are you legally allowed to put up without a permit? Mr. Lucich said if it is on a skid and movable, he did not believe a permit was needed. But if on a foundation, a permit is needed. But he did suggest to calling Mr. Richardson to be sure.
- 8. Sewer Account 760440:** Mr. Webster stated this is one of the accounts we had spoke about previously. Since 2018 we have not added to the account the name of the new owner. Since we did not do that, it is hard to go back and charge them. We did not do our job. There is no water usage. We need to decide if we should eliminate the whole balance. As per Mr. Tesone, we will start to bill the new owner beginning in September. Mr. Webster made a motion that we clear the account, contact the new owner, and going forward beginning in September they will be responsible for the account. Seconded by Mr. Lark. All in favor No Opposed. Motion Carries. Motion Carries.
- 9. SLFRF: American Rescue Act:** Secretary Paula Luca addressed the Council. A report will need to be submitted on the use of the money for the enhancements of the pool. By 2024, we will need to report how we plan on using the remaining money available. Mr. Lark said down the road possibly commit it to the pool. President Eric Lucich added

there is a lot of thoughts how we can use the money. Possibly with the storm sewer issues we are having. Mr. Lark agreed that is a possibility.

- 10. Mercer County Regional Planning Committee Grant:** Mr. Lark reported he met with Mr. Conti from the Regional Planning Committee. He had mentioned possible use of the money for a new generator, but was informed that is not allowed. After his discussion with Mr. Conti, he zeroed in on two things: money to be spent on handicapped issues. Example: Handicap Ramp, Parking, Signs, Parking Slopping Ramps. That is what they are looking for. Also housing that needs to be addressed, however that would take too much time at this time. Mayor Stacey asked if it could include the Park Handicap Accessible playground equipment. Mr. Lark said he would present that to Mr. Conti.
- 11. Ordinance Reminder Door Hangers:** Mayor Stacey Curry Reported that while at the Mayor Conventions she learned of an idea of doing a door hanger reminder to save time and money of going through Richardson Inspection. If after 15 days, no response, then we would turn it over to Mr. Richardson. Saving the Borough money. She requested the Council the ok to move forward and to purchase a box of printed Door Hangers. Motioned my Mr. Lark and Seconded my Mr. Webster. Discussion: Mr. Moyer added the Language and Verbiage should reference specific maintenance codes. Mayor Stacey added she would not print anything without showing the Council first. Mr. Tesone added to use it, and follow up with a letter. Possible certified mail. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.
- 12. Court Hearing 1 Erie Street:** Mayor Stacey reported: Originally, the hearing she attended, the Judge gave allowed the property owner 90 days to do something concerning his case. After the 90 days, the next hearing was with a new judge. And the property owner was given 9 months to get affairs in order. There are several liens against this property owner. It was discussed that a lien needs to be placed on the sewer account and also the grass cutting fees. Motioned my Mr. Lark, Seconded my Mr. Novak. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries. Police Chief Newton brought up the situation at 9 Penn Ave. The Braho Residents. It has been 11 years. The house needs to be condemned before it falls over or into the street. Mr. Tesone suggest to amend the ordinance and use the appeal board. This will be added to next months Council meeting.
- 13. New Welcome Signs:** Mayor Stacey reported that she was contacted by Gary Salatino. Will be starting in September. Would like to borrow a post hole digger if the Borough has one. The signs will also include the Kiwanis for Pancake Day. Red and White Candy Cane Poles. When they have a preview, they will present to Council. Mr. Lark added we also received a New Swimming Pool Sign.

Mr. Ray Lucich reported that at the meeting with PENNDOT concerning the flooding in front of the School and Campbells it was reported that the Borough was responsible to clean out the storm boxes. He asked when this would be done? With the last storm there was water everywhere. We need a plan. President Lucich replied the Streets Department is aware of it and it will be done.

Council went into an Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations.

14. Contract Vote: Mr. Webster Makes a Motion to Adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement Contingent on the Mutual Agreement of the Final Language of the Contract. Seconded by Mr. Moyer.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Eric Lucich: NO - Mr. Dave Moyer: YES - Mr. Robert Lark: YES - Mr. Time Webster: YES - Mr. Bill Novak: YES

Motion Passed.

Mr. Robert Lark Motion for adjournment and seconded by Mr. Dave Moyer. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Passed.

Adjournment: 8:13pm