

MINUTES WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH

WORK SESSION

MAY 11, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: President Eric Lucich, Pro Tem David Moyer, Robert Lark, William Novak and Mayor Stacey Curry.

Others Present: Sandra Ricci, Secretary/Treasurer, Bobby Cochran, Street Department Senior Laborer, Mike Roknick, Herald Reporter, Ron Preston, Tim Webster, Debbie Larouche, Barb Lipinski, Ray Lucich and Chuck Haun.

Bill Novak and Mayor Stacey Curry addressed everyone with issues pertaining to Council's conduct regarding meetings, committee reports and bullying of Employees. Heated conversations ensued between President Eric Lucich and Pro Tem David Moyer, with Bill Novak and Mayor Stacey Curry.

Letters of Interest for West Middlesex Borough's Council Vacancy Seat – Candidate Interviews:

President Lucich read aloud the Letters of Interest from both Ron Preston and Tim Webster for Council's Vacant Seat. Mayor Curry said there is a current issue with check signing availability with the office staff and addressed both Mr. Preston and Mr. Webster asking if they would be available for check signing during the day and they both confirmed that they are retired and available for check signing during the day. Mr. Preston introduced himself. Mr. Webster introduced himself. President Lucich said they will not make a decision tonight and will vote at the Council Meeting next week.

Street and Sewer Department Report: Bobby Cochran read aloud the Street and Sewer Department Report with explanations of cold patching and milling of the streets. Mayor Curry asked if there is a way to address alleys regarding entrances onto the streets and asked if they had the equipment. President Lucich said there isn't a whole lot they can do other than reconstructing the roadways. Mr. Cochran said the Street Department men were in the process of taking down the lights and putting up the flags for the Memorial Day Parade. Mayor Curry and Council discussed streets, alleyways and trees obstructing views for public safety.

Council's Committee Reports: Mayor Curry talked about Sweesy Field Park and playground equipment. She spoke to Harmon Fence and said she previously misunderstood his comments about his prices, which take almost all of the Parks and Recs. Budget for the year. Mayor Curry said she asked Mr. Cochran what the chain link fencing would cost and either through the Women's Club or the Community, they would come and help them put the fence up, or if Mr. Cochran and Mr. Haddox know how to do it and if there's time. Mayor Curry said she thinks they can buy the materials at a third of the cost of the quote and we would still have two-thirds of their Budget left. Mayor Curry explained unsafe situations at Kiwanis Park.

Mayor Curry asked Mr. Cochran if he has any information regarding the walkway safety and EPA, and Mr. Cochran said not at this time. Mayor Curry further discussed these safety issues.

Mr. Moyer said they spoke earlier about the grass. Mayor Curry said she did look into that and it's an awesome idea with the information he gave her if there's money left over. Mayor Curry said Mr. Moyer gave her an idea to plant decorative grass that was affordable. Mayor Curry explained the area further along with the parking lot.

Mr. Lark addressed the Memorial Day Parade set for Monday, May 30th and passed out paperwork with explanations that he read aloud. Mr. Lark addressed his Report from COG where there was a meeting a week ago today and had Representatives from the various Communities, and Mayor Curry joined them. Mr. Lark explained the Pool prices and assessments where COG is asking for an increase due to inflation in regards that this is a Countywide event and they need to be aware of this for their financial planning for next year when they start to work on the Budget. Also Organizations and Businesses might want to increase their contributions.

Painting of Crosswalks: Mr. Cochran addressed crosswalks on Routes 18 and 318 that they need to speak with PennDOT and also obtain the PennDOT approved paint and he may have to order it which will take some time. Council and Mayor discussed further. Mr. Lark said he will contact PennDOT since he is on the Committee.

Mark Longietti's years of service: Mr. Novak said as a Governing body their town should thank him for his service for all that he has done for the Community over the years and asked if he can get a quote a small plaque. Mr. Lucich agreed.

Confirmation – Eric Lucich and Dave Moyer have keys to the Borough Office as of April 22, 2022: Mr. Lucich raised his keys and confirmed that he and Mr. Moyer have office keys as of April 22, 2022.

Jones Performance Proposal: Mr. Lucich and Mayor Curry discussed contacting Mr. Jones at Jones Performance with any information that they have at this time. Mayor Curry will follow up. Mayor and Council discussed ADA Compliances along with the building proposals. Mr. Lark suggests that Mr. Jones buy the building, they'll take the money and put it in the bank and they can decide down the road what is best for the Borough. Mr. Lark said Mr. Jones has to make a Proposal, then if the Proposal has some merit, they can assess it and then speak to Solicitor Tesone for proper procedures. Mayor Curry said she will speak with Mr. Jones for a Proposal.

Adoption of Fire Feasibility Study: Mayor Curry said they Accepted it but didn't Adopt it. Mr. Lucich asked if they want to make a motion to continue with it. Mayor Curry said her concern with Adopting this on Wednesday, she would personally feel that she would like a lot more information, she has a lot more questions and thinks it needs to be discussed in more detail. Mr. Lucich, Mayor Curry and Mr. Moyer continued with further conversations.

Mr. Lucich said back to the Fire Study. Mr. Lark said they Accepted it but he doesn't believe they should Adopt it, Mayor Curry agreed. Mr. Lark said going forward what they should do is they can certainly have meetings with the firemen and the Community. Mr. Lark said the report was done by a third party in Harrisburg and the decision needs to be made here not in Harrisburg since it's a major decision for our town going forward.

Mr. Lark explained an issue a couple of years ago in Greenville because they employed and paid two or three firemen and the rest were volunteers as Shenango and Hermitage. Mr. Lark said some people thought they should go completely volunteer or keep that, they put it on the ballot and people voted.

Mr. Lark said he is a Democrat and he believes in Democracy and he doesn't think the decision moving forward with the fire department should be made by two families in the fire department and he doesn't think it should be made by the majority of three people of the Council. Mr. Lark proposes if they decide to go down the road and do something with the fire department, it should be placed on the ballot and all of the people in West Middlesex has a chance to vote it up or vote it down. Mr. Lark and Mr. Lucich discussed further. Mr. Novak asked if there have been talks about setting up a meeting with the fire department and the public. Mr. Lucich said he has not had a chance to speak to anybody from the fire department yet, but not just himself, he would like anybody else on the Council to speak to the fire department to see what they want and are welcome to talk to anybody there. Mr. Lucich continued to explain. Fire Chief Rich Garrett said he would appreciate it if they talk to him since he heard through the grapevine that somebody here on Council got ahold of Frank Jenetti, the 911 Director and is looking for his run card. Mr. Garrett said he made it perfectly clear to all of them when they took over Council that he's an open book and all they have to do is ask, so he doesn't know why somebody on Council is going to 911 asking for stuff that he can give them, he just needs to know they need and want it. Mr. Lucich asked when was their next meeting night and Mr. Garrett said Thursday.

Mayor Curry asked between now and next week's Council Meeting if they can talk to Chief Garrett to see when they can have a meeting with them and they confirmed.

Armor Linings Quote - \$634.95: Council discussed Armor Linings Quote with Ray Lucich and asked what this entailed on rustproofing. This item will be on next week's Agenda.

Lillibridge Pump Station Proposed Plans and Letter of Transmittal from GPI: Ms. Ricci handed the original documents to Eric Lucich who reviewed them with Council. Mr. Lark explained the documents and said they need to talk to the new owners of Lillibridge Village concerning easements or a new location with updates which should come before the Sewer Authority when they meet. Mr. Novak questioned Mr. Lark if there can be a digital form of the documents for the website.

Update – Paving and Storm Sewer Projects/Greenman Pedersen – Bids/Advertising: Mr. Lark gave the Report on the follow-up of the street program. The GPI Engineers have prepared the specifications of the proposed storm sewer work on Garfield Street Extension. Mr. Lark said they spoke both to Ms. Ricci and Attorney Tesone that there will be an advertisement in this Saturday's Herald, May 13th and next Thursday's Herald on May 19th and the deadlines of receiving the Bids will be May 31st. Mr. Lark said they also submitted the specifications of the milling and the paving of Carbaugh Street, Garfield Street Extension, New Street, School Street and West Street. Mr. Lark said they will not advertise that until the storm sewer work is done first with the same process of twice in the Herald in submitting Bids and then the Council will vote to award a Bid. Mr. Lark said the plan and hope is to have these done during PennDOT's construction season which is March to November. Mr. Lark stated tar and chipping is over, as that was done in the past. Mr. Lark explained water lines and sewer line placements in the Borough. Mr. Lark also wanted to remind Council that they can use money from the American Rescue Act to pay for storm sewer improvements and sanitary sewer improvements and can use the street money for milling and paving.

GPI Engineering Service Invoices - \$402.50 and \$3,463.50: Mr. Lucich read aloud the invoices to everyone.

Mr. Novak said he noticed the other day that the water fountain is leaking in the Borough building hall. Mr. Novak took a picture to bring to their attention and his thought would be to just replace the whole unit and he thinks they should contact a plumber for the waterlines, Mr. Lark said that was a good idea. Mr. Lucich asked Mr. Novak to get prices.

Adjournment: 8:03 p.m.