

Meeting of
Mt. Pocono Borough Council
October 5th, 2020

The Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Williams at 7:07 p.m. Salutations were given and those in attendance were: Mayor Penn, President Williams, Vice-President O'Boyle, Councilman Emilie, Councilman Neville, Councilwoman Keeler, Councilwoman Bucco, and Councilwoman Montanez. An announcement was made by President Williams that they would be stepping out for an executive session afterwards the meeting would re-convene. The meeting re-convened when Council returned to the Council chambers and continued with the Agenda. President Williams entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Meeting in September, the Regular meeting of September and notes on the work session. Councilman Emilie made the motion to approve all the minutes as presented. The Second came from Councilwoman Stewart-Keeler. The motion carried. Some attendees were participating via zoom due to room capacity issues while in Covid-19 times.

President's Report: President Williams stated that Council will be starting the budget process very soon and taxes are very slowly trickling in. She stated the Borough is facing a large shortfall. The Borough needs to hire a full-time employee for the Road/Maintenance Crew to replace the employee that left for another position. She stated we need to hire someone before the weather changes. President Williams stated that equally important is that the Borough needs to be successful on its LSA Grant for a garage to store the Borough's Equipment in. The Borough has applied for grants for three years running to obtain funds for the garage and for three years it failed to make the cut. President Williams stated our shortfall is around \$488,000.00. She said this is a serious matter. President Williams announced that she will be making reassignments to the Borough's Standing Committees.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Penn reiterated the Borough's Finances is a pressing issue. \$488,000.00 is a huge sum to absorb especially with the Borough needs being so great, it may come down to reducing services. We cannot reduce Road & Maintenance with winter so near. We will need to trim the fat, become more efficient. Covid-19 had impacted everything across the board, Fire, EMS, Police. There will be an estimated \$10,000.00 increase for the cost of services from PMRP in 2021.

Treasurer/Secretary Report: Lori Noonan addressed Council and gave the report. The President entertained a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Councilwoman Stewart-Keeler seconded. There was some discussion and questions on the Account Payables. Councilman O'Boyle wanted to know why our Auditors Kirk & Summa's bill was higher than last years? The motioned Carried.

Zoning Officers Report: Ms. Wilkinson and Juan Rosario reported that the Shed Ordinance was prepared and is awaiting approval. Solicitor Fareri informed Council it needed to go back to the Planning Commission for their approval and then come back to Borough Council. Officer Wilkinson suggested Council consider an Amnesty period, where those that failed to obtain a permit can pay the fee and bring the property into compliance without receiving a violation fee/s. A motion by Councilwoman Bucco stated that the Borough do this Nov. 1st to 14th. Councilwoman Stewart-Keeler seconded. The Motion carried.

Mt. Pocono Volunteer Fire Company: Logan Evans had inquired about a permit to Park- Trailers (Empty) on the acreage of land owned by the fire company. There was some discussion on the subject. The Borough's ordinance is silent on this matter; these are commercial vehicles, it impacts Ingress and Egress, there are issues with snow. There are also traffic impact issues, too. Solicitor Fareri said before anything. They must obtain a HOP (highway occupancy permit from the Commonwealth).

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Fareri reported that 1 of the 2 parties being served was served and he has obtained counsel. The other party has not been served.

Halloween President Williams entertained a motion to set the time for Halloween for the Borough. Councilwoman Montanez made the motion to set the time from 4-7 p.m. for the Borough. This was seconded by Councilwoman Bucco. The motion carried.

Councilman Neville stated that the Time Clocks are working and being used.

It was brought to Council's attention that the Verizon pole on Fairview Avenue that was improperly installed is a walking hazard. Council asked Zoning about the issue. Officer Wilkinson stated what the issue was complicated by the church selling the property, then by PPL because they transferred power to the pole. Officer Wilkinson said she or maintenance would tape off the hazard until it is resolved.

Parks & Rec. Vice-Chair Foulton requested that Council provide Pocono Pride (Baseball) with a letter of support for their application for their LSA grant. There was a discussion. It was pointed out by Council that this placed the Borough in competition for the same grant money that they are seeking for their garage. Council members said there is several issues regarding this Pocono Pride Project, first being that if this happens this building is on public grounds and it would become the property of the Borough. It was pointed out that maintenance and upkeep fall to the Borough are we prepared to accept it? The bantering went on until Councilwoman Montanez made the motion to provide the Pocono Pride with the letter of support. This was seconded by Councilwoman Stewart-Keeler. The vote was by roll call with the following Councilmembers voting against the Letter were Councilman-O'Boyle, Councilman Neville, and Councilwoman Bucco. Councilmembers voting for the Letter were Councilwoman Stewart, Councilwoman Montanez, Councilman Emilie then President Williams voted for it and broke the deadlock. The motion carried. It was noted that there are outstanding issues in zoning, liability, maintenance, and storm water management with this project.

Councilman Emilie made the motion to allow Parks & Rec. to purchase their groomer for the ball fields not to exceed \$24,000.00. Second came from Councilwoman Montanez. Discussion ensued. The motion carried.

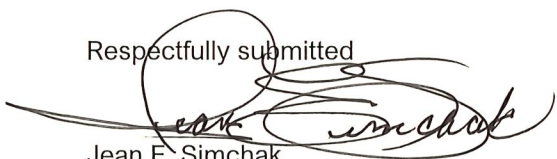
Action Items: AED Training trying to set a date. Maintenance, MPMA, and Office Staff.

Lot on Timberbrooke Terr. Contact Realtors. Lot on Brunswick needs to be sold since the Builder is not interested, see about a Realtor picking it up to sell.

Councilman O'Boyle informed Council that the plaque erected at the Knob Overlook was broken, then taken or thrown down the slope.

President Williams Adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Jean E. Simchak
Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer
Mt. Pocono Borough