

Stewartstown Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 3rd, 2020

Members present

Gordon Wisnom, Sr.
Kenton Kurtz
Polly Kreiss
Donna Bloom
Roy Burkins
Mike Ellinger
Bill Gemmill

Others present

Craig Sharnetzka, Solicitor
Jason Brenneman, Engineer
Ira Walker, Jr., Sewer/Water
Stacy Myers, Recording Sec'y

Visitors

Jenni Sipe
Pam Almony
Joyce Ryer

Harry Nizer
Rudy Kocman

Janet McElwain
Brittany & John Barnette

1. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00p.m., followed by the pledge to the flag.
2. **General Business**
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes—Ms. Kreiss made a motion to approve the July 6th, 2020 Meeting Minutes; Mr. Kurtz seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - Approval of Financial Statements
 - **General Funds**—Mr. Burkins made a motion to approve General Fund bills dated June 27th thru July 29th, totaling \$106,125.26; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Water Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve Water Fund bills dated June 27th thru July 29th, totaling \$44,568.76; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Sewer Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve Sewer Fund bills dated June 27th thru July 29th, totaling \$18,630.96; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - Other Council business—
 - Kenton Kurtz submitted a letter of resignation for his Council position, effective immediately. Mrs. Bloom made a motion to accept Mr. Kurtz' resignation; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - Appointment into vacant Mayor position—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to appoint Kenton Kurtz as the Mayor to serve the remainder of Robert Herzberger's term, expiring 12/31/2021. Mr. Gemmill seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - Appointment into vacant Council seat—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to appoint Brittany Barnette to serve the remainder of Kenton Kurtz' term, expiring 12/31/2021. Ms. Kreiss seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - Both Mr. Kurtz & Mrs. Barnette will be sworn in before a Notary, once available and Mrs. Barnette will need to complete an Affidavit of Residency (proving she's been a resident of Stewartstown Borough for at least one year) and a Statement of Financial Interests, as all public officials must do.
3. **Public Comment/Visitors**
 - **Rudy Kocman** from Kocman Insurance presented Council with a dividend check in the amount of \$11,601.08. This check generates from a 23% dividend from the PSAB municipal program the Borough is included in. Rudy thanked Council & the Borough for their patronage & involvement in the program.

- **Janet McElwain** from Mason Dixon Library was present tonight to discuss the financial situation of the library, as the Borough's 2021 budget time approaches. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, four fundraisers the library had planned were cancelled. Mason Dixon closed on March 14th & reopened on June 15th, but only for limited hours & for patrons to pick up books/reserved items. The library currently has a maximum amount of 25 patrons allowed at one time (including staff) but patrons can only browse for 15 minutes. Curbside pick-up is available for books & rented items and the allowed reserve time for materials has been extended from 2 weeks to 4 weeks. Mrs. McElwain believes Mason Dixon will be financially stable in 2020, if municipal & County funding comes through. She's apprehensive about 2021, stating financing may be tight. She asked that Council please keep Mason Dixon in mind when planning their 2021 Budget.
 - **Jenni Sipe**, a resident at 13 N. Main Street, was present to propose an "I Love America" parade for Saturday, September 19th, which is the same day at the Borough's free yard sale. She's not proposing any political agenda, just participants carrying American flags or other patriotic items, in hopes of boosting people's morale during a time of so much negativity with the COVID-19 pandemic. She plans to visit the Lions Club meeting & also speak to the Lioness Club about participating but she wanted to get Borough Council approval before doing so. Mrs. Sipe stated she may also ask at the VFW, American Legion & local Scout troops to gauge their interest, but she has already gotten the support of Eureka Fire Company, who will help her with planning the event & scheduling Fire Police for traffic control. Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve moving forward with the "I Love America" parade on September 19th, 2020; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Joyce Ryer**, a resident at 54 S. Main Street, was present to express her appreciation to Southern Regional Police Department for ramping up their speed control efforts along South Main Street. She believes the Police presence has made a difference in the number of speeding motorists and she hopes their patrols continue. Mrs. Ryer urged residents & Council to contact Kristin Phillips-Hill's office in the hope that our State representatives push for regional (& municipal) Police forces to be able to use Radar. Currently, only State Police can use Radar, which is more effective in catching speeding motorists. Council President Wisnom said he will send a letter to our representatives addressing this issue.
 - **Council members** had requests of Borough staff—
 - Tree limbs need trimmed prior to reaching the south end solar speed sign (Barrens Rd. South). Borough staff will take care of this.
 - Weeds need removed along 2 S. Main Street apartment building. A letter will be sent to the property owner.
4. **Solicitor's Report**—Craig Sharnetzka reported:
- **Trash contract bids**—the current contract with Penn Waste expires October 31st, 2020. We're proposing multiple collection options & multiple timeframes (number of years) options for the next contract. Mrs. Bloom made a motion to authorize the advertisement of trash bids; Ms. Kreiss seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. The bid opening will be held at Council's September 8th meeting.
 - **Movie theater update**—the online auction has already started & will end on August 18th. To date, one bid of \$20,000 has been received, with \$20,000 being the minimum bid. The next asking bid is \$20,250, so it appears that bids are in increments of \$250. It's an absolute auction, so whatever amount it brings, it gets sold. There is approx. \$10,000 of outstanding taxes on the 3 N. Main Street property, in addition to other creditors being owed, including Stewartstown Water & Sewer Authority. The higher the price the auction brings, the more money to be distributed among those owed. All the creditors may not get paid in full, depending on how much the auction brings.

A viewing of the property will be held August 12th, from 5-6pm, but a “Hold Harmless” waiver must be signed to enter it.

Terms of the sale are 10% due within 24 hours, balance due within 45 days.

Council had previously discussed placing a bid so the Borough can obtain the building, but they don’t want to discourage other potential buyers.

Mr. Ellinger made a motion to place a bid in the amount of \$20,500; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- **56 N. Main Street**—Craig had sent a certified letter to the current owners & posted a letter at the property regarding necessary cleanup of the weeds, overgrown bushes, trees & other Ordinance violations. As of today, no cleanup was done other than mowing the grass.

Mr. Ellinger made a motion to move forward with hiring a company to clean up the property & place a lien for the costs, if necessary; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- **Resolution 2020-02**—Ordinance 2020-02 had been previously created, enabling volunteer fire & ambulance personnel who are Stewartstown Borough residents to receive up to \$500 credit on income tax levied by the Borough. Resolution 2020-02 goes with that Ordinance. The Resolution must be presented at a public hearing & Council will hear public comment on it, if any.

Mr. Gemmill made a motion to close the Council meeting @ 7:55p.m. Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mr. Gemmill made a motion to open the public hearing @ 7:55p.m. Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

No public comment was heard on Ordinance 2020-02 and Resolution 2020-02. These were created at the request of the Borough’s emergency service providers to encourage residents to volunteer. This credit gives them an incentive to do so. This particular document is for ONLY volunteers who live in Stewartstown Borough; however, other municipalities may be doing the same for their residents/volunteers.

Hearing no further comment, Mrs. Bloom made a motion to close the public hearing & reopen the Council meeting @ 7:58p.m. Mr. Gemmill seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mrs. Bloom made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-02 & to approve Ordinance 2020-02; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

As the Assistant Fire Chief of Eureka Fire Company, Ira Walker, Jr. thanked Council for passing the Ordinance & adopting the Resolution.

Mr. Wisnom reported Eureka EMS may be facing a deficit at the end of 2020 as reported at their recent meeting. Eureka Fire Company may face a deficit also due to the pandemic & the cancellation of profitable fundraisers.

- **Concerning weed issues/complaints**--Ira Walker, Jr. stated he knows several individuals needing community service hours, so they could pull weeds & conduct clean up around town where necessary (not private property). Craig suggested creating an agreement between the Borough & the Probation Office allowing these individuals to work in the Borough under our supervision but that does not hold the Borough responsible should someone get injured, etc.

5. **Engineer’s Report**—Jason reported the following:

- **College Avenue Storm Sewer pipe replacement**—this project is now complete, and Clearview Excavating has submitted their payment request for the Borough in the amount of \$8,500. Mr. Gemmill made a motion to pay the contractor in the amount of \$8,500; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **Falkler/Wilson Subdivision Plan**—the Authority previously approved a note being added to the plan in lieu of bonding for the sewer & water connection. Council members will sign the plan at the end of tonight’s meeting. Jason stated the owner’s signature is from March which

- is past the 90-day deadline to get it recorded, but it will be the owner's responsibility to get updated signatures if the courthouse denies the plan for recording.
- **Donna Bloom**, a resident of 37 S. Main Street called Ira about a sinkhole that was forming next to her home. Ira visited the property & said the pipe is visible and suspects the aging stormwater system is the problem. He's concerned that this may start happening more often. Jason Brenneman will visit the property this week & report back to Council.
6. **Sewer/Water Supervisor Report**—Ira Walker, Jr. presented his report. Expenses will come before the Sewer & Water Authority for approval.
 7. **Treasurer's Report**—Stacy Myers asked for Council approval for the Fire Police to help with:
 - Springfield Township event on September 7th, 2020
 - "I Love America" Parade proposed in Stewartstown Borough on September 19th, 2020Mr. Burkins made a motion to approve the Fire Police requests; Ms. Kreiss seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 8. **President Wisnom's Report**
 - Discussion on Eureka ALS (Advanced Life Support)—Eureka is considering adding an ALS unit to their ambulance fleet. This would include paramedics, provided by UPMC Pinnacle, who can administer IV's, perform intubation & other lifesaving techniques that EMT's cannot. For 12 hrs/day, 7 days/week, the unit would be placed within one of the four municipalities that Eureka serves & the cost would be shared based on population. Stewartstown Borough's share would be approx. \$50,000/year; however, this cost may increase over the years. Cost is an unknown factor right now, but Mr. Wisnom wanted to discuss the proposal with Council.
Currently, ALS is provided from Red Lion, if needed.
 - The address sign at Westminster Place (S. Hill Street) should be moved closer to the road, as it's not visible to emergency vehicles responding to the facility.
 - Approx. 10 years ago, AED units were purchased; the Borough received 2 units, Hopewell Area Recreation received one, East Hopewell received one unit & Hopewell Township received one. The units now need to be updated, batteries replaced, pads replaced, etc. Eureka Fire Company obtained a price for new AED's for approx. \$2,300/each and the fire department will maintain the service schedule for the units.
Mr. Gemmill made a motion to purchase one AED for the Borough Office; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 9. **Adjournment**—With no further business before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary