

Stewartstown Borough Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 6th, 2025

Members present

Pam Almony
Roy Burkins
David Elwell
Jason Roberts
Joshua Butler

Others present

Mayor Brittany Barnette
Ira Walker, Jr., Sewer & Water

Visitors

Linda Miller
Jeff & Joyce Ryer

1. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm followed by the pledge to the flag.
2. **General Business**
 - **Approval of Meeting Minutes**—Mr. Elwell made a motion to approve the December 2nd, 2024 Meeting Minutes; Mr. Roberts seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Approval of Financial Statements**—Ms. Almony made a motion to approve the following expenses. Mr. Elwell seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **General Funds**—bills dated Nov 28th, 2024 thru Jan 2nd, 2025, totaling \$28,095.84.
 - **Sewer Funds**—bills dated Nov 28th, 2024 thru Jan 2nd, 2025, totaling \$68,472.05.
 - **Water Funds**—bills dated Nov 28th, 2024 thru Jan 2nd, 2025, totaling \$54,718.61.
3. **Public Comment/Visitors**—no one to address Council.
4. **Solicitor's Report**—Atty. Sharnetzka was not present tonight but submitted the following report:
 - **Bidding thresholds have increased for 2025**—
 - **Purchases & contracts below \$12,900** require no formal bidding or written/telephone quotes.
 - **Purchases & contracts between \$12,900 and \$23,800** require three written/telephone quotes.
 - **Purchases & contracts over \$23,800** require formal bidding.
 - **Trash Ordinance/Violations noted at 38 & 45 N. Main Street**—complaints were made to Mr. Elwell that these properties had trash out several days before trash collection & the trash bins remain sitting out sometimes days after collection. Trash Ordinance 2000-001 was superseded by Ordinance 2005-007, the only difference being that the fine for violations was increased to \$50. And the updated Ordinance also states “if the occupant or tenant of the property who receives the violation, pays a fee of \$20 within 7 days of notice, criminal prosecution nor the \$50 fine will move forward.
Mr. Elwell wasn't interested in necessarily increasing the fine, but he wanted to make Council aware of the Ordinance, the associated fine and whether or not anyone else wanted to increase it. As a reminder, the Ordinance prohibits trash from being sat out before noon the day before collection and require trash cans/receptacles to be brought back to the residence by midnight the day of collection.
Borough staff did reach out to the property owner of the above noted properties. He responded and said he will notify his tenants & make them aware of the Ordinance restrictions.
5. **Engineer's Report**—Jason Brenneman was not present tonight but submitted the following report:
 - **13 Mill Street**—revised plans have been submitted and Jason's office will work with Borough staff regarding the January Planning Commission & Zoning Hearing for this project.
 - **2025 Street Projects**—informational items regarding this:
 - 2025 Budget has \$23,000 budgeted for stormwater improvement work.

- LSA Statewide Grant—waiting for contract & all paperwork in order to start work.
 - CDBG Grant—also waiting on contract to start work with a reminder that the income surveys will be needed. These surveys can be completed any time and York County Planning Commission should be sending them to Stacy Myers shortly. Residents will receive a return, postage paid envelope with the survey in which to return them to YCPC directly. At least 50% of the responses need to be received.
 - **Storm Inlet/Pipe Inspection Proposal**—Still waiting for Columbia Gas to complete the cross-bore work to evaluate what else is needed.
6. **Sewer/Water Supervisor Report**—Ira Walker, Jr. submitted his report, and all expenses will be acted on by the Sewer & Water Authority. He also reported that a couple high meter readings/high usage bills were calculated during the January water billing. Water staff visit these residents in an effort to find the source of the high usage, but also to 1) prepare them for the high-water bill, and 2) make them aware of the importance of conserving water.
7. **President/Vice-President's Report**—Ms. Almony & Mr. Burkins reported:
- **Authorization for Eureka Fire volunteers to apply for tax credits**—Mr. Burkins made a motion to authorize the following to apply for the noted tax credits. Mr. Elwell seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - William Amberman, Sr.—for both earned income & property taxes
 - Nathan Filak—for earned income tax only
 - Josh Rager—for both earned income and property taxes
 - Jeff Smith—for property tax only
 - Ira Walker, Jr.—for both earned income and property taxes
 - **Reappointments to various Committees & Boards**—Ms. Almony made a motion to reappoint the following to the noted committees/boards. Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - Lisa Mohan—5-year appointment to the Sewer & Water Authority with a term expiring 12/31/2029.
 - Jason Roberts—4-year appointment to the Borough Planning Commission with a term expiring 12/31/2028.
 - Harry Nizer--4-year appointment to the Borough Planning Commission with a term expiring 12/31/2028. Although he agreed to serve another term, Harry did request the Borough seek a replacement for him in the meantime.
 - Doug Plasterer—3-year appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board with a term expiring 12/31/2027.
8. **Treasurer's Report**—Stacy Myers wasn't present tonight & submitted no report.
9. **Mayor's/Police Report**—Mayor Barnette reported:
- At the last Police Commission Meeting, a new officer was sworn in. He seems to be very happy with SRPD & fits in well.
 - A resident inquired about a Neighborhood Watch/Safe House Program in hopes of getting residents involved. Those involved would receive a "Safe House" sticker that indicates that a child can seek refuge there, if needed. Neighborhood Watch is typically orchestrated by a resident who spearheads certain sections of town, so this resident has been asked to gauge interest in his area, and the Mayors/Council in attendance at the Commission meeting were asked to mention it at their own Council meetings to gauge interest.
 - Although not at liberty to share details, Mayor Barnette said there is current investigation of an incident in the Borough. SRPD has handled the situation & as details are known (and are able to be shared), Mayor Barnette will do so.
 - The Tree Lighting ceremony was a very nice event, although very cold. Thanks to the Lions Club, Dorn Electric, Mason Dixon Library & several area pastors for helping to make the event successful.

10. **Other Business**

- Ms. Almony thanked Council & all who contributed to the flower arrangement sent after her father-in-law's passing. She & Erich greatly appreciated it and all thoughts & prayers.
- Shout out to Joe Zahn, who is doing a great job plowing, salting & keeping the Borough safe!

11. **Adjournment**—With no further business before Council, Mr. Burkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 7:23pm. Ms. Almony seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary