

Stewartstown Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 4th, 2021

Members present

Polly Kreiss
Brittany Barnette
Pam Almony
Donna Bloom
Roy Burkins
Bill Gemmill
Gordon Wisnom, Sr.

Others present

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

Visitors

Linda Miller
Ben Washington
Jason Roberts
Taras Vizzi

Guy & Yvonne Hook
Stephanie Thompson
James Roberts

Felicia Markline
David Elwell
Kim Carl

1. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00p.m. followed by the pledge to the flag.
2. **Presentation for Guy Hook**—Mayor Kurtz presented Mr. Hook with a plaque in commemoration of his 37 years serving on both Borough Council and the Sewer & Water Authority, most recently as Chairman of the Authority. Mr. Hook & his wife, Yvonne were present to accept the plaque. Thank you, Guy for your service!
3. **Public Comment/Visitors**—the following addressed Council:
 - Ben Washington was present to request the final payment of \$56,250 for the theater demolition. Mr. Gemmill made a motion to approve the payment to Ben Washington, LLC; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
Of note, Mr. Wisnom requested that “No Trespassing” signs and some type of cable/chain be posted at the site to deter people from parking there. Mr. Burkins will install this.
 - James Roberts, 13 E. Pennsylvania Avenue asked if the newly installed “Local Deliveries Only” sign on E. Pennsylvania is enforceable by Police. He said there are still large trucks going down the road, some with shipping containers & large loads on them. That street is already in disrepair & the weight of heavy trucks don’t help. Council had approved the sign to be installed after residents on that street had complained about this issue, so Mr. Roberts is urged to call Southern Regional Police when it occurs. Mr. Burkins said he will also mention it at the next Southern Regional Police Meeting.
4. **General Business**
 - **Approval of Meeting Minutes**—Ms. Almony made a motion to approve the September 7th, 2021 Meeting Minutes; Ms. Kreiss seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Approval of Financial Statements**
 - **General Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve General Fund bills dated Sept 1st thru Sept 30th, 2021, totaling \$234,415.42; Ms. Kreiss seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Sewer Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve Sewer Fund bills dated Sept 1st thru Sept 30th, 2021, totaling \$232,009.31; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Water Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve Water Fund bills dated Sept 1st thru Sept 30th, 2021, totaling \$126,483.80; Ms. Almony seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

5. **Solicitor's Report**—Craig Sharnetzka reported the following:
- **Sidewalk Ordinance Revisions**—Craig sent a memo to the Sidewalk Committee with proposed revisions that involve the current Ordinance & the terms of the previous Ordinance from 2003. The Committee should review the changes as well as think about enforcement of the Ordinance, who would inspect & who would send notices about Ordinance violations. Craig agreed to meet with the Committee for further discussion prior to presenting a draft to Council. Ms. Almony said Mr. Vizzi submitted a list of properties with sidewalk violations (to current Ordinance), but she suggested getting the Ordinance updated first, then once it's final, move forward with enforcing it. Council & Craig agreed.
 - **Snow Removal Contract**—no bids were received for the next snow removal contract. Hopewell Township reps haven't completely dismissed the idea of plowing Borough roads. The Borough has two pick-up trucks with plows & also a skid loader, but they have no salt spreader & not nearly enough manpower to handle plowing. Craig suggested rebidding the contract in hopes of getting more response. He also stated he will reach out to Macomber Specialized (plows for Fawn Grove Borough) to gauge their interest in bidding. Other options were discussed. Some Council believed the extensive equipment list may have deterred some contractors from bidding. Could the list be scaled back? One of the vendors who received a bid packet (Joe Zahn) stated he had 3 pieces of equipment which includes only 1 pickup truck w/ an 8' plow. Ms. Almony made a motion to authorize the Streets & Roads Committee to meet with Joe Zahn for discussion & review and amend the equipment list as they feel necessary; Mrs. Bloom seconded. Discussion was held. Committee wasn't confident about revising the equipment list without full Council input. Ms. Almony withdrew her motion & Mrs. Bloom withdrew her second. Mrs. Bloom made a motion to authorize the Streets & Roads Committee to revise the bid specs in preparation of rebidding, then hold a special Council meeting within the next 7 days to get all Council's input on the revised bid specs. Council discussed recessing tonight's meeting & reconvening on October 5th at 6pm. No second was given. Mrs. Bloom withdrew her motion. Mrs. Barnette made a motion to rebid the snow removal contract as is with no revisions to the equipment list; Ms. Almony seconded. Motion carried, 4-3 (Wisnom, Almony & Bloom opposing).
 - **Ordinance Violation Updates**—for following properties
 - **Shaeffer, 28 N. Main Street**—vegetation issues have been addressed, but porch & roof (structural) repairs have not been done (after sending a 2nd letter on 9/16/21). Some vehicles on the property have been covered with a pop-up carport. Council discussed possibly revising the portion of the Nuisance Ordinance regarding "junked" vehicles & covering them with tents/pop-up carports.
 - **Sheffer, 41 N. Main Street**—structure issues still remain. At this point, Craig said the Borough could file with the District Magistrate's office to begin fining the property owner for Ordinance violations. Mr. Wisnom made a motion to move forward with the filing at the DJ's office for the two above properties. Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Wiggins, 43 Church Street**—Borough staff took pictures, no additional violations right now, will continue to monitor
 - **Wierman, Ovelton Avenue property**—Mr. Wierman has worked on some of the old vehicles on his property, but the trailers full of stuff covered with tarps are still there & the piles continue to get bigger. Mrs. Bloom made a motion authorizing Mr. Sharnetzka to send another letter with a deadline for removal of the junked items

covered in tarps; Ms. Almony seconded. Motion carried, 6-1 with Mr. Gemmill opposing.

- **Klinefelter, 4 N. Main Street**—Borough staff sent a letter to him regarding all the trash, clothing, etc. in his backyard, but have not gotten notice that he received the certified letter. What's the next step? A 2nd letter can be sent for the trash items but will probably go ignored. After much discussion, Stephanie Thompson volunteered to go speak to Mr. Klinefelter about cleaning up his property, thinking that would get more action than another Borough letter. Council agreed to this.

6. **Engineer's Report**—Jason Brenneman reported the following:

- Kinsley Construction plans to pave Charles Avenue & Free Street on Friday, October 8th, weather permitting. Recon has finished their milling work (compacting & rolling with cement) & should remove their equipment tomorrow, 10/5.

Kinsley submitted an additional Scope of Services quote to pave the entire Borough parking lot. Although the parking lot isn't in terrible shape, there is 1 major crack at the bottom of the lot that will come through regular paving. Kinsley suggested laying paving fabric first, covered by the overlay + line painting. Total proposal of \$9,600 includes:

- Paving fabric--\$1,800
- 66 tons of pavement--\$6,600
- Line painting--\$1,200

Since Kinsley will already be in the area completing the work on Free Street, Mr. Burkins made a motion to accept Kinsley's proposal for the additional parking lot work; Ms. Almony seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. Of note, the parking lot work cannot be paid from Liquid Fuels. The Borough will pay that from General Funds.

- Springwood Avenue storm pipe work—materials are still on backorder

7. **Sewer/Water Supervisor Report**—Ira Walker, Jr. presented his report. All expenses have or will be presented to the Authority for approval.

8. **Mayor's/Police Report**—Mayor Kurtz reported the following:

- Southern Regional Police Budget Meeting was held today. The municipalities served by SRPD received a rebate earlier this year; however, there won't be a rebate in 2022. Stewartstown Borough's Police costs will see an increase of 6-10% for 2022.
- SRPD staff is at full capacity right now.
- SRPD played a huge part in identifying two South Carolina men who were wanted for stealing catalytic converters from vehicles. The department is receiving a lot of mail commending them for the great job the officers are doing!

9. **President's/Vice-President's Report**—Mr. Wisnom reported on last week's missed recycling collections on Ovelton Avenue, Main Street & some other areas. On 9/28, Penn Waste notified Borough staff that they had 1 recycling truck break down, followed by a 2nd replacement truck breaking down. They sent another crew on 9/29 to collect recycling, where it was still sitting out, but on that day all of Ovelton Avenue & parts of Main Street were still missed.

Per the trash contract, \$2,000 can be deducted from the Borough's monthly Penn Waste bill for a mass violation of 6 or more missed collections. Ms. Almony made a motion to authorize the \$2,000 deduction on the next Penn Waste bill; Ms. Kreiss seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

10. **Treasurer's Report**—Stacy Myers reported:

- The new owner of the apartment buildings at 1 South Main & 2 South Main plans to replace the broken sidewalk in those areas. His contractor plans to start end of October/beginning of November.
- The \$50,000 reimbursement from the County's Blighted Property Program was approved & should be received by the end of this week, early next week. This reimbursement will offset funds spent on the demolition of the movie theater, 3 S. Main Street.

11. **Council recessed to Executive Session** @ 8:35p.m. to discuss personnel matters & the Employee Handbook.
12. **Council reconvened** at 9:20p.m. No decisions were made.
13. **Adjournment**—With no further business before Council, Ms. Almony made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 9:22p.m. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary