

Borough of Somerset Council Meeting February 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by President Ruby Miller, opening with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Ruby Miller; Fred Rosemeyer; Judy Pyle; Pam Ream; Sue Opp; Steve Shaulis; Gary Thomas and Scott Walker, Mayor.

Also present were the following: Borough Manager Michele Enos; Director of Finance Brett Peters; Chief of Police Randy Cox; Solicitor James Cascio; and Consulting Engineer Jake Bolby.

Announcements:

(a) *None*

Approval of Previous Council Meeting Minutes:

Motion

Mr. Rosemeyer moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to approve the January 23rd, 2017 Borough Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Award of Bids:

(a) *None*

General Public Comments:

(a) Leeann Stewart – *Somerset County Humane Officer – Discuss license and rabies violations.*

Ms. Stewart explained her role as the Humane Officer of Somerset County. She asked that she be allowed to broaden her spectrum within the Borough to include some animal control duties such as picking up strays, as well as writing citations for license and rabies violations. She mentioned that the Dog Warden has many other duties, so because it's a very long process for him to come here and cite for license and rabies violations, it does not happen. Ms. Stewart mentioned that the Dog Warden asked her to come to the Borough to see if she could be awarded the ability to write these citations on behalf of the State.

Ms. Enos asked Ms. Stewart various questions, regarding her request, to further understand what generated her request. If awarded these additional duties, Ms. Stewart would be issuing citations outside of her Humane Society duties. Issues such as Borough funding for Ms. Stewarts services, the need in other Municipalities for this same service, injury from dog bites, liability, insurance and workmen's compensation, were all discussed among Council. It was agreed upon that Ms. Enos and Ms. Stewart would discuss this further amongst themselves, and all information gathered could be discussed again, with her present, at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

(b) John Nicklow & Dwayne Bruner – Catch basin.

Mr. Nicklow discussed a drainage problem that he and Mr. Bruner are experiencing, where both of their driveways meet the street on West Garrett. He stated that this has been a problem, over the years, ever since the new curbs were put in. He mentioned that he had contacted the Borough Supervisors. He stated that they had come to inspect the problem, and stated that they would take it to Council. They took pictures over the years, and nothing has ever happened. He said that the Supervisors failed to act in their behalf. Mr. Nicklow spoke to Mr., Walker and showed him the water problem they had. He stated that it needs to be addressed. Ms. Enos mentioned that she and the current Supervisor will go to their properties and come up with a resolution to this problem.

Administrative Business:

(a) *Communication* – There were no communications.

(b) *Payment of Bills* -

Motion

Mrs. Ream moved, Mrs. Pyle seconded to approve the payment of bills numbered 28906 – 29078 totaling \$384,817.90.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Policy Agenda:

Old Business:

There is no old business.

New Business:

- (a) Humane Society of Somerset County – Requesting a donation.

In 2016, a donation of \$500 was given to the Humane Society of Somerset County. It was agreed upon by Council to donate \$500 for the year 2017.

Motion

Mrs. Ream moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to donate \$500 to the Humane Society of Somerset County for the year 2017.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- (b) Daily American - Requesting a donation for their 10K/5K Fitness Challenge.

In 2016, a donation of \$200 was given to the Daily American for their 10K/5K Fitness Challenge. It was agreed upon by Council to donate \$200 for the year 2017.

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved, Mr. Rosemeyer seconded to donate \$200 to the Daily American for their 10K/5K Fitness Challenge.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- (c) Resolution No. 2017-02 – Request from Somerset Hospital to recognize the month of March as “National Nutrition Month.”

Resolution 2017-02

MARCH- NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

WHEREAS, food is the substance by which life is sustained; and...

WHEREAS, the type, quality, and amount of food that individuals consume each day plays a vital role in their overall health and physical fitness; and...

WHEREAS, there is a need for continuing nutrition education and a wide-scale effort to enhance healthy eating practices;

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** and it is hereby resolved that March 2017 is National Nutrition Month in the Borough of Somerset, and we encourage all citizens to join the campaign and become concerned about their nutrition and the nutrition of others in the hope of achieving optimum health for both today and tomorrow.*

***ADOPTED** this 27th day of February 2017.*

Motion

Mr. Shaulis moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to recognize the month of March as “National Nutrition Month.”

Motion Unanimously Carried

(d) Agreement with Somerset Township Municipal Authority – Use and shared maintenance of the North Humberson Ave. Meter Pit.

Mr. Cascio mentioned that this North Humberson Avenue Meter Pit was included in the utility line relocation project along West Main Street last construction season. The Borough had to relocate a meter pit in accordance with the design PennDOT had done. Mr. Cascio stated that he expected to get a draft of the joint maintenance agreement for the North Humberson Avenue Meter Pit. He mentioned that this agreement will provide the mechanism to allocate costs of repairs, maintenance or service of the meter pit, depending on whether it is a responsibility of the Borough or if it is a responsibility of the Township. Mr. Cascio recommended that the Borough approve an agreement, subject to the Borough’s engineers; legal counsel; and management agreeing upon the practicality of the undertaking. The final agreement will be brought back to Council.

Motion

Mr. Rosemeyer moved, Mrs. Opp seconded for the Borough to approve an agreement with the Somerset Township Municipal Authority for the use and shared maintenance of the North Humberson Avenue Meter Pit, subject to the Borough’s engineers; legal counsel; and management agreeing upon the practicality of the undertaking.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Mayor Walker mentioned that he unfortunately was not available to attend the Annual Fireman's Banquet due to a prior commitment. He stated that this year's Mayor Award went to Mr. Steve Shaulis. Mayor Walker stated that he wanted to bring Mr. Shaulis' plaque to him tonight and present it to him personally. He then presented Mr. Shaulis the Mayor Award Plaque.

Executive Session:

To discuss matters of current and potential litigation.

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved to continue to executive session, motion seconded by Mrs. Ream. 7:25 pm.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Adjournment:

Mrs. Opp moved to adjourn, motion seconded by Mrs. Ream.

8:05 p.m.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Michele A. Enos, Borough Manager/Secretary