

Minutes of the Warrior Run Borough

Council Meeting

December 14, 2020

The Warrior Run Council Meeting of 12/14/2020 was held at the Warrior Run Borough Building, 496 Front Street, Warrior Run, PA.

The meeting was called to order by Larry Carbohn, who led The Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Rick Kratz, Sharon Wengren, Matt Pilch, and John Quinn. Attorney Patrick Aregood, Mayor Tom Shypulefski, and Secretary/Treasurer Tom Kneidinger were present.

A motion to accept the Minutes of the previous council meeting was made by Sharon Wengren, seconded by Matt Pilch, and passed by 4 yes. John Quinn “abstained” from the motion.

A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Matt Pilch, and passed by 4 yes. John Quinn “abstained” from the motion.

Rick Kratz did have a question about the bill that was paid to our Sewer Enforcement Officer, Steve Egenski. Larry Carbohn answered his question.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

BUDGET 2021: The secretary/treasurer gave the third and final public reading of the Borough’s proposed 2021 financial budget.

A motion was made by Matt Pilch to adopt the proposed 2021 budget, seconded by John Quinn, and passed by 4 yes. Rick Kratz voted “no” on the motion.

TAX ORDINANCES 2021: Attorney Aregood read the proposed 2021 Tax Ordinances, which did not change from 2020:

2020 (3) Proposed ordinance imposing a 1% earned income tax.

A motion to accept the Ordinance was made by Sharon Wengren, seconded by John Quinn, and passed by 5 yes.

2020 (4) Proposed ordinance imposing an occupational privilege tax of \$10.00

A motion to accept the ordinance was made by Sharon Wengren, seconded by Matt Pilch, and passed by 5 yes.

2020 (5) Proposed ordinance imposing a 1% real estate transfer tax

A motion to accept the ordinance was made by Matt Pilch, seconded by Rick Kratz, and passed by 5 yes.

2020 (6) Proposed ordinance imposing a 1.9 mil real estate tax for general fund purposes

A motion to accept the ordinance was made by Sharon Wengren, seconded by Matt Pilch, and passed by 5 yes.

OLD BUSINESS: A motion was made by Matt Pilch to ratify payment to Ed Krasavage Construction for the new storm drain box on Beaumont Street in the amount of \$12,576.00, to be paid from the general fund, seconded by Sharon Wengren, and passed by 5 yes. Larry Carbohn stated that safety was an issue to expedite the repair. The mayor was in agreement with this motion.

A motion was made by Matt Pilch to ratify payments to Marconi Electric for installing new power outlets on six telephone poles at a cost of \$3,200.00 to be paid from the general fund, seconded by Matt Pilch, and passed by 5 yes. The mayor was in agreement on this motion.

A motion was made by Rick Kratz to pay Intuit QuickBooks \$650.00 license fee for 2021, to be paid from the general fund, seconded by Matt Pilch, and passed by 5 yes.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made by Matt Pilch to ratify payment to Joe Ferraro for a new controller for pumps at the pump station, and labor to install for \$1,650.00, to be paid from the sewer fund, seconded by Sharon Wengren, and passed by 5 yes. The mayor was in agreement on this motion.

A motion was made by Matt Pilch to have All American Rooter clean and camera storm pipes on Beaumont Street, to be paid from the general fund, seconded by Rick Kratz, and passed by 5 yes. The mayor was in agreement on this motion.

A motion was made by Sharon Wengren to purchase four new "Pick Up Dog Waste" signs from Bassler Equipment, to be paid from the general fund, seconded by Matt Pilch, and passed by 5 yes.

A motion was made by Rick Kratz to pay for candy for the children's Santa parade in the amount of \$30.00, to be paid from the general fund, seconded by Matt Pilch, and passed by 5 yes.

A motion was made by Matt Pilch to purchase a new 8-foot plow blade for the F250 pickup truck to be purchased from C&S Auto, to be paid from the highway fund, seconded by Sharon Wengren, and passed by 5 yes.

A motion as made by Sharon Wengren to pay for the recent legal advertisements in local newspapers, seconded by John Quinn, and passed by 5 yes.

ATTORNEY AREGOOD'S REPORT: Attorney Aregood stated that he had two communications with Attorney Vinsko regarding Wooten's blighted properties. He has received no plan or response to remedy these situations.

Attorney Aregood has been in contact with the Law Firm of Rosen, Jenkins & Greenwald concerning the transfer of the title of the ball field from The Earth Conservancy to Warrior Run Borough. No conclusions have been reached on the "reversion" clause involved in the title transfer.

Attorney Aregood has been trying to make progress on the blighted Leipart property. The status of this situation remains unchanged.

Rick Kratz asked about the status of Herb Wooten's property not being hooked up to the Borough sewer system. Attorney Aregood stated that Mr. Wooten should be hooked to the system, but the current Borough sewer ordinance may need to be re-written to accomplish this. Attorney Aregood stated that Attorney Finnigan of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) provided this opinion on this situation.

POLICE REPORT: The mayor read the Hanover Township Police Report for the month of November 2020. For November, there were 10 calls for service during the month. All calls for service expended 5.56 man hours. Total hours do not include time spent on routine patrol of the Borough. The department has recently added three new patrol officers to the force.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The mayor read the following report:

1. The 2019 LSA Grant results will be voted upon on 01/19/2021. Upon advisement from both the House of Representatives Office, and Senator's Office, plus conferring with Harrisburg's Grant personnel, they advised me to resubmit our previous grant if the equipment is our priority.
2. Hanover Area has scheduled hybrid learning, Monday 01/18/2021. Stay tuned as this is subject to change. Our crossing guards have been great in this very flexible situation. Thank you, Donna Willis and Ashley Brandolino, for their great attitude.
3. We received the Luzerne County Block / Care Grant reimbursement check covering the total cost of 2 laptops, tower computer and accessories, plus ring doorbell. Amount also included COVID-19 supplies and advertising expenses. Everything purchased was totally covered by the Care Grant, check amount \$4,171.37.

4. Have worked with Pat Aregood, Magistrate Halsey, Code Enforcement Greg Gulick, Health Inspector Mike Galaida, Fire Chief Joe Timerantz in processing various violations in Warrior Run due to COVID-19 issue. Magistrate's office closed until first of the year. Also sent letters to others concerning violations. Although we would like for speedy resolutions, these processes occasionally have unavoidable speed bumps.
5. Again, I would like to thank Pat Aregood for all the unexpected problems he handled for Warrior Run this year. He resolved many problems quickly and professionally. Thank you.
6. I have received a resolution document that Representative Jerry Mullery forwarded to office from Harrisburg due to the COVID-19 restrictions. He was not able to present personally. The plan is to frame and display document. It is available for anyone interested to view.
7. Christmas wiring work was completed on Front Street and various telephone poles on Hanover Street. Upon inspection of existing electrical panels and receptacles, it was recommended various areas should be addressed to prevent future problems. Next year, an inspection and quotes will be presented to council. I would like to thank Marconi Electric for their great cooperation and professionalism. Also, thank you to John Quinn, Larry Carbohn, and Matt Pilch for their assistance in the project.
8. Luzerne County installed a new Hanover Industrial Estates sign at the corner of Hanover and Front. Hopefully, this will assist tractor trailers to their destination. Thank you to Luzerne County Road & Bridge Department.
9. After talking with Mayor Bill Davis, we decided to combine forces to present the Santa parade for both communities to lift the Christmas spirit. Special recognition to Aaron Frank, Kim Davis and Ayers Towing for their cooperation. Great efforts by Larry Carbohn, Matt Pilch and John Quinn to make the event a great success.
10. I would like to thank all Council Members, Solicitor Pat Aregood, his Secretary Cindy, Secretary/Treasurer Tom K., Tax Collector May Ann B., my wife Theresa, and all the residents that made a very good situation out of 2020. This proves that when we all work together, we accomplish greatness.

11. From my wife and I, wishing for a happier, healthy, joyous year ahead, as we hopefully celebrate our 126th anniversary.

Merry Christmas to all and have a safe and healthy 2021!

A motion was made by Rick Kratz to accept Attorney Aregood's, the Police, and the Mayor's reports, seconded by John Quinn, and passed by 5 yes.

PUBLIC AND FINAL COMMENTS: Theresa Shypulefski, a Borough resident and the mayor's wife, complimented Borough officials on the recent Santa's parade for Borough children.

Rick Kratz stated that he believes the current annual refuse fee of \$250.00 per household was too high, and could be reduced. Larry Carbohn responded that the current balance in the effuse account would be enough to pay the 01/2021 monthly bills to County Waste, but would not be enough to pay the 02/2021 bill. The current annual 250-dollar fee does not appear to be excessive at this time.

Rick Kratz stated that at the next work session, he would provide council with a new refuse resolution for council to review regarding the possibility of lowering future refuse fees.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Quinn, seconded by Sharon Wengren, and passed by 5 yes.