

Orwigsburg Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022

The Orwigsburg Borough Council met on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 in Council Chambers. Vice President Brock Stein called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance: Vice President Brock Stein; Councilors: Maddie Bartush, Kerry Mariano, Ed Winkelbauer; Ed Keyworth, Angie Hoptak-Solga; President Rick Bubeck via phone; Mayor Barry Berger; Solicitor Paul Datte; Borough Manager Randy Miller; Borough Secretary Sherry Edwards.

Visitors: Tim Wilhelm – 3029 Ridgeview Dr
Utility Supervisor Dave Teter
Kevin Richards – Alfred Benesch
Brad Miller – Orwigsburg Fire Dept
Ron Devlin – Pottsville Republican
Joseph McGlinchey – 235 N. Walborn Ave
Rita Klint – 105 Lantern Green Way
Jan McGowen – South Schuylkill News
Bobby Shappell – 680 S. Liberty St.

Tim & Candy Osborn – 1036 Ridgeview Dr
Dave Walasavage – ARRO Consulting
Chris Cope – Entech Engineering
Police Chief Vince McDonald
Bill Knecht – 204 S. Warren St.
Frank Snyder – 102 Lantern Green Way
David Benulis – 106 Lantern Green Way
David Bechtel – 910 Pottsville St, Pottsville
Greg & Mary Solga – 490 Clark Dr.

No Executive Sessions to announce

Public meeting – A Public Meeting was held for general purposes on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers

Approve the Final Meeting Agenda

Addition under New Business – Adding Resolution for sidewalk grant application

A motion to approve the final meeting agenda with addition mentioned above was made by Ed Keyworth, seconded by Ed Winkelbauer. Unanimous.

Public Comments

- Award recognition for Officer Robert Bechtel

Mayor Berger presented Officer Bobby Bechtel a Life Saving Award commending his professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties: On Saturday, April 30, 2022 Officer Robert Bechtel was dispatched to assist with an individual who was having breathing problems. Prior to his arrival, the situation was coded as a cardiac arrest. Upon arrival, Officer Bechtel attached the AED and actuated its shock treatment followed by chest compressions in support of CPR. After several minutes of CPR by all persons on the scene, the individual regained a faint cardiac rhythm, and was prepared for transport to a local hospital. Although the patient was experiencing heart arrhythmia, the lifesaving measures Officer Bechtel started and assisted with allowed the EMS personnel to successfully transport the patient, and after arriving at the hospital, regained his regular heart rhythm and alert status.

Mr. Osborne shared his experience with council and visitors; he expressed how grateful he is and could not thank Officer Bechtel enough for saving his life. He would not be here if not for Officer Bechtel and assistance from persons on the scene.

Joe McGlinchey – 235 N Walborn Ave – addressed President Bubeck on the phone regarding getting a response on the status of his next-door neighbor's property. President Bubeck noted Shannon is reviewing the NOV's (Notice of Violations) which is delinquent, and Councilor Mariano has this property on his NOV list to review tonight.

Addressed the proposed purchase of the bank; Joe has had serious issues for 37 years in the neighborhood with rusty water, streets, and deteriorating properties. The Borough did patch a little bit but not all. Now Council is considering purchasing the bank for \$400,000 plus with the conditions of the roads and everything else; he is looking for feedback on why this is a good move.

Councilor Mariano responded:

- Loan for \$425,000 at a very low interest rate
- Police Department has outgrown their space – in need of more space
- Need holding cell – currently being cuffed to a bench
- Shower facilities are a necessity
- At this point no absolute guarantee purchasing the property
- If property is bought may not be a police station.

It appears to Joe since COVID a lot of people can work from home maybe not the police department, virtually respond when needed; so, do we need another facility.

Councilor Mariano asked Joe if he feels safe in Orwigsburg. It's safe because of our Police Department.

Joe responded he feels as safe in Deer Lake as Orwigsburg and Deer Lake does not have a Police Department. There is a lot of money taken out of the budget for police.

Bobby Shappell of 680 S Liberty St – addressed buying the bank: heating system smokes in the wintertime and sewage overflows in high water.

Councilor Hoptak-Solga confirmed the maximum budget is \$425,000.00 for purchase and renovations.

Greg Solga of 490 Clark Dr – asked if there will be future meetings before due-diligence expires on August 3rd.

Solicitor Datte – no meetings scheduled between now and August 3^{re} which is Work Session.

Greg asked if there is a consensus for the use of the building?

Councilor Mariano – Not sure at this point what is going to happen. Council discussed moving the Borough Office to that location; use the \$425,000 to purchase and put whatever money is needed to get the bank up and running and use the rest of the money for the police department expansion. Only need a handicap bathroom at the bank and some cleaning up if borough office moves there.

Greg asked if all this can be done with \$150,000 – handicap bathroom at the bank and renovation at current borough hall for the police and do we have bids for the work and if not will they be available before due diligence expires.

Councilor Mariano responded yes to the \$150,000 and no we don't have bids. Consensus of council is no more than \$425,000 will be spent on purchase and renovations.

Greg asked how council intends to pay off this loan.

Solicitor Datte – 20-year loan with a fixed rate of 4.07% and a monthly payment of \$2600.00; \$30,000 annually. Currently will be absorbed in the budget.

Greg – so there an excess in tax revenue to pay for that.

Maddie – dump truck in the budget – staying in the budget -

Brock – on an annual basis the budget has a built-in capital improvement fund that the borough does not often execute. There is often excess revenue.

Greg – he thought historical that the borough was running a deficit the past 10 years.

Vice President Stein – has been on council for three years and ran a surplus every year.

Greg – then we are projected to have a \$30,000 surplus for the next 20 years to pay off this loan.

Vice President Stein – more than likely more than that.

Councilor Keyworth – we could do nothing at all and then when we absolutely must do something to get the extra space needed as the borough grows then instead of \$425,000 the cost of a new building will be \$2 million. It's a lot of money now but meets the needs in the long term.

Business

Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes from June 1, 2022 Work Session, June 8, 2022 Council and June 30, 2022 Special Meeting as presented was made by Kerry Mariano, second by Maddie Bartush. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report:

A motion to approve the May 2022 Treasurers Report as presented was made by Kerry Mariano, seconded, by Ed Keyworth. Unanimous.

Tax Collector's Report:

The June 2022 Tax Collector's report was presented as follows:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Real Estate | \$32,171.74 |
| Fire Tax | \$ 3,063.98 |
| Per Capita | \$ 709.60 |
| Occupation | \$ 195.00 |

Tax Exoneration List

A Motion to exonerate the Tax Collector from collecting Occupation Tax on Tax Exoneration List #4 was made by Kerry Mariano, seconded by Ed Keyworth. Unanimous.

Building Permits

Building permits for June were as follows:

- 0 - New Permit issued at \$0 total value
- 4 - Renovation Permits issued at \$2,840.00 total value

Budget Review – Target Objective 49.6%

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| General Fund Revenues | 67.8% | Expenditures | 46.0% |
| Fire Fund Revenues | 72.8% | Expenditures | 7.2% |
| Water Fund Revenues | 48.1% | Expenditures | 41.3% |
| Sewer Fund Revenues | 47.5% | Expenditures | 38.4% |
| Sanitation Fund Revenues | 51.8% | Expenditures | 46.5% |

Police Report

Chief Vince McDonald presented the June Police Report as follows:

Hours Worked:

Regular Hours – 982
Overtime Hours – 28 (47 June 2021)
 Traffic Enforcement (Reimbursable) – 12
 Court – 2
 Late Call – 7
 Cover Shifts– 4
 Administrative – 3
Training – 58
Vacation - 56
Personal – 12
Sick - 24

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2,367 Total Mileage for Police Vehicles  
376 Total Vehicle Patrol Hours  
45 ½ Total Foot Patrol Hours  
89 Traffic Enforcement Hours  
    53 Traffic Citations issued  
    45 Warnings issued  
    4 Parking Tickets issued  
Bike Patrol – 5  
205 - Incidents – Handled by 6 Officers  
    4 – Reportable Crimes  
        1 Harassment  
        1 Criminal Mischief  
        1 DUI  
        1 Disorderly Conduct

Charges Filed:  
    Criminal Complaints – N/A  
    Juvenile Allegations – N/A

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Borough Ordinance Violations/Investigations – 10
 Assisting the Code Enforcement Officer with violations

A traffic enforcement detail was conducted from June 30th to July 3rd. This detail used a PennDot grant which allowed an officer to work an overtime shift. We are happy to report this resulted in 27 traffic citations and 23 warnings issued. In addition, two counterfeit inspection stickers were found and seized.

Maintenance Reports

Water/Sewer - Dave Teter

DJ reported on the additional work done in June:

Sewer

Sewer Authority meetings
VLR 2,4,6 Start up
Send for 43 results to landfill
Pull data from sewer meters

Sewer issue on Tammany St
Move sludge from Digester 3 to Digester 2
Blower start up for Digesters
Run to Allentown for manhole – Margaret Ave.
Sewer meeting
Blower start up
Sludge transfer from Digester 1 to Digester 2
Clean UV Unit 2
VFD for disc aerator start up
Finish startup of raw sewage station
DMR paperwork
Digester blower startup on 1 & 3
Move sludge back to 1 and 3
Empty Clarifier 1

Water

46-meter appointments and Lead Copper Rule paperwork
Lift and shift loggers
Entech progress meeting for outstanding projects
Go over SCADA Systems and check inventory with Entech
DM2 at plant for door switches
Locate water line on Marshall Dr
Call Comcast about no internet
Run to Country Club about no water
Deliver CCR
Run to LB for meter pit
Entech meeting about projects
Set up and take down for Memorial Day parade
Repair sinkhole issue on Independence St
Pack and work for June Jamboree

Fire

Rt 61 and Paramount Blvd MVA W Entrapment (2x .5 hr)
150 E Second Mt Rd – Working house fire – (1x 1 hr)
216 W Independence St – AFA (2x .5 hr)
N Warren and Tammany search – (2x .5 hr) Child search
Marshall and Ridge – Hazmat – Oil in creek (500 block of W Market St) (3x 1.5 hr)

Councilor Mariano - are we still losing 40 thousand gallons of water per day = 14,600,000 /yr. and what are we doing about it.

Dave – it's more like 30 thousand per day since December. The best time to leak detect is at night. Between meter appointment and the project at the Sewer Plant its hard to get everything done in a day. The borough crew is too busy to help. When first started here three employees were doing the water and sewer and now its just Dave. Requested more help.

Vice President suggested Dave meet with the Personnel Committee.

Tim Wilhelm of 3029 Ridgeview Dr suggested to have someone come in and look for the leak. Dave will contact Carter from Schuylkill Haven for the phone number of the person they use for leak detection.

Streets, etc. - Shawn, Slade, Devin

Council received the Hours Worked, Vehicle Maintenance/Hours and Maintenance Budget reports for review and comment.

- They have completed a bunch of minor repair paving projects – potholes
- Working on Stormwater replacements
- Pa One call problem – Not marked correctly; hit high voltage PPL line on Marshall Dr, no one hurt. Person who marked the area was informed there was a potential additional line in the area; person did not perform their duties properly; line did not get marked. PPL did come out and fix the line.
- Continue to do catch basin work and street repairs

Fire Department

Brad Miller presented the June report:

16 Calls for the month of June
101 Calls Year to Date
273.77 Man hours for the month of June
920.61 Man hours Year to Date
703.5 Administrative hours for the year 2022
118 Training hours for June
1,213 Training hours Year to Date

| <u>Zone</u> | <u>Incident Count</u> | <u>Man-hours</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| East Brunswick Township | 2 | 22.46 |
| North Manheim Township | 3 | 64.40 |
| West Brunswick Township | 2 | 09.78 |
| Orwigsburg Borough | <u>9</u> | <u>177.13</u> |
| TOTAL | 16 | 273.77 |

- Stood by during Blue Mountain High School graduation ceremonies
- Annual Fire Department Golf Tournament – Schuylkill Country Club
- Held our first two weeklong Kids Cadet Academy Program
- Fireworks detail – Schuylkill Country Club 7/3/2022
- September 24th – Smoke alarm installation program partnering with American Red Cross – free of costs.

President Bubeck thanked Brad and members of the Fire Department involved with the 2 weeklong cadet program.

Committee Reports

Finance & Budget – Brock Stein

Mid-year Budget Status –

General Fund

Revenue - 68% of budget – full year guidance exceeds budget by 11%

Per Capita and Earned Income Tax – seeing growth in revenues increasing

Expenses – 46% of budget – full year guidance under budget by 3%

General fund near budget – slightly better than expected

Water Fund

Revenue – 48% of budget – full year guidance exceeds budget by 5%

Expenses – 41% of budget – full year guidance under budget by 9%

Water fund is overall near budget – slightly better than expected

Sewer Fund

Revenue – 48% of budget – full year guidance exceeds budget by 4%

Expenses – 38% of budget – full year guidance under budget by 7%

Sewer fund is very close to budget – slightly better than expected

Sanitation Fund

Revenue – 52% of budget – full year guidance exceeds budget by 6%

Expenses – 46% of budget – full year guidance under budget by 9%

Sanitation fund is fairly down

Fire Fund

Revenues – about on budget

Expenses – 7%

Unique fund in the way it flows

Personnel – Rick Bubeck

No updates that are not covered elsewhere -

Communication & Technology – Angie Hoptak-Solga

Updates

Phone system updates Frazier – “Smart Connect” change-over nearly completed.

Economic Development/Revitalization – Ed Keyworth

Updates

Industrial Drive ARC grant – Engineers working on permitting and ROW;

Utilities update: Soft-dig contractor was on site in May. He located existing water lines within the roadway where new storm lines are proposed. New storm lines will have to be installed shallow to avoid conflicts.

Easements update: PennDOT ROW unit is requesting a preliminary ROW plan submission. ARRO prepared the plan and submitted to PennDOT.

Environmental update: PennDOT District 5 environment unit has indicated that a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) would be required for the former S&S Sandblasting site. ARRO obtained a copy of the Phase 1 Bartush had on file when they purchased the property and have forwarded it to PennDOT for their review. An ARRO wetland specialist was on site on May 26th to delineate the wetlands in the location of the Industrial Drive Road extension. GP-7 plan and permit will be prepared and submitted to the DEP for the minor road wetland crossing of the Industrial Road extension.

Building purchase –

Randy in contact with Eric Seitzinger and asked to pursue possibility of a building donation from the owner. The answer was no.

ARRO has conducted an inspection of the roof

- Very little insulation present

- Due to absent of insulation fasteners penetrating the metal deck

- Roof membrane was replaced in 2016 and in good condition

Summary of building existing condition:

- Energy code issues

- Lack of insulation

- Drop ceiling installation – HVAC was not rerouted, does not discharge directly into office space.

- Drop ceiling will need to come down for adjustments to the HVAC system

Architect John Levkolic opinion – remove the entire structure down to the foundation and reconstruct the building on the same footprint using current construction standards. Estimates razing costs \$50,000 to \$70,000. New building \$150 to \$200 per square foot.

Councilor Hoptak-Solga inquired about the cost of the electric bill. She has a tough time believing between the cost of the building along with the renovation costs will stay under \$425,000 for police station. Difficult to make decision when costs are not available.

Randy – borough has not sought to develop a specification due to costs and use of the building is undetermined. More optimistic staying under \$150,000 if borough office is relocated but not a full police department on \$150,000. If borough office goes there: upgrade to HVAC and reroute electric; handicap bathroom might not need to be done right away.

Expectation of the future is that police departments are going to get larger because of the nature of what's going on in the Commonwealth with state police and how the Commonwealth is paying for State Police. Expectation is eventually the state legislature will start charging all municipalities that utilize the State Police. Will start seeing municipalities request coverage from their local boroughs or forming regional departments with other municipalities.

Vice President Stein gave a summary:

Biggest priorities of having the additional building no matter who occupies the space is additional space for the police and separation of police and borough hall. Should the police bring in an unruly person its unusual for people coming in to pay their utility bill and be subject to an unruly person.

If we put the borough office at 333 S Liberty St only minor work needs to be done – HVAC and electrical. Not doing full renovation so price per foot is irrelevant.

Improvements to be made on the first floor at borough hall for the police department to function properly:

- Additional space for the police

Add holding cell

Chief McDonald – we can take our existing holding benches (2) and have a cell to accommodate both benches.

Once the 6th full time police officer was hired a few years ago the station became at maximum space; there would be no more room for any other officers to ever be hired. Currently the police department operates as a full time 6 officer department providing 24-hour coverage which could stay this way for the next 20 years but if a large development goes in and brought in 3 to 4 thousand more people two officers would be on duty at all times. Potential regionalization if a surrounding municipality was told by the State, they need to spend money on State Police coverage the municipality would seek coverage even on a part-time basis. If the police stay in the same location, we could put all things together in one secure location. Currently the interview room doubles as a kitchen. Evidence room can be relocated within the station for security reasons. A lot of possibilities with extra space without knocking down a wall or add; the extra space itself would immediately improve the department. This needs to work for everyone involved. Orwigsburg is the safest borough in the county, 24-hour police coverage; the world is changing, and the police need to change with the times.

Vice President Stein – acquisition of additional space is an immediate benefit to both parties; renovations can be done over time as the borough grows.

Randy – If the intent is to move the borough office; we will need to hire a contractor to fix the HVAC system and make adjustments to electrical. Obtain a quote from plumbers. All can be handled by seeking quotes from qualified contractors on a project-by-project basis. Threshold would be \$11,000 to \$21,900.00. Not in favor of moving the borough office, in favor of moving the police but also can't give the police a building that is half completed.

Randy will work on obtaining quotes and utility bills for the building.

Cyber Security Insurance Coverage

A quote was obtained for \$4500 to \$6000 dependent on what we have in place now; for instance, we don't use internet email, we use Outlook on the server which is behind the firewall and not out on the Cloud. Assistance is needed to answer analysis questions. Liability limit \$2,000,000 which will pay the ransom should we get hijacked. Or will be used for system recovery if ransom is not paid.

Water, Sewer & Sanitation – Ed Winkelbauer

Updates

Report of Water / Sewer Operations; Miller Environmental

Sewer Inflow Committee: Placed meters in 2 different sewer locations to measure I & I. Meters gathered flow data at/near the Marshall and W. Market collection system areas. Will be moved to the Marshall/Ridge and Lincoln areas for further wet-weather flow determinations.

Schuylkill Haven Interconnect – Submitted LSA Grant package on 3/18/22; have been finalizing project Action Plan.

Water

Lead and Copper service line replacement initiative – August 2024 deadline; continue to work on determinations; changing out old meters.

Concept design and permit application for water dispensing station on Long Avenue. Permit application is close to completion. Currently receiving contractor installation quotes. There may be an opportunity to work with the Industrial Drive ARC paving project.

Sewer

CCTV and Subsurface repairs update

- Subsurface repairs - Priority List
- Await remobilization - Repairs from Standard Pipe Services are scheduled to begin Monday, July 18th.

Marshall Drive, North Warren Street, and Station Road Sewer Replacement

- Received E&S Approval
- Received HOP Permit. Awaiting final review for GP-11 permit application.
- Entech has begun work on easement details

Action Items

Phase 1: Payment Application #5 to Allan Myers for \$24,975.00 has been submitted and recommended for payment by Entech Engineering.

A motion to approve Payment Application #5 Phase 1 to Allan Myers for \$24,975.00 was made by Rick Bubeck, seconded by Kerry Mariano. Unanimous.

Phase 1: Payment Application #3 to PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc for \$60,795.00 has been submitted and recommended for payment by Entech Engineering.

A motion to approve Payment Application #3 Phase1 to PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc for \$60,795.00 was made by Maddie Bartush, seconded by Kerry Mariano. Unanimous.

Phase 2: Payment Application #5 to Allan Myers for \$29,488.85 has been submitted and recommended for payment by Entech Engineering.

A motion to approve Payment Application #5 Phase 2 to Allan Myers for \$29,488.85 was made by Ed Keyworth, seconded by Kerry Mariano. Unanimous.

Streets & Lights – Rick Bubeck

Updates

Capital Improvements List update (ARRO) of work for 2022

Borough Maintenance work for 2022:

Margaret Avenue; Bids due at the Borough office July 13, 2022 by 11:00 at which time they will be opened; council to decide.

North Street: Nothing new to report. Alternative designs for the Decatur Street storm improvements were discussed with Benesch to see if there is an option the street crew can install. The dead end/cul-de-sac will not be big enough to qualify the road for liquid fuels payment.

North Wayne Street: East Mifflin Street to East Cherry Street will be incorporated into the handicap ramp project awaiting County grant funding. Survey price can be provided to council for consideration to begin storm design process

Oakdale Terrace: management company has indicated they will be looking into both the swale and detention pond improvements. Waiting to hear back from the management company.

Ongoing:

Stormwater catch basin repairs in sections of Creswell
Stormwater catch basins at Marshall and Halsey

Ritchie Logging & Sawmill for \$204,118; contract executed, and deposit check received.
Woods & Wildlife – working on Orwigsburg Land survey.

Action Items

Streets Projects – Liquid Fuels Bidding

Gerald Ave – \$75,281.25 for leveling and paving – estimation
Margert Avenue – \$100,915.44 for leveling and seal coat

An alternate price to level and pave Margaret Avenue will be included in the bid (est. \$116,755.22) as well as an alternate to pave an approximate 200' section of Ronald Avenue (est. \$5,000)
Council to consider bids for Gerald Street and Margaret Avenue submitted earlier today at 11:00. See summary of bids on separate sheet provided by ARRO.

Low bid:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Ronnie C Folk Paving Inc. | Total Base Bid – 176,348.00 | Margaret Base Bid - \$90,413.75 |
| | Total Alternate – 123,360.00 | Margaret Alternate Bid (Paving) - \$209,294.25 |

Balance in Liquid Fuels fund - \$126,038.93
Borough Budget for Paving Projects - \$84,000.00

A motion to approve bid from Ronnie C. Folk Paving Inc for \$209,294.25 to pave Gerald Ave and Margaret Ave using Liquid Fuels money plus additional \$84,000 from borough budget was made by Kerry Mariano, seconded by Ed Winkelbauer. Unanimous.

Parks & Recreation – Maddie Bartush
Updates

Construction at the Veterans' Memorial:

- Site work ongoing. Paving of parking lot is complete.
- Task force selected A/V Contractor; Moyer Electronic. Work proceeding.
- Coordination ongoing with Orwigsburg Masons regarding Clock for Foyer area.
- Work to be completed by the end of October 2022

Ridge Road Park – Grant Agreement received March 17, 2022. Kick-Off meeting with DCNR was held Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Survey completed in June. Design work is progressing.

Tree Grant - Frank Snyder, Retired Forester, Certified Arborist and a volunteer for the Schuylkill County Conservancy

Frank is present to promote the Bare Root Tree Program grant that is available to communities.

Streamline grant process

Program will provide 10 to 20 bare root trees at no cost to replace or add to locations in the Borough Tree Pennsylvania – Non profit organization buying trees and giving them to communities

Requirements:

- Participate in ZOOM meetings – Frank has been attending
- Community needs to have an up-to-date tree inventory – Frank maintains the borough tree inventory and is up-to-date
- Submit preliminary application by this Friday – first come first serve
- August 1st Tree Pennsylvania selects communities to be awarded
- Submit final application
- August – Locate planting sites – inspected by DCNR Forester or Urban Forester from Penn State
- September – a listing of suitable trees will be sent out
- October – receive date trees will be available
- November – tree delivery and plant
- No money is exchanged – trees are free
- Borough would need to keep a record of time – volunteer time, meeting time- Tree Pennsylvania requirement
- Minimum of 10 trees required but no more than 20 trees
- Currently the borough has 4 to 5 planting sites – we would not be qualified for the grant; however, we do have the opportunity to piggyback with the Pottsville Shade Tree Commission; the borough's order and Pottsville's order there is enough to apply for the grant.
- Trees need to be planted on public property

A motion to amend agenda to include a motion for the Bare Root Tree Program grant was made by Maddie Bartush, seconded by Kerry Mariano. Unanimous.

A motion to authorize Frank Snyder to apply for the Bare Root Tree Program grant was made by Ed Keyworth, seconded by Ed Winkelbauer. Unanimous.

Rededication of the Orwigsburg Veterans' Memorial Hall

Randy was in conversations with Bob Carl and our engineering firm; we do anticipate that we will do something this year either on or near Veterans Day to honor the Memorial. We do recommend pushing off by one year the rededication ceremony. Congressman Meusser has put in for a grant funding for additional work to occur on the site. It was recommended not to do a rededication until all the pieces are in place. If we do have something on Veterans Day this year either a dinner or dance or some kind of function; what about have a firework display. Randy will pursue getting quotes with councils' approval.

Miller Brothers submitted Application for Payment #4 for \$229,287.07 for the Veterans' Memorial construction.

A motion to approve Miller Brothers Payment Application #4 for \$229,287.07 for the Veterans' Memorial construction was made by Rick Bubeck, seconded by Maddie Bartush. Unanimous.

Randy and Kevin Richards had a meeting with Stantec today to finalize the first RACP application to apply for our first RACP reimbursement.

Property Code Safety – Kerry Mariano
Updates

Shannon's reports were distributed to Council for review and comment

- Inspection reports
- Permit Reports
- Notice of Violation
- Rental Properties

Councilor Mariano asked the Solicitor to look into increasing fines per day for property code violations. The Solicitor will check the Property Maintenance Code. If fining every day someone needs to go to the site every day.

Councilor Mariano recommends hiring a part-time Code Enforcer.

Planning & Zoning – Ed Winkelbauer

Updates

Planning & Zoning will meet August 17th

Borough Zoning Ordinance updates

Benesch will assist with updates to the Comprehensive Plan

Blue Mountain Village

- TPD (Traffic Planning & Design Inc) has initiated efforts on the renewal of the HOP; there are no significant changes, and we hope to resolve this matter within the next 4 to 6 months.
- MEA(McCarthy Engineering Associates) has initiated efforts on the renewal of the NPDES Permit. The PADEP has requested information that will be submitted as part of this requirement. We hope to complete this work within the next 4 to 6 months.

Randy was in contact with Jerome Skrincosky – Mr Rhodes has backed out of the day-to-day operations and turned them over to his son. Jerome anticipates within 4 to 6 months both Departments can give them the requirements they need; they intend to submit a final plan to the Planning Commission.

Villas of Orwigsburg – no update

Clearly Clean LDP – no update

Decatur St. Stormwater design work – Draft Drainage Easements/Temporary Construction Easements provided to Borough Manager/Solicitor Datte. Benesch is continuing to investigate funding for shovel ready projects. – no update.

Flood mitigation efforts – 4 grant applications have been submitted to PEMA for consideration. Awaiting award period:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Received request for additional information pertaining to potential acquisition and demolition of properties along West Market Street culvert. 508 West Market Street to be included with project per FEMA requirements. Appraisals received; coordination ongoing.
Project would be completely funded by State and Federal money.
Letters have been sent out to the property owners for appraisals.

Safety & Policy – Kerry Mariano – No updates

Teamsters' Bargaining – Ed Keyworth

Updates

Bargaining with Teamsters on July 13, 2022 - went very well, making progress. Next meeting August 10th

SCMA Coordinating Committee – Ed Winkelbauer

Updates

Solicitor Datte draft agreement sent to committee

Police Department – Mayor Berger

Updates

A recommendation for Bryce Lewis to be promoted from probationary status to the status of a full-time officer has been received from Chief Vince McDonald.

A motion to promote Officer Bryce Lewis from probationary to Full Time Police Officer was made by Ed Winkelbauer, second by Maddie Bartush. Unanimous.

Officer Lewis thanked Council, Mayor and the Chief. Its an honor to be back here.

COG – Sue Murphy

No Updates

Solicitor – Paul Datte

Blue Mountain Village – no update

Conservation easement – Survey of the Borough lands on hold

SCMA Update – Sewer Agreement – in process of completing a draft of a revision to our agreement with SCMA for provision of sewer service for sewage disposal services.

President Bubeck requested the Solicitor start paperwork for a Judicial Sale of 119 S Liberty St. Solicitor Datte will contact the Tax Claim Bureau and make sure the property is on the next available Judicial Sale for the County.

Borough Manager – Randy Miller

Council received a copy of Randy's report for their review and comment

Tree Harvesting - Contacted Jeff the forester yesterday and received no update. Did receive deposit. Once project is started, they will forward the first payment for the trees

Federal Community Projects Funding Grant; Congressman Meuser – no update
Might be an opportunity to use the funds on sidewalk from Memorial to Square.

Councilor Mariano questioned a deal being made for EDUs and a letter/agreement being sent to the property owner.

Randy - The Committee met and discussed in April the possibility of putting a draft policy in place for locations in the borough, commercial buildings, in which the water has been shut off. There are two building that are in that condition. One is the Inn at Orwigsburg and the Laundromat on S. Liberty St. The water sewer engineer (Bryon not present) proposed the possibility of having a reserve EDU in place and a billing for reserve EDU in place when there are EDUs assigned to a place and the water is not currently being used in that location. The Committee reviewed the idea with Bryon and gave the go ahead to draft information to be sent out to these property owners so they could have a full price EDU set in place and have the remainder EDUs at a reserve price. Several stipulations were attached:

- Must be up to date with water and sewer bills
- Could not fall behind at any time during the agreed upon term on their water and sewer payments
- If they did fall behind it would automatically revert back to the previous status of their EDUs
- Deadline established – one year deadline to have all work completed and requested to have water turned back on at previous EDU rates. This is a temporary policy we're trying implement to see if it works to get older buildings back up and functioning. The Inn of Orwigsburg has been closed for at least 2 years; work has started on the building.

Councilor Mariano questioned why this was not brought to council for approval, the committee cannot make that approval. These are people that owe us money and we are cutting them a break.

Councilor Winkelbauer looked back in his notes from April's committee meeting which branded Randy the go ahead to move forward with the draft policy.

Councilor Mariano we are setting a precedence.

Solicitor Datte will review and return his finding to Council.

A brief discuss was held on delinquents and payment plans. The Water/Sewer Committee will meet to discuss further.

New Business

Alfred Benesch recommends submitting a Commonwealth Financing Authority grant / Multimodal Transportation fund grant for sidewalk project area 'to be determined'. Deadline for submission is July 31, 2022. Cost estimate of project will need to accompany application along with project description. The Parks and Recreation Committee will meet to determine project description.

A motion to authorize Alfred Benesch to pursue CFA Multimodal grant for sidewalk project and to approve Resolution 2022 – 32 to submit grant was made by Ed Keyworth, seconded by Ed Winkelbauer. Unanimous.

Common Items

Bills

A motion to approve and ratify the accounts payable for General, Fire, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, State, Grant, Credit Union, and Capital Improvement accounts; and granting permission to pay interim bills. was made by Maddie Bartush, seconded Rick Bubeck. Unanimous.

Payroll – For Council's review

Community Activities/Events

National Night Out - August 2, 2022, 6 to 8 pm; M&T Lot

Next Council Meeting will be August 3, 2022 at 7:00 pm

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry M. Edwards
Borough Secretary