

CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Conyngham Borough Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 7:04 p.m. in Council Chambers, Municipal building, 215 Main Street, Conyngham, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by Council President Gary Gregory, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken.

Roll Call:

Present: Fuccile, Gallagher, Gregory, Hawk, Jones, McKee, Schneider.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Mayor, Solicitor, Secretary, Treasurer.

Absent: None.

Citizens: Linda Grencavich, Maureen Susa, Gerald Pesock, Tim Ference.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Motion to Approve Minutes from Continued Session February 27, 2015 - Jones. Second - Fuccile, No Roll Call. Unanimous.

Mayor: The Department responded to 40 offenses, incidents and/or requests for the month of February. Four traffic citations were issued and three local Ordinance citations. Report is on file.

Councilwoman Hawk questioned the burglar alarm calls.

Mayor Carrelli will represent the Borough at Bowling for Kids Sake on March 28th.

Treasurer: Treasurer Blasé reviewed the February report in detail. A copy of the report is available for public inspection and is on file.

Motion

Motion to Accept the February 2015 Treasurer's Report - Gregory. Second - Schneider.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Affirmative	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

Treasurer Blasé would request a Motion to approve the list of obligations in the amount of \$65,664.52.

Motion

Motion to Approve the Bills- Hawk. Second - Gallagher.

Questions on the Motion: None.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

It is the Treasurer's recommendation not to pursue the Pension Plan Actuarial Studies at a cost of \$800.00 per plan. The review would have included overtime pay which is currently excluded and a change in waiting period of 1 year to become eligible for plan participation. After careful consideration Treasurer Blasé feels keeping the plan at status quo is the most prudent option for Council. Council concurred.

Solicitor: The Solicitor read into the record the proposed Snow Ban Ordinance. The Ordinance is on file and available for public inspection.

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Motion

Motion to Advertise the Snow Ban Ordinance – Gallagher. Second – Fuccile.

Questions on the Motion: Vice President Schneider questioned the effect on the Mayor’s duties. The Solicitor advised since the determination on the Snow Ban is defined it removes the need to declare one by the Mayor. Mayor Carrelli feels this is a great safety net.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Affirmative	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

The Solicitor read the scope of the Engineering RFP for the Stream Crossing at Brookhill Road. Three firms were contacted as follows:

RJD Engineering – Declined Request
Barry Isett & Associates, Inc - \$4,250.00
Reilly Associates - \$2,400.00

President Gregory stated this would allow Council to move forward with discussions with Brookhill Association. The next step would be to pursue grants. A joint application could include Conyngham Borough, Sugarloaf Township, Brookhill Association, and the HASD.

Motion

Motion to Award RFP to Reilly Associates with President Gregory as Signatory to Enter into Contract – Gregory. Second – Hawk.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Affirmative	Gallagher	-	Abstain
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

Rizzo Subpoena was issued requiring a compilation of documents for time served on Council and the CBA regarding the \$80,000.00 of Borough funds transferred to the Authority. A document response was received and Council must determine whether the information is sufficient or a hearing will be needed.

President Gregory advised it would be prudent to discuss in Executive Session.

The Solicitor addressed Council and Zoning Officer Rick Wech as to the need for clarification of the permit process. The current process includes Building Permits being issued by both the Zoning Officer and BCO Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. Council believes only UCC permits should be required as called for in the Code. Fees will be commensurate with service provided. A required permit list will be obtained from Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.

Valley Regional: Conyngham had two (2) Fire and Rescue and seven (7) EMS calls for the month of February.

Recreation: Recreation Board President Thomas Licurgo addressed Council regarding the necessity for any employee age 14 yrs old and up working for the park program to obtain State Police Clearance (\$10.00), Child Abuse Clearance (\$10.00), and FBI Clearance (\$27.00). Jacquelyn Carrelli will again head the Park Program.

Motion

Motion to Reimburse Clearance Fees for Park Program Employees as Needed – Gregory. Second – Schneider.

Questions on the Motion: Approximate number of employees – 22.

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No Roll Call. Unanimous.

The Park Program will run from June 22nd through July 31st. A Whispering Willows Garden Club is currently being formed. The Easter Egg Hunt will not be held this year. The Community Yard Sale will be held on May 16th. Two Movie Nights are planned for June 20th and August 29th.

Planning & Zoning: Nothing at this time.

Conyngham-Sugarloaf Joint Municipal Authority: A WREN Grant is available to apply for \$3,000.00 for Source Water Protection. Applications are due Friday, March 20th. A joint grant between Sugarloaf & Conyngham Borough can be obtained to develop an emergency protection plan for the wells.

The LSA Gaming Grant has been secured by the Borough for the Authority Building roof replacement in the amount of \$165,000.00. Bid documents will be available March 23rd and the bidding schedule will be posted.

Streets & Property: The Committee is reviewing the applications received for the part time position and interviews will be conducted.

The Streets are being prioritized for repairs. Penn Dot is looking into Sugarloaf Avenue drainage problems. Vice President Schneider noted Brookhill by Twain Circle has two major areas of standing water. Patching is underway throughout the Borough.

Grants:

Motion

Motion to Adopt Resolution 8 of 2015 C2P2 Grant for Whispering Willows Park Grant in the Amount of \$36,000.00 for the Master Plan - Schneider. Second – Fuccile.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Affirmative	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

WREN Grant in cooperation with the Friends of the Nescopeck will hold two clinics – one May 2nd for rain barrels and stormwater management and one May 30th for rain gardens used in landscaping and planting at the Borough building.

The TreeVitalize Grant has been approved in conjunction with the Shade Tree Commission to replace trees at Whispering Willows Park as part of an ongoing program.

The Borough currently has applications in for two LSA grants. \$273,000.00 has been applied for Grant Street and Edge Trail stormwater management and paving. \$272,000.00 has been applied for Sugarloaf Avenue sidewalks and stormwater management as well as pedestrian signage. President Gregory has been in communication with our State Representatives regarding the grants.

A meeting was held today with Valley Vets regarding Hometown Hero Banners which will be available at a cost of \$240.00 per banner.

Penn Dot has provided the Topography and Survey Data for Streetscape to assist in bid preparation at a large cost savings to the Borough.

Two local artists are working on designs for the Welcome Banners. There are over twenty businesses in the downtown area for sponsorship.

Flags will be available to sponsor at a cost of \$50.00 per flag and will be installed by the Valley Vets from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Shade Tree: A meeting will be held Friday, March 20th to coordinate efforts with Parks & Recreation.

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COG: The March 20th meeting has been cancelled so members may attend the Marcellus Shale presentation.

Police Committee: President Gregory has been working to resolve the ongoing issues with Metro Alert. The program was purchased December 19, 2013 however the software was never installed. He has spoken with the company and Cpl. Rinehimer. The annual license fee is \$1500.00 and the company has agreed to credit the 2015 fee due to the prepayment of 2014 at the time of purchase which was never used. The system will enhance communication between all departments and training will be provided. The LC DA is working on a grant to defray future costs. Discussion ensued.

Motion

Motion to Accept the Metro Alert Proposal with 2015 Fee Waived on an Annual Renewal Basis - Gallagher. Second – Fuccile.

Questions on the Motion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Affirmative	Gallagher	-	Affirmative
Gregory	-	Affirmative	Hawk	-	Affirmative
Jones	-	Affirmative	McKee	-	Affirmative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

Interviews are being conducted this week for the part time police position.

New Business: President Gregory advised on September 20th the City of Hazleton and Hazle Township will be holding a recycling day for anything with a plug. The Borough has been offered to be included on the flyers advertising the program at no cost.

Motion

Motion to be Included in the September 20th Recycling Program Flyer with Hazleton City and Hazle Township - Hawk. Second – McKee. No Roll Call. Unanimous.

Old Business: Two students have made application for the Junior Councilperson position and Councilman Jones recommends appointing both Benjamin Oswald and Joseph Marushin.

Motion

Motion to Appoint Benjamin Oswald and Joseph Marushin as Junior Councilmen through their Senior Year - Jones. Second – Schneider.

Questions on the Motion: None.

No Roll Call. Unanimous.

The Solicitor explained the Delinquent Real Estate Tax Ordinance to Council stating the Tax Claim Bureau collects the payments and remits 95% to the Borough and Tax Claim retains 5%. Under new State law the Borough can collect 100% of the tax with Tax Claim's 5% being paid for by the delinquent taxpayer.

Vice President Schneider stated it is prudent for Council to approve this Ordinance.

Motion

Motion to Advertise the Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collection Ordinance - Schneider. Second – Jones.

Questions on the Motion: Councilwoman Hawk and President Gregory expressed their feelings on passing the 5% fee onto the most vulnerable taxpayers. Vice President Schneider noted that while he is sympathetic to the situation the vast majority of Conyngham residents are not in that situation.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fuccile	-	Negative	Gallagher	-	Negative
Gregory	-	Negative	Hawk	-	Negative

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Jones	-	Negative	McKee	-	Negative
Schneider	-	Affirmative			

Catch-All: The Solicitor advised he will be holding a fundraiser in Freeland on May 2nd with a "Night at the Races" in conjunction with the Kentucky Derby. The event will begin at 6:00 pm with refreshments and food. A nominal admission fee will be charged. He welcomed any Council member to volunteer as he would like to hold a similar fundraiser in Conyngham on June 6th.

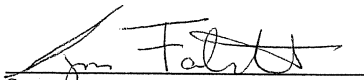
Public Comment: Maureen Susa CVHS wrote a letter to Penn Dot protesting the proposed bridge replacement. She questioned Council as to the status of the project.

Gerry Pesock, Sugarloaf Avenue stated that the snow plow damaged the berm of the road and with the snow melt water from Rte 93 is running into his front yard. The Street Department will look into a temporary build-up.

Council will hold an Executive Session at the conclusion of the meeting regarding litigation.

Motion to Continue Meeting to March 31, 2015 @ 6:00 pm - Fuccile. Second – Gallagher. No Roll Call. Unanimous.

ATTEST:



Secretary