

REGULAR MEETING OF DRAVOSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SEPT.19, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Council President McKelvey at 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Dzuro.....present
Mols.....present
Palcsey.....present (via telephone)
Snodgrass.....present
McKelvey..... present

Mr. Palcsey makes the motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Snodgrass seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Citizens Present

Mr. Lopez, 116 Maple Ave., is here to notify Council he is the new homeowner. President McKelvey questions him how long he thinks it will take for him to get the property cleaned up and up to code. He responds 6-7 months. He is working on it now and has a dumpster there almost full and will need another one. President McKelvey questions his intentions on the property. He responds he plans on renting it out.

Mr. Gross, Tax Collector for MASD, comments there are 354 Homestead properties in town that did not get the proper amount of exclusion. It will be \$119 refund if paid at discount period or \$112 if paid at face. If your mortgage paid your taxes, the refund will go back to the mortgage company. Mr. Mols questions about receiving interest and penalty on what they owe us; it was a mistake on MASD's part. If you paid MASD on time, they should owe interest for holding your money for over a year. If you paid MASD \$10 less than due, they would charge you penalty and interest. It was their incompetence. After a brief discussion, the solicitor will look into this to see if we are entitled to any interest or penalty fees.

Ms. Dorothy Best question the status of Maple Avenue and how much longer it will be closed. President McKelvey responds probably in November; the contractor is waiting on the water company to replace the water line to some of the homes before pouring the concrete. Ms. Best comments that Euclid Ave. is getting really bad with all those trucks on there. President McKelvey responds the water company is also looking to replace the water line on Euclid Ave.

Mrs. Diane McKelvey questions if anyone has looked into the water running down Raymond St. St. Foreman Sikora states he has contacted the water company to check it out. They have ways to test and see if it is their water or not. They tested the water and stated this was not their water. A discussion follows.

Ms. Ann Toth states since there are a lot of people in town that do not pay their taxes, is there a way we can go after them since we have lost a lot of houses with the Expressway coming through town. President McKelvey states Keystone Collections goes after them and also does Sheriff Sales. Ms. Honick states when we did sewage, we collected rent money from the property owners that didn't pay and questioned if we could do that for real estate taxes also. Mrs. McKelvey states the majority of properties in town are rentals and questions why couldn't we be allowed to collect the rent. Solicitor Dalfonso comments we have an Ordinance on Rental Licenses. He will review it to see if there is something in that or of we can amend it to include it to not issue a license if they do not pay their taxes. A discussion follows.

Fire Chief Sikora reports there is an LSA Grant out there and the fire dept. is a non-profit, 5013C organization but the municipality has to apply for it. What they would like to do is apply for it and replace the 3 garage doors down on the lower side of the fire dept, the glass door insulated, replace the storage bay up on Sixth Street and because the fire dept. is in the center focal part in town, basically spruce everything up; put an LED sign on top of the fire dept. above the Rescue Bay. He is asking for Councils' support and help in submitting the LSA Grant.. President McKelvey questions if there are any fees involved, the fire dept would be responsible for them. He agrees but borough has to submit it. President McKelvey says Council will have to vote on it.

Mayor/McKeesport Police/Ambulance

Mayor McKelvey is absent and left no report. President McKelvey asks the police if he would like to add anything. The Sgt. at the meeting informs us that Chief Steele was at a deposition all day and didn't get a chance to run the report for tonight.

Solicitor

Atty. Sam Dalfonso reports the 30 day out letter was sent to Sable Kennels and reads the Resolution prepared naming Who Rescued Who Humane Society (WRWHS) as the animal control service for the borough. Mr. Snodgrass makes the motion to adopt this Resolution. Mr. Mols seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Dalfonso reports Atty. Matta will be setting up a negotiation meeting with the union next month.

Atty. Dalfonso comments we have discussed amending a draft of an Ordinance to give the fire chief the authorization to ticket specified parking violations, and to be clear, we want to include unlicensed and unregistered vehicles as well, correct? President McKelvey responds right, but we also need to include him to orange tag vehicles and notify McKeesport Police. That way McKeesport Police can come over and look at vehicles and keep record of when they need towed. Atty. Dalfonso will include that also in the Ordinance.

Engineer

Mr. Glenn comments his report was given at Caucus. 1) Reject the bid received for a new public works truck since it was not diesel. 2) The GEDTF applications are due Friday. The put in demolition for us. 3) Approve invoice #4 for Pugliano Construction in the amount of \$216,376.12 and submit to Turnpike Commission for reimbursement. 4) Authorize COG to pay Plavchak Construction \$44,064 from the GTRP Grant for the work completed at the ballfield to date. 5) Presents an invoice from JM Paving in the amount of \$8700 for Pine Alley.

Streets/Property/COG

Mr. Snodgrass makes the motion to pay JM Paving in the amount of \$8700 for Pine Alley. Mr. Mols seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Snodgrass makes the motion to authorize COG to pay Plavchak Construction \$44,064 from our GTRP Grant for the work completed to date at the ballfield. Mr. Dzuro seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Snodgrass makes the motion to approve and submit to the Turnpike Commission invoice #4 from Pugliano Construction for the Maple Ave. project in the amount of \$216,376.12. Mr. Palcsey seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Snodgrass makes the motion to reject the bid received from Stephenson Equipment for a new Public Works Truck and readvertise for a truck that is diesel and 4x4. Mr. Mols seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Sanitation/Grants/Blighted Property

Mr. Dzuro has nothing to report.

Public Safety/Workers Comp/Fire

Council President McKelvey makes the motion to hire Alfreda Frederick as a part-time, fill in crossing guard. Mr. Snodgrass seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Parks/Recreation

Mr. Palcsey comments his report has been covered earlier.

Mr. Palcsey makes the motion to support and endorse the action of DVFD#1 in seeking that Grant. Mr. Snodgrass seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Streets/Property/COG

President McKelvey questions Mr. Snodgrass if he would like to discuss the street lights. A brief discussion is held regarding the street lights that were out on Duquesne and McClure.

Finance/Ins./Negotiations

Mr. Mols comments this is another plea to get your budget requests in for 2024.

Old Business

A discussion is held on First Street parking and the signs.

New Business

Mr. Gross, Tax Collector, states he has something since we are working on our budget for next year. The borough has given eligible senior citizens a 10% discount on Real Estate Taxes since 2006. The County gives 30%. He is asking Council to give a little more than the 10%. After a brief discussion, he will look at the cost involved and report back to Council.

Mr. Mols makes the motion to pay the approved bills. Mr. Palcsey seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Snodgrass makes the motion to adjourn. Mr. Mols seconds. ALL AYE!!!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Honick", written in a cursive style.

Brenda Honick, Secty/Treas.