

**REGULAR MEETING OF DRAVOSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL OCTOBER 17, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Council President McKelvey at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, Councilman Palcsey requests a moment of silence in remembrance of Samantha Kalkbrenner who lost her life in the tragic accident on her way to school.

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Citizens Present**

Mr. Michael Couch of Ridgeview comments they had a situation up there where there were dogs attacking each other. They called the police and it took forever to get there. It seems like they are not familiar with the area. He had another situation on garbage night; kids rode past and just threw their garbage in his yard. He tracked them down and took care of it. There are a lot of changes going on in the borough and feels we need more police protection; they need to be more proactive and less reactive.

Ms. Amy Koka works at Dravosburg Mini Mart and comments she sat here listening to what this gentleman said and comments we don't have a police presence at all. The cops should sit and watch what is going on; the signs are up, No Left Turn and sees 5 or 6 cars a day making a left turn. If they were here, they could maybe do something about it. She just doesn't see much presence here in the borough at all. Mayor McKelvey comments letting her know that the police started speed patrol over the weekend and were here today. He is not sure how many cars they pulled over but maybe the chief can let us know. Chief Steele states he is not sure; he will find out tomorrow morning. He has had them out there for a week. He is going to have them out there as much as possible. They are going to be running traffic as long as he can keep them there. He told his shift commanders he wants at least 2 hours a shift if possible; he is going to have 3 cars over here. She thanks him and states that is what we need.

Ms. Ann Toth states she lives on Fifth Street and comments that was such a horrific accident and it is a shame it had to come to that to get something done. She has sat in this room for years and complained about the speeding on that road and nothing was done. She's complained about the bus stops being in the wrong place; people getting off the bus cannot cross that road. You cannot make a good left hand turn from Fifth Street. She doesn't know how many accidents she has called in herself from that intersection. A brief discussion follows.

Mr. Charles Gross agrees with Ms. Toth's statements. He commends Council, the State, and County Officials in getting these issues done and over with and getting the Turnpike Commission to install the traffic light now instead of waiting for the Expressway to come through Dravosburg and get some crosswalks in. When he was on Council, he had PennDOT out here to look at the highway and they said it didn't warrant a light. Mr. Snodgrass comments they have been out numerous times over the years, and they always come back that there haven't been enough accidents there to warrant a light. Mr. Goss states they are going to do it anyways so why can't we get a rapid deployment of those now. President McKelvey states that is what we are trying to have done. Mayor McKelvey comments a couple of years ago when Mr. Kortz was in office, they said there would be a red light where 43 came through. We asked them why can't we get a red light at Fifth Street where all the accidents are happening. They said if we wanted a light there, the borough would have to pay for it ourselves. A small borough like ourself cannot afford this. A brief discussion follows.

Mr. Glenn Allen agrees with all this and comments his thoughts and ideas on the accident. Someone should be held accountable for this and asks if anyone has been arrested yet. They were drag racing. Does anyone know where these 2 people work; these are questions we should be asking. Questions, questions, questions. No one is talking about this. Council President McKelvey states that has nothing to do with this and moves on.

Mrs. Diane McKelvey comments everyone knows that is a dangerous highway and how hard it is to make a left hand turn to go over across the bridge. She knows that Council has worked diligently, always. She doesn't know how long President McKelvey has been on Council, 15 years maybe, but she knows that every year they have approached the state and county to do something about that road. Yes, it was very tragic that a young girl had to lose her life, but it brought it to a head. She is glad now that the State and County are finally ready to do something. She knows for a fact that the Council has always done their job trying to get the State to get a light or no left turn there. She knows how hard Council has worked and is proud of them to finally get something done. Let's hope that State and the County come through and make it happen.

Solicitor Matta comments unfortunately it was clearly a tragic accident that this young lady passed away in our municipality. Unfortunately, some of the things that need to occur on this roadway are out of the control of this municipality. This is a State and County Road and they have to handle some of those items. We can keep requesting and petitioning them to do that. He believes the issue is now being looked into. It is truly important to our State Officials.

### **Mayor**

Mayor McKelvey reports there were 53 police calls last month with 1 arrest. There have been 233 fire dept. calls ytd.

Mayor McKelvey comments hopefully, the Turnpike Commission will get the light there.

### **Solicitor**

Atty Matta reads the Ordinance for No Left Turns onto Richland from Third, Fourth and Beech Alley. Mr. Snodgrass makes the motion to adopt this Ordinance. Mr. Palcsey seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Matta reads the amended Vehicle Ordinance permitting the Fire Chief to tag vehicles. Mr. Palcsey makes the motion to adopt this Ordinance. Mr. Snodgrass seconds. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Matta reads a Resolution for the borough to apply for an LSA Grant for DVFD#1. Mr. Palcsey makes the motion to adopt this Resolution. Mr. Snodgrass seconds. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Matta reads a Resolution naming Carnegie Library of McKeesport the official library for Dravosburg. Mr. Dzuro makes the motion to adopt this Resolution. Mr. Snodgrass seconds. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

### **Engineer**

Mr. Glenn states his report was given at Caucus. 1) He met with the contractor working on Luscombe Lane. The Water Company is putting in new water lines. 2) Presents an invoice for Council to send to PA Turnpike Commission for reimbursement. There are no change orders and they are within budget. The sidewalks are done and they are going to start pouring concrete next week. 3) Presents invoice #2 recommending Council to approve and send to COG for payment to Plavchak Construction for the ballfield. Later this week or next, they will pour the concrete floor. 4) He needs a list of items to apply for LSA Grant. This is the only grant that can be used for buildings and equipment.

### **Sanitation/Grants/Blighted Property**

Mr. Dzuro has nothing to report.

### **Public Safety/Workers Comp/Fire**

Council President McKelvey states we need to make a motion to distribute the Foreign Fire Insurance money to in the amount of \$7,174.67 to DVFD#1. Mr. Snodgrass makes this motion. Mr. Palcsey seconds. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

### **Parks/Recreation**

Mr. Palcsey states he has no motions tonight.

### **Streets/Property/COG**

Mr. Snodgrass makes the motion to recommend COG to pay the approved invoice of \$62,910 to Plavchak Construction for the work done to date at the ballfield. 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 send the approved invoice in the amount of \$190,260 to the Turnpike Commission for reimbursement to pay Pugliano Construction. 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 purchase a 2023 Ford F550 from TriStar and Stephenson Equipment to uplift at the cost of \$127,129. We have received a \$75,000 grant from Sen. Brewster so we will have to finance the difference.

Mr. Snodgrass makes the motion to finance the remaining \$52,129 from First Commonwealth Bank with an interest rate of 5.31%. Mr. Mols seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

### **Finance/Ins./Negotiations**

Mr. Mols makes the motion approving the purchase of 34 Park Street to TCLB. Mr. Snodgrass seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; Snodgrass-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Mols comments that the 2024 Budget will be available in November before the next meeting.

### **Old Business**

Council President reminds everyone Halloween will be celebrated on the 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. We will have our annual Costume Parade beginning at 5:00 in the borough parking lot.

Council President comments that First Street Permit Parking is now complete.


### **New Business**

Mr. Gross, Tax Collector requests Council to think about a tax break for those senior citizens that are income eligible for Act 77 according to the County. He provided information on what the additional cost to the borough would be. We have been at 10% since this started where the County is now at 30%. He feels we should try to help the eligible seniors out. Council decided to table this until next month.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Honick, Secty/Treas.