

REGULAR MEETING OF DRAVOSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL OF JANUARY 16, 2024

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

Roll Call

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

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

Citizens Present

Mr. Dan Krajewski questions if there is going to be a tax increase. President McKelvey responds yes. Mr. Krajewski questions for what reason. Mrs. Honick responds we lost all the tax money from the homes the Turnpike Commission took and demolished; we had to make up some of the tax money. There hasn't been a tax increase since 2011. The cost of everything has gone up now. Mr. Bercik comments why can't we go after the Turnpike Commission. Mr. Krajewski comments you own all those empty lots where you tore the houses down. President McKelvey replies we do not own those lots. Solicitor Matta explains the process – if the borough demolished homes, we file a lien on the property but the property is still in the owner's name. A lengthy discussion follows.

Mr. Dennis Krajewski questions what's up with the water being shut off. President McKelvey states he doesn't know. Mayor McKelvey comments the housing's water is going to be shut off tomorrow. They will be fixing the main line.

Mr. Bill Kortz states the section of Ridgeview Drive when you go into the plan on the left side is really bad and questions if there are any plans on paving it. Mr. Mols comments he has been rallying to get that section paved for years. It is on the list but hasn't been approved for funding yet.

Mr. Kortz comments he is here tonight with his good friend, AJ Olasz and introduces him to Council. AJ is running for the 38th District State Rep.

Mayor/Police

Mayor McKelvey reports there were a total of 78 police calls last month. He doesn't know about the fire department as they are not here tonight and usually are.

Solicitor

Atty. Matta states he has a number of items to get approved this evening.

Atty. Matta reads the Tax Ordinance setting the millage for 2024 at 7.55 mills for general purposes and 1.0 mill for fire tax for DVFD#1. Mr. Mols makes the motion to adopt this Ordinance. Mr. Dzuro seconds the motion. Mr. Mols reiterates that a 1 mill increase would be 1% of your assessed value. The average assessed value of a home in Dravosburg is \$75,000 so that would mean your increased amount of tax for 2024 would be \$75.00. There was a lot of thought that went into that; it is not something we were terribly comfortable with. We are trying to make ends meet with the cost of everything we pay from road salt to the wages of our employees. It has come to the point where we are not terribly comfortable with but we couldn't do anything else. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Matta comments we have an Ordinance in regards to the Police Contract and reads the Ordinance heading accepting and approving a 4th successor agreement for subcontracting police services between the Borough of Dravosburg and City of McKeesport commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027. Mr. Palcsey makes the motion to adopt this Ordinance. Mr. Mols seconds the motion. Mr. Mols comments that in the first year of this contract commencing this year, there was an increase of \$40,000 just this year. President McKelvey comments that this was all taken into consideration for the tax increase. Mr. Mols says yes, that was another expense. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Matta reads a Resolution reappointing Diane McKelvey to the Zoning Board. Mr. Mols makes the motion to adopt this Resolution. Mr. Palcsey seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Matta reads a Resolution reappointing Matthew Stevenson to the Planning Commission. Mr. Mols makes the motion to adopt this Resolution. Mr. Palcsey seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Matta reads a Resolution reappointing Melissa Hobby to the Vacancy Board. Mr. Mols makes the motion to adopt this Resolution. Mr. Dzuro seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Matta reads the Resolution increasing the fee from \$20 to \$40 for a No Lien Letter request and from \$40 to \$80 for a rush No Lien Letter. Mr. Dzuro makes the motion to adopt this Resolution. Mr. Mols seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Matta reads a Resolution appointing Mark Turnley, CPA, as Auditor for the borough records for the tax year 2023. Mr. Mols makes the motion to adopt this Resolution. Mr. Dzuro seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Atty. Matta reads a Resolution appointing Sharon Mols to the Planning Commission. Mr. Palcsey makes the motion to adopt this Resolution. Mr. Dzuro seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-abstain; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Engineer

Mr. Dursa reports on the Maple Avenue project. They are not completed yet; they will finish up in the spring. Some items that need done: handicap ramp, pole and street light, and lines painted; the street signs will be in next week. He presents an approved invoice from Pugliano Construction in the amount of \$82,688.55. Mr. Mols makes the motion to submit the invoice to the Turnpike Commission for reimbursement to pay Pugliano Construction. Mr. Dzuro seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Dursa reports the water company will be starting on Euclid Ave. They will be removing the brick and putting them down at the borough garage. When the brick is removed, they will check if there are any soft spots before putting the binder down.

Mr. Durso reports on the ballfield restoration project. The contract was for \$194,100; we received \$120,000 grant plus a 15% match. When COG awarded the project, they awarded it for the full contract price of \$194,100; that is part of the problem. We are over on the project and he will talk with Council on it; some things can be left out but the bathrooms will have to be done, the siding for the one part of the building. Other than that, we can leave some of the items out. He will talk with Council. A discussion follows.

Mr. Dursa comments on the borough having a dumpster fee and permit to have more control over whose they are, how long they will be there, etc. Some places charge a fee for 30 days, then they have to reapply. This permit application they fill out will have the person's name, who is doing the work on the house, the people who own the dumpster and on the permit it will say any damage done to the street from the dumpster will be the responsibility of whoever owns the dumpster. President McKelvey states we are in the process of changing that and adding it to our Pod Ordinance. Mr. Dursa says he would also like to add whoever has the dumpster has to put a cone there with a reflector on it. A brief discussion follows.

Mr. Palcsey requests the engineer to take a look at the DCNR Grant Application Program that is now in effect to see what we are eligible for so we can apply for it.

Mr. Palcsey questions since the water company will be tearing up Euclid Avenue to replace their line, should we notify the gas company also to see if they have any plans to replace their lines while this street is torn up. President McKelvey states he is sure that will happen and they will be notified. This is not going to be all done at once; they are going to do it in sections. Mrs. Honick states she just received a letter from the gas company requesting us to provide any projects to them and turned it over to the engineer.

Sanitation/Grants/Blighted Property

Mr. Dzuro makes the motion to notify Waste Management that we are going to exercise our right and accept Year 4 and 5 Options for garbage rates. Mr. Palcsey seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Public Safety/Workers Comp/Fire

President McKelvey has nothing to report.

Parks/Recreation/Ord

Mr. Palcsey states he has no motions tonight.

Streets/Property/COG

Mr. Snodgrass is not here and left no report.

Finance/Insurance/Negotiations

Mr. Mols makes the motion authorizing the solicitor to prepare an amended Ordinance for Senior Tax Relief to increase the rate of relief from 10% to 15% . Mr. Dzuro seconds the motion. Roll call vote. Dzuro-yes; Mols-yes; Palcsey-yes; McKelvey-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Mols questions the solicitor if he needs a motion for the animal control officer to be able to issue citations according to our Ordinance. Solicitor Matta responds no, he will look into this further.

Old Business

There is none.

New Business

Mrs. Honick questions if Council is taking action on that street light in Locust Alley. President McKelvey says we will look into that. Mr. Mols requests we table it and get Mr. Snodgrass' input on that.

President McKelvey comments we are going to amend the Pod Ordinance to include dumpsters. Mr. Mols questions what happens on day 31. Mrs. Honick replies they can reapply for an extension and pay an additional fee. Solicitor Matta says if we go through that process, on the application to do that, we can include some language that after 30 days if they do not come in to reinstate it, so many days afterwards, we have the authority to contact the dumpster company to come and pick it up.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Honick, Secty/Mgr.