SUGAR NOTCH BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

The Sugar Notch Borough Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 892 Main St., Sugar Notch, PA. by President of Council Joe Rutkoski, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT ABSENT ALSO PRESENT
Jim Mullin David Balakier Secretary, Gloria Kijek
Dominick Panetta Randy Gyle Treasurer, Charles Cybuch
Erin Frank Attorney Logsdon

Margaret Viti Joe Rutkoski

Developers, Jim Vozar with JVI and Corey Johnson with Livic Civil, presented Council with a proposed plan to develop 95 lots on 62 acres in Sugar Notch at the area that was Luzerne Conservation Districts.

CITIZEN'S REPORT

Mario Fiorucci – reported on the following: Keyco property and Hanover Township agreement/resolution involving Keyco tax money, getting the borough exempt from MS4, looking into getting the monument listed as a historical landmark, and asked about David Balakier getting sworn in.

Steve Brominsky, 2 Evergreen – thanked Police Chief and officers for taking care of a situation recently.

Mary Jo Savage, Oak St. – she wants the DPW to start plowing the entire road curb to curb not just down the middle.

CORRESPONDENCES

Gloria Kijek reported on a letter received from PAWC informing the Borough they will be going door to door doing a survey and the employees will have id badges.

SECRETARY REPORT

Motion 1 – approve November 1, 2023 minutes.

Motion Erin Frank.

Second Dominick Panetta.

All in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

Motion 2 – approve October 2023 treasurer report.

Motion Dominick Panetta.

Second Jim Mullin. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Motion 3 - approve the November 2023 treasurer report.

Motion Dominick Panetta. Second Jim Mullin. All in favor. Motion carried.

ENGINEER REPORT

AJ from La Bella asked if Council had a chance to review his contract and that he will need a signed copy. Dominick asked AJ about a timeline for the sewer project. AJ said DEP takes a while to review the paperwork. Charles commented that he will need a timeline from AJ for the ARPA grant reporting.

Motion 4 – to accept the contract between La Bella Engineering and Sugar Notch Borough, for the engineering services on the sewer project.

Motion Erin Frank. Second Jim Mullin. All in favor. Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Henry Mleczynski reported on the permits and code violations he worked on for the month of November. He also updated Council on the upcoming violation court hearings.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Doucette reported on the monthly police activities and commented that to date October was the largest check received from magistrate fines. Also got quotes for body cameras and license plate readers.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Attorney Logsdon reported on the following: 1) Quality Life Ordinance has been advertised he explained the ordinance and asked if there was any public comments Code Officer, Henry suggested to have a warning before any fines and getting rid of pool, motor vehicles and littering permits. Council decided to table so attorney can make changes and Henry will send him his suggestions, 2) opened bids for the Broadhead pipe replacement project. John Liephart's bid came in lowest at \$19,750, 3) still looking into the Keyco matter and left messages for Hanover Townships attorney at the time John Bednard, 4) reviewed the 2024 meeting schedule, 5) reminded Council the Reorg Meeting needs to be on Tuesday January 2, 2024 this year and Council decided to have the Council meeting the same night so he will advertise, 6) he will need to know about a tax increase can do a resolution if no increase but has to advertise an Ordinance if there is a tax increase, 7) Council will need to replace Planning Committee member Henry, Jim Mullin said he will do it, 8) handicap parking application for 106 Hemlock was discussed they do have a driveway but neighbors put their garbage cans in front of the driveway, Attorney said he will check Sugar Notch's Handicap Parking Ordinance to see if you can have a handicap parking spot on street if you have a driveway, 9) final 2024 budget will

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be passed at the Dec. 20, 2023 meeting, and 10) discussed police and DPW raises, Dominick asked who decided on a .50 an hour increase for the DPW guys and the \$20 for police? He agreed as long as Police stay in budget.

Motion 5 – to table the Quality-of-Life Ordinance.

Motion Jim Mullin.

Second Erin Frank.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion 6 – accept the bid from John Liephart in the amount of \$19, 750. for the Brook St. storm water pipe.

Motion Jim Mullin.

Second Dominick Panetta.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion 7 – appoint Jim Mullin to the Planning Committee replacing Henry Mleczynski.

Motion Erin Frank.

Second Joe Rutkoski.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion 8 – increase the DPW workers hourly rate by .50 an hour effective the first payroll in 2024.

Motion Dominick Panetta.

Second Jim Mullin.

Roll call

Jim Mullin yes
Dominick Panetta yes
Erin Frank yes
Margaret Viti yes
Joe Rutkoski yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion 9 – increase the police officers' hourly rate to \$20 an hour effective the first payroll in 2024.

Motion Jim Mullin.

Second Dominick Panetta.

Roll call

Jim Mullin yes
Dominick Panetta yes
Erin Frank yes
Margaret Viti yes
Joe Rutkoski yes

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Joe Rutkoski yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion 10 – increase Gloria Kijek and Charles Cybuch rate by \$25 per pay effective the first payroll in 2024.

Motion Jim Mullin. Second Erin Frank.

Roll call

Jim Mullin yes Dominick Panetta yes Erin Frank yes Margaret Viti yes Joe Rutkoski yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion 11– to increase the tax millage by $\frac{1}{2}$ mil for 2024.

Motion Dominick Panetta

Second Joe Rutlkoski.

Roll call

Jim Mullin yes Dominick Panetta yes Erin Frank yes Margaret Viti yes Joe Rutkoski yes All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REPORT

Dominick Panetta reported on the following: asked where the money was coming from to do the pipe on Brook St., Attorney will check to see if it is legal to use the sewer funds for stormwater pipe repair, talked about the cost of the 2024 garbage sticker and suggested \$375 for residential and commercial price was discussed.

Erin Frank had nothing to report at this time.

Margaret Viti had nothing to report at this time,

Jim Mullin asked about uploading the engineer list for the Multimodal Grant.

Joe Rutkoski had nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:30 p.m. into an Executive Session to discuss litigation.

Respectfully Submitted, Gloria Kijek