

SUGAR NOTCH BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

The Sugar Notch Borough Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 892 Main St., Sugar Notch, PA. by President of Council Joe Rutkoski was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Nik Schultz

Jim Mullin

Randy Gyle

Dominick Panetta

Erin Frank

Henry Mleczynski

Joseph Rutkoski

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Bill Davis

Attorney Logsdon

Manager/Secretary, Gloria Kijek

Treasurer Charles Cybuch

CITIZEN'S REPORT

Mario Fiorucci – commented on garbage fees going up and he hasn't received his garbage bill yet. Dominick Panetta replied that the garbage bills just got mailed.

CORRESPONDENCES

Gloria Kijek reported on a notice received from PennDOT announcing a Public Hearing PennDOT is having that will be taken place at LCCC on March 19 regarding the I81 expansion.

SECRETARY REPORT

Motion 1 – approve February 7, 2024 minutes.

Motion Henry Mleczynski.

Second Jim Mullin.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion 2 – approve February 21, 2024 minutes, with 2 corrections.

Motion Randy Gyle.

Second Jim Mullin.

All in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

Motion 3 – approve Treasurer Report.

Motion Henry Mleczynski.

Second Randy Gyle.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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Charles Cybuch asked about the item he requested put on the agenda regarding where to take the funds from to pay the Brook St. Stormwater/Sewer project. Joe Rutkoski said Council agreed to pay this out of sewer fund.

Next, Attorney Logsdon opened the bids received for the Broadhead Sewer Extension Project.

Motion 4 – to accept the lowest bid for the Broadhead Sewer Extension Project, from JL Construction in the amount of \$204,104.50, conditional upon the engineer and solicitors' review.

Motion Jim Mullin.

Second Dominick Panetta.

All in favor. Motion carried.

ENGINEER REPORT

AJ Magnotta reported on the following: assessment of Woodland sewer, Keyco parcel using his mapping and GPS maps shows 61% is in Sugar Notch. Dominick asked about the sewer line along Hanover St. AJ said it is within the Borough. Dominick asked about the taxes Sugar Notch should be getting from Keyco. Attorney Logsdon said he reached out to the attorney that used to be with Sugar Notch and he said he has none of those records. Henry asked Attorney Logsdon for a running total on legal bills on the Hanover Township Keyco tax matter. AJ continued his report, Chapter 94 it is all prepared and he will submit to WVSA. Dominick asked if he is looking into the "rain tax" and if Sugar Notch can be exempt. AJ said he can investigate this. AJ continued and reported on the Brook St/Woodland Rd. issue. He checked it out and saw drainage problem. He passed out a map and talked about the collapse and water at property on Woodland. Resident from 835 Woodland said it is his sister's property and explained the water issue and that the Boroughs trench needs to come to this property. Joe Rutkoski told AJ to direct the DPW guys when they're digging this trench. AJ suggested waiting a month before starting this due to weather.

Motion 5 – to approve John Liephart to do the Brook St. Stormwater Repair not to exceed \$10,000 for the total cost of project, but doesn't include \$2,000 for labor.

Motion Henry Mleczynski.

Second Randy Gyle.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion 6 – to have AJ start preparing the specs for the Woodland Project.

Motion Dominick Panetta.

Second Erin Frank.

All in favor. Motion carried.

CODE/ZONING REORT

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Henry Mleczynski updated Council on current code and zoning matters in Borough including Zoning Hearing March 20 for 670 Main St. and Conditional Use Hearing request from JVI developers with Council, this hearing will be scheduled after receiving payment from the applicant.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Randy Gyle reported that Brian Horst has been hired as the new Police Chief and will have all his paperwork complete next week.

SOLICITOR

Attorney Logsdon reported on the following: Quality of Life Ordinance has been advertised to vote on tonight, he will make the changes suggested by Nik Schult then email to Borough office for signatures, explained the Vacant Property Ordinance, Henry Mleczynski asked Charles Cybuch if he gets a report from Luzerne County with transfer tax Charles said he does once a month, Council decided to hold off on advertising the Vacant Property Ordinance until another ordinance needs to be advertised, Attorney continued, the PennDOT EMS system is fixed so tomorrow Joe and Erin will get on the site and rank the engineers, Henry Mleczynski asked AJ to work with Gloria on Phase II of the Main St. Streetscape grant.

Motion 7 – to accept the Quality-of-Life Ordinance with the amendments made by Nik Schultz.

Motion Erin Frank.

Second Nik Schultz.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion 8 – to approve the purchase of tickets needed to be issued for the Quality-of-Life Ordinance.

Motion Randy Gyle.

Second Erin Frank.

All in favor. Motion carried.

CITIZENS REPORT

Mario Fiorucci, 893 Main - requested minutes from tonight's meeting. Gloria Kijek said she has a few corrections to make and will email to him after corrections are made, he talked about the sewer lines in Industrial Park and Keyco property taxes, commented about what the Borough Code says about declaring a vacant seat on Council and continuing Council meetings to next meeting, Attorney Logsdon replied that the Borough Code is directory not mandatory. Mario continued and asked Nik Schult to say something about taking the vacant Council seat. Dominick Panetta said Mario you were interested in the vacant seat and Nik was. Council voted and everyone voted for Nik Schultz.

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Sherlene Long, 745 Woodland - asked about the Police Department. Dominick Panetta replied we have a new police chief that will be taking over soon.

Resident - commented that he remembers an agreement between Sugar Notch and Hanover Township stating Sugar Notch gets Churnetski's and Hanover Township gets Keyco taxes.

COUNCIL REPORT

Dominick Panetta suggested getting some summer help to do some cleaning up in town. Gloria Kijek will look into the CareerLink program regarding this.

Erin Frank reported on an Eagle Scout Terry from Earth Conservancy knows that would like to clean up park on March 23 but there is a pool of water under swing set. Council said the DPW will put wood chips there. Erin asked if residents can get their own private hauler for the garbage. Randy Gyle said no the garbage fee is based on the current garbage contract and number of residents. She also asked if we can send out notices in advance of sending out the garbage bills informing residents of any increases and if we can take payments. Dominick Panetta said no we cannot and we don't take payments.

Henry Mleczynski asked about the Comcast Franchise Agreement and Dominick Panetta asked Charles how much does the Borough get from Service Electric? Charles said from Oct. - Dec. we received \$2,375.

Nik Schultz - asked about developers putting in amenities.

Jim Mullin said he put in to COG for paving Brook St. and will add Broadhead. Joe Rutkoski said he will email Sarah and let her know.

Randy Gyle said we can put the yellow dump truck on MunciBid to sell.

Joe Rutkoski explained the 902 Grant to Council and asked if they thought we should apply for a garbage truck. Council discussed and said no do not apply for the 902.

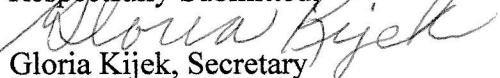
ADJOURNMENT

Motion Jim Mullin at 8:30 p.m.

Second Henry Mleczynski.

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Gloria Kijek, Secretary