

BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING – COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

The Borough of Wyomissing Council held their regular meeting in the Borough of Wyomissing Council Chambers on the above date and time. Council President William S. Jenckes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following persons present: Stephen D. Brunner, Keith L. Derr, Jana R. Barnett, Ronald C. Stanko, and David L. Reeser; Mayor Frederick C. Levering, Borough Solicitor Christopher Hartman, Borough Manager & Economic Development Coordinator Michele Bare, Borough Engineer Representative Nick Perilli, Police Chief John Phillips, Fire Chief Colin Hackman, Recreation Director Pete Beck, and Borough Secretary Melissa Miller. The following persons were absent: Councilmember Frederick R. Mogel, Treasurer Thomas Moll, and Public Works Director James V. Babb.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council President Jenckes stated that an Executive Session was held before the meeting for personnel matters. An Executive Session was also held on August 28, 2023 to discuss personnel matters.

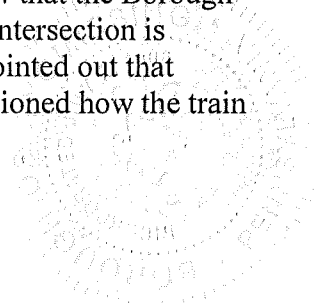
VISITORS:

Randy McKinley – Recreation Director
Adrian Jadic – 48 Cardinal Road
David Becker – 1821 Lincoln Avenue

PUBLIC COMMENTS (agenda items):

Adrian Jadic, 48 Cardinal Road objected to the Sunshine Act, noting that Council and committees are not discussing Executive Session items when adjourning into Executive Sessions. He indicated the Borough needs to have more transparency and open dialogue.

Related to the discussion that was had during the August Infrastructure committee meeting pertaining to the traffic circle proposed for State Hill Road and Penn Avenue, he was in opposition of the Borough writing to PennDOT to discourage a traffic circle at the intersection. He feels the Borough should be considering the community as a whole, not only property owners potentially affected by the installation of a traffic circle. He expressed his view that the Borough indicates they want to be open for business, however, he noted the particular intersection is extremely congested, making it challenging to navigate the area. He further pointed out that while there was discussion of bringing the train back to Wyomissing, he questioned how the train would load and unload with a poor traffic flow.



COUNCIL MINUTES: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the minutes of the August 8, 2023 Council meeting and August 21, 2023 Joint Infrastructure and Council meeting.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Consulting Engineer's report dated September 6, 2023.

POLICE DEPARTMENT & MAYOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Police Department & Mayor's report dated September 12, 2023.

Police Chief John Phillips reviewed the report.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Fire Chief's report for August 2023.

Fire Chief Colin Hackman reviewed the report. Council questioned if a fire prevention open house would be held at the Wyomissing fire station in October. There was concern in prior years of staffing levels, however Council was in favor of Chief Hackman using the mandatory overtime list to find staff to assist for a few hours during the event. It was also noted that light refreshments would be made available, and the event would be promoted using available Borough communication channels.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Personnel Committee report dated August 15, 2023.

Due to Councilmember Mogel's absence, Councilmember Brunner reviewed the report.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derr to table termination of the current 90-day probationary period for the Lead Public Works employee due to a prior 90-day probationary period being served successfully, all in favor, 6-0.

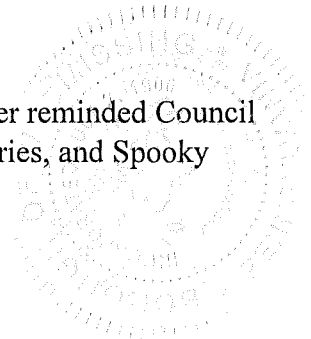
Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Council member Stanko to ratify the motion made during the August 15, 2023 Personnel committee meeting to approve the hiring of Randy McKinley for the Recreation Director position, as background clearances and drug test screening have been completed successfully, all in favor, 6-0.

Borough Manager & Economic Development Coordinator Michele Bare introduced Council to Recreation Director Randy McKinley.

RECREATION BOARD: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Recreation Board report dated August 15, 2023.

Councilmember Barnett reviewed the report.

Recreation Director Randy McKinley provided a self-introduction and further reminded Council of the upcoming concerts and movies in the park, as well as the Fall Walk Series, and Spooky Hollow event.



INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Infrastructure Committee report dated August 21, 2023.

Councilmember Brunner reviewed the report.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Council member Barnett to authorize payment of Payment Application No. 3 in the amount of \$19,177.30 to Wexcon, Inc., for the 2022 Water Main Replacement work, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Council member Barnett to authorize the execution of the contract with Entech Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$12,300 to assist with administration services for inventorying of the 2,400 Borough water connections in conjunction with the DEP Lead Rule, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Council member Stanko to authorize payment of Payment Application No. 3 in the amount of \$61,306.60 to Sewer Specialty Services for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation and Televising work, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Council member Stanko to authorize the extension of the scope of emergency repair work recently approved to be completed by Barrasso Excavation, to include the lateral repair work in the 700 block of Wyomissing Boulevard, for a cost not to exceed \$30,000, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

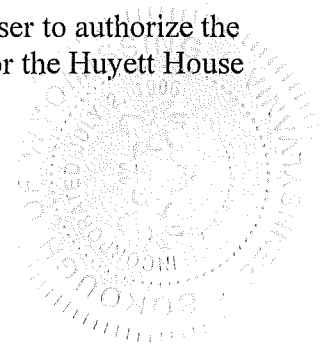
Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Council member Derr to authorize payment of Payment Application No. 1 in the amount of \$52,279.47 to Austill Construction for the 50/50 Sidewalk Repair work, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Council member Stanko to authorize payment of Payment Application No. 4 in the amount of \$49,156.08 to Construction Masters Services, LLC., for the 2023 Street Improvement project, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Council member Barnett to authorize payment of Payment Application No. 5 in the amount of \$250,523.76 to Construction Masters Services, LLC., for the 2023 Street Improvement project, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Council member Barnett to accept the lowest qualified bid of \$447,462.65 from Construction Masters Services, LLC., for the Cambridge Avenue Stream Work and the Wyomissing Creek Pedestrian Bridge projects, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Council member Reeser to authorize the rental increase to \$1,800 for 2024, and a rental increase in 2025 to \$2,000 for the Huyett House rental property, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.



FIRE AND POLICE COMMITTEE: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Fire and Police Committee report dated August 28, 2023.

Councilmember Jenckes reviewed the report.

Councilmember Jenckes made a motion, seconded by Council member Barnett to deny the installation of a handicapped parking space at 25 Reading Avenue, due to past precedents to not take away additional street parking for businesses, all in favor, 6-0.

Councilmember Jenckes made a motion, seconded by Council member Barnett to authorize the handicapped parking space request for 1618 Delaware Avenue, all in favor, 6-0.

Councilmember Jenckes made a motion, seconded by Council member Stanko to authorize the removal of the handicapped parking space at 1529 Garfield Avenue due to the resident requiring the space, no longer residing at that property, all in favor, 6-0.

Council President Jenckes shared that the Western Berks Ambulance Association will have a discussion with municipalities in regards to an attempt establish an EMS Authority Board. Council President Jenckes and Councilmember Barnett will serve as representatives to the EMS Authority Board for the impending meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Economic Development report dated August 31, 2023.

Mayor Frederick Levering reviewed the report.

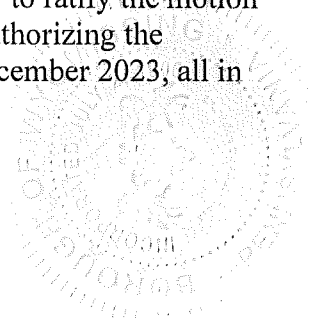
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Finance and Administration committee report dated September 7, 2023.

Councilmember Derr reviewed the report.

Councilmember Derr made a motion, seconded by Council member Stanko to authorize the purchase of additional lockers for the Police Department, in the amount of \$7,898.02, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Derr made a motion, seconded by Council member Stanko to authorize the hiring of a second Police Department Patrol Officer to maintain staffing level needs, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Derr made a motion, seconded by Council member Brunner to ratify the motion made during the September 7, 2023 Finance and Administration meeting, authorizing the Business Manager to reinvest \$1,000,000 into the PLGIT fund to mature December 2023, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.



Councilmember Derr made a motion, seconded by Council member Stanko to authorize the 2023 quarter three MMO payment in the amount of \$69,242.75, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Derr made a motion, seconded by Council member Reeser to authorize the 2024 MMO contribution in the amount of \$837,077, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

Councilmember Derr made a motion, seconded by Council member Barnett to deny the request by the owner of 12 Goldfinch Drive, and future requests to waive real estate tax penalties due to the bill not being received, unless the property underwent new ownership within the last year and a bill was not received, of which the Borough must comply with the law dictating this type of situation. The decision to deny waiving real estate tax penalties follows past practice of the Borough and Borough Tax Collectors, all in favor, 6-0.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Borough Manager's report dated September 12, 2023.

Councilmember Derr made a motion, seconded by Council member Barnett to approve transferring Pat Balandiak, an employee currently working in the Parks Department to the Tree Department to fill an open position, all in favor, 6-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-22 -A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING AN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Councilmember Jenckes made a motion, seconded by Council member Stanko to adopt Resolution No. 2023-22, to adopt the August 2023 West Side Regional Emergency Operations Plan, all in favor, 6-0.

Borough Manager Bare shared that the Civil Service Commission will meet on September 22, 2023 at noon to discuss and take action on certifying the lists for both the Firefighter and Patrol Officer positions.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stanko to amend the agenda to take action on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Borough and Wyomissing Fire Department union related to hiring, all in favor, 6-0.- No public comment was provided.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stanko to approve the MOU between the Borough and Wyomissing Fire Department union to permit but not require the Borough, to hire a Firefighter in 2023, all in favor, 6-0.

Borough Manager Bare shared that on September 25, 2023 at 1:00 pm, a special Council meeting will be held to take action on the certified Civil Service lists for both the Firefighter and Patrol Officer positions. She also noted that special Finance and Administration committee meetings will be held on October 18, 2023 at 8:00 am and October 26, 2023 at 8:45 am to discuss the 2024 budget.

Borough Manager Bare lastly noted that Western Berks Water Authority meeting minutes were emailed to Council before the meeting as they were not available for Council packet distribution.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the July Treasurer's Statement of Operation and all financial statements.

Due to the Treasurer's absence, there was no further review of the report.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Councilmember Barnett made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derr to ratify and approve the Accounts Payables report for September 2023, all in favor, roll call vote, 6-0.

General Fund	\$ 1,282,552.81
Water Fund	104,770.73
Sewer Fund	289,410.55
Refuse Fund	144,340.13
Liquid Fuels Fund	<u>27,313.25</u>
	\$ 1,848,387.47

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Tax Collector's report for the Month of August 2023.

Due to the Tax Collector's absence, there was no further review of the report.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

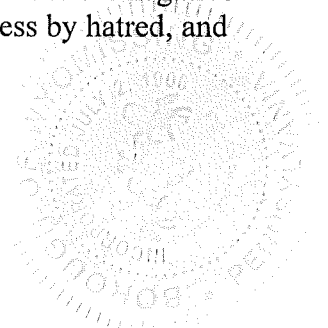
No new business to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT (non-agenda items):

Adrian Jadic, 48 Cardinal Road again expressed his concern regarding the discussion from the August Infrastructure meeting, noting he would have liked to discuss his driveway issue months ago with the committee and Council, however both appeared to not want to listen to him. He further explained that upon adjournment of the August infrastructure committee meeting, a comment was made in conjunction with permitting and building processes related to 48 Cardinal Road, alluding to the resident attempting to find loopholes to not complete the work. While Adrian opposed the comment, noting that almost \$500,00 has been spent on the home, he was more concerned that no Councilmembers interjected to end the behaviors related to the negative commenting. He was concerned that in many instances, there has been blindness by hatred, and questioned why Councilmembers run for re-election.

The Wyomissing Borough Council meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Melissa Miller

Melissa Miller
Borough Secretary

Approved by:

William S. Jenckes

William S. Jenckes
President, Wyomissing Borough Council

