

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING-JULY 12, 2022 at 6:00PM

Work session:

Mr. Kobusky opened the floor to Ms. Alexis Eroh.

Ms. Eroh said she was not speaking as council but speaking on behalf of the Planning Agency and asked her fellow agency members to join her at the front of the room. The agency had chosen a family to receive the Mary Barrett-Aitkinson Historic Home Award. The award is given to families of historic homes in Plymouth Borough. The Flynn family of 108 Gaylord Avenue was chosen to receive the award this month. They have kept their home in pristine condition for over 40 years. The planning agency also recognized Councilman Adam Morehart for his hard work with the Hometown Heroes banner project and presented him with a lovely plaque. Congratulations to both award recipients!

Mr. Alec Ryncavage said the Neighborhood Watch would be hosting a National "Take Back the Night" on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 6:00p.m. The event will take place at the Soldiers and Sailor Memorial statue on the WWV grounds on W. Main St. He invites all to come join in. Alec said that Luzerne County had reopened the Blighted property project. The borough would need to fill out and submit an official Certified Blight form to the county for approval to have the property demolished at the county's expense. Mr. Dixon asked if these are buildings that are beyond repair? He is concerned about loss of property revenue when buildings are torn down. When a house is torn down, we lose that revenue forever.

Ron agreed but said that some houses just need to come down.

Alec said these would be properties that are unsafe and cannot be repaired.

Alec thanked the three fire departments for such a great job on the three fires in one week.

Mr. Adam Morehart began by thanking all three the fire companies, called them the "Best of the Best."

Adam also thanked all who helped with the Police Community Day, and also thanked all who came out in support of this fun event. Great time. A thank you to Matt Cartwright came to the event and spoke with them about the Coal Creek project as well as other fund opportunities. He did say that he was disappointed in the residents that decided to shoot off fireworks over the holiday after being told they were illegal to light off in Plymouth Borough.

Thank you to the Planning Agency for the recognition and the award.

Mr. Earl Cunningham thanked the fire, police, EMA and street departments for the hard work during the recent fires in town. He also extended a huge thank you to the residents and businesses who came forth and supplied bottled water and food for the workers.

Mr. John Thomas thanked the fire, police and street departments during the recent fires. The bucket truck is back in service, so they will be hanging banners next week.

Mr. Bill Dixon informed the group that Willow Street would be closed for a few hours. He will update social media with date and times. He also reminded residents to be mindful of the construction around you, as you may have to move vehicles from time to time. Please be patient. Community Day was a huge success. He commended the police and the DPW for all they did to put it together. There was great interaction between the police and the public.

Ms. Alexis Eroh reminded all that the Shawnee Indians are having a "Vendor Day" on August 6 at the Shawnee Indians Field (aka: Westover Field). The vendor fee is \$25.00 per spot. Civil Service is scheduled to meet Thursday at 6:00p.m. Condolences to the family of the 6yr old girl that was tragically lost to the fire on Palmer St. Mrs. Karen Laskowski wanted to thank the quick action of the fire department to the fire on Turner St. She is a neighboring house and was really impressed with how efficiently Lori Bolesta and the others responded and knocked down the fire avoiding damage to her home.

Mr. Ron Kobusky and John Thomas went to Lyndsey Equipment and got a quote for a zero turn John Deere riding mower. The money for this lawn mower was not in the budget, so would be purchased with the money from the recent sale of the proper ay 5 W Railroad St.

The engineer is working on the specs for a new generator for the municipal building.

He does not do "social media" but was shown some of the posts from the July 3rd fire on Palmer St and he has concerns. The cost to outfit a new firefighter is around \$3,000 to \$4,000 per. Firefighter with all the gear required to fight fire safely, and that estimate is before the cost of any training to get a firefighter to that point. At that particular fire there was what is called a RIT team of firefighters. They are a specialized group of firefighters that are there to remove any firefighter that finds themselves in trouble within the building. They are not just standing around, they are doing their job and watching to see where assistance would be needed.

Mayor Coughlin tries to get the fires when he can to assist in any way. Thank you to all for the support at these fires. Thank you for the quick action at the Turner St fire. Great job. As a reminder, they cannot help if they are not called. Don't delay on calling 911...call immediately! He is disgusted by the new law regarding "fireworks". The law will do very little to deter the use of fireworks.

Plymouth is short on police. There were 283 police calls. Remember there is more to a police call than going out and responding, there is paperwork and often there is court. They are trying. Community Day went very well. Thank you to the police for a fine job! He feels very strongly about community policing.

Good news! He learned last week that PennDot has approved paving for Academy St for 2023. The mayor wonders if Turner St could be widened. Possibly take the right-hand side of street and remove the tree lawn? This might be worth looking into and possibly getting a grant to pay for all or part of it. This would gain about 42" to the width of that street.

Ms. Eroh spoke regarding the recently applied for LSA Grant the borough applied for. We did not get the grant because the amount asked for in the grant was too large, that's it. The grant was filled out properly and submitted in a timely manner. We will restructure and apply again for just one fire truck instead of two.

At 6:37 the meeting called to order with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Roll was called and all council members present:

Mr. Earl Cunningham; Ms. Alexis Eroh; Mr. Adam Morehart; Mr. Alec Ryncavage, Mr. John Thomas, Mr. William Dixon and Mr. Ron Kobusky

*There were no citizens' requests or comments regarding agenda items.

*Citizens' request and comments regarding general items:

Ms. Mary Jarrett from Center Ave. stated that the town has problems like garbage, parking, loose dogs, but feels there is a bigger problem that needs to be addressed. She feels Main Street is dangerous. There are four traffic lights on Main St. On both sides of Plymouth Borough, we have Plymouth Township and then the "Narrows". Cars come into town from either side and they are speeding. She conducted her own little survey and found that Kingston has light is about the same distance as Plymouth. We need a traffic study done. In the 80's PennDot did a traffic survey and 2,200 cars came through in a day. They removed the lights from Academy, Vine, Franklin Streets. And then there are the "ghost poles". Can we please get those removed? Only Plymouth has these poles.

John Thomas and a few other council members disagreed with Mary and said there are "ghost poles" throughout other towns as well. They are secure and will not fall. The utility companies have to move the wires to new poles.

Ms. Jarrett continued; people are going the wrong way on "one-way" streets. This needs to be stopped. Revitalization will not help if we don't slow down traffic as it comes through our town. Alexis Eroh said that the Planning Agency had discussed a traffic survey and thought it would be good, but the state has to initiate it.

The mayor said we can send a letter to Rich Roman to request one, and include a strategic plan.

Ms. Elain Weaver of Nesbitt Lane said she has been waiting nine months for her sidewalk to be fixed. She states that it was damaged by a plow truck during the winter. John Thomas apologized. He said it will be done by mid-week.

Ms. Leslie Krochta of Vine St thanked the firefighters. She is involved with "Baby Jacks" cat rescue and was able to get six cats from the fire on Palmer Street. She got donations from "Chewy" to care for them.

All members of council thanked Leslie for all the work she does with the cats. Leslie also spoke about the speeding traffic on Vine St. She said it is like a race track as soon as you hit the old Vine St school. He kids as well as other neighbor kids play on the sidewalks and she is afraid of them getting hit because there are cars that hit the curbs. She fears someone will get hurt. Said the cops can stake out in her driveway to watch.

Ms. Heather Northop of Church St was pleased to see all the help when Mr. Mahon was hit on Main St. She applauded the citizens for stepping up.

AGENDA VOTING:

Motion made to approve RESOLUTION 5 OF 2022 - A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT FROM COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITH OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Motion: Mr. Dixon

Second: Mr. Cunningham

Approved: 7 yes votes

Motion made to accept the following council meeting minutes for approval:

March 22, 2022 - Special meeting

April 12, 2022 - Regular meeting

May 10, 2022 – Regular meeting
June 14, 2022 – Regular meeting

Motion: Mr. Dixon
Second: Ms. Eroh
Approved: 7 yes votes

Motion to purchase a new John Deere ZTrak riding mower from Lyndsey Equipment for \$10,375.50.

Motion: Mr. Thomas
Second: Mr. Cunningham
Approved: 7 yes votes

Motion to pay invoice from Stu Krasavage Concrete Construction for work done at Westover Football field on Rowe Lane in the amount of \$2,792.00.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham
Second: Mr. Morehart
Approved: 7 yes votes

A motion to pay the invoice from Stu Krasavage Concrete Construction for work done on road settlement on Center Avenue in the amount of \$1,734.00 (This bill will be paid from the Liquid Fuels account.

Motion: Mr. Morehart
Second: Mr. Ryncavage
Approved: 7 yes votes

Move to accept the monthly fire and police reports for June 2022.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham
Second: Mr. Dixon
Approved: 7 yes votes

Motion made to pay the monthly bills:

General Fund	22-501GF – 22-550GF
Liquid Fuels	22-105LF – 22-117LF
Recreation Fund	22-033RF – 22-037RF

Motion: Mr. Morehart
Second: Mr. Ryncavage
Approved: 7 yes votes

*On the question: Mr. Thomas voted to pay all bills except bill #22-548GF-John Thomas, which is the payment for health insurance for retired police, of which there is a contractual conflict of interest.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Earl Cunningham

Respectfully submitted:



Gail Burdulis, Borough Secretary