

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH
REGULAR MEETING-APRIL 20, 2021 at 6:00PM
(Rescheduled from April 13, 2021)

WORK SESSION:

Work session began promptly at 6PM and the regular meeting was called to order immediately afterwards.

Mr. Alec Ryncavage – announced 2 shred events scheduled for 2021 – dates are June 19th and October 9th – 9AM- 12PM for both days. The events will be held in the WVV parking lot on Shawnee Ave. (the lot next to the borough building). Proof of residency is required. Each residence is limited to 3 medium sized boxes of paper.

Mr. Ryncavage is pursuing a revitalization grant that is tied into the closure of Retreat. Plymouth was not included in the first round but says that the Luzerne County seems to be receptive to including the borough in the second round. A new recycling ordinance is being written. Council, the solicitor and Mayor are working together as a group to initiate a new plan for garbage disposable. The hope is to have present a "Request for Proposal" from interested parties. The new website for the Borough is progressing and the first draft has been received.

Mr. Adam Morehart – also spoke of the trash issue stating he has called Green for Life, current owner of County Waste. He will continue to call until the issues in the Borough have been corrected. Flags purchased for the Wall That Heals will be placed on the poles along Main St for Memorial Day.

The Hometown Heroes project is progressing and should have firm plans for next month's meeting.

Mr. Ron Kobusky ask to please check the integrity of all the brackets for the American flags.

Mr. Earl Cunningham -reported that the contract with Plymouth Township has been renewed for the continued protection of the portion of the township closest to Plymouth. High winds a few weeks ago presented and issue with cardboard from Dollar General. Dollar General is holding their cardboard in an open cart in the back of their parking lot. It is an eyesore, a litter problem and fire hazard. A request has been made to the store to erect a shed for storage of this cardboard. We are waiting for a response to the request.

Ms. Alexis Eroh – reported that the playground equipment at Beade St. Park has been replaced. The component it replaced was burned on January 31st making it unsafe for kids. Ms. Eroh cautioned that while she encourages the use of the park safety guidelines should be followed. Formal parties and groups will not be allowed. She requested Council to consider installing security cameras at Beade St and Barnes St to facilitate identifying anyone who may cause damage. Open seat on the planning commission, submit letter of interest to borough.

Mr. John Thomas – no report

Mr. Bill Dixon – Has received many calls and complaints about disturbances in town. It appears the police are called repeatedly to the same places. A lengthy discussion followed. How many times do the police have to be called to hold homeowner liable? The homeowner cannot be held liable for the disturbance caused by a tenant. The tenant must be cited continually, cite the troublemaker. It depends on who is causing the disturbance as to who will issue the citation. Depending on the type of citations, either the Police or the Code Enforcement Officer will issue the citation. People continue to move into houses/apartments without an occupancy inspection.

Mr. Alec Ryncavage – suggested some sort of monthly report on complaints for Code Enforcement.

Mayor Frank Coughlin – The annual litter pick up is April 24th. In order to participate please come to the Borough building between 8:30-9:00 am. Supplies will be available Please follow CDC guidelines, wear a mask. Clean up will be 9 am to 12 noon.

Announced a plan for Mayor for a Day for young people to see what the Mayor and Council do and will be able to sit in on a Council meeting as the “Mayor”

The mayor invited the American Legion to come to Mays meeting to talk about their project; “Wreaths Across America”.

The mayor attended a meeting along with Council and the DPW on Beverly Drive to observe the work completed. He reported that there is still work to be done, such as seeding, planting and brush clean up. A stone access road needs to be laid in the area too.

Luzerne County was contacted regarding patching potholes on Shawnee Ave. Meeting on Beade St flooding from back up water when the river rises has no resolution date.

Mayor Coughlin has received many complaints that there is nothing in town for the kids to do. It is not the Borough’s responsibility it is the parents. Parents need to get more involved.

He is receiving calls regarding the trash issue, again. The mayor read a text from County Waste explaining why they could not join council meeting this evening. They are experiencing COVID related issues, but say they will inform town when there are going to be delays or schedule changes. Nothing says Welcome like garbage lines streets!

The mayor has been in touch with a representative from Lehigh Valley spay and neuter program and someone will attend the meeting next month to talk about how they can help with the feral cat problem.

He also announced that 3 full time police officers will be hired by the Borough. Money for PT officers has been moved to cover the FT officer budget. PT officers will still be used to a lesser degree.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – spoke of a special meeting held over Easter weekend when several borough employees were diagnosed with COVID- minutes are available to read – no votes were taken, so the Sunshine Law was adhered to. Since then, COVID requirements have been enacted for employees (as seen in regular meeting agenda).

Regular meeting was called to or and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ms. Alexis Eroh
Mr. Earl Cunningham
Mr. John Thomas
Mr. Adam Morehart
Mr. Alec Ryncavage
Mr. William Dixon, Vice-President
Mr. Ronald Kobusky, President

There was no Citizens’ Input regarding agenda items.

Citizens Input regarding general items.

Mr. Jeff Harvey, of E Main St – asked about the flags on the Carey Ave bridge. He was advised that the UGI local has taken over that project.

Deb Storm, Commercial Lane – requested that to place a concrete slab located on Commercial Lane at Eno ST. Ms. Storm offered pictures of the issue. Ms. Strom was advised that Council would see what could be done.

Maribeth Rosensteel – the PNW Community Yard Sale is set for May 15th from 9 am to 4 pm. Anyone that wants to participate can do so by messaging her on FB.

Helen Kibildis asked what Bill was looking at when he was near her property recently. Mr. Dixon requested they meet after the meeting as the explanation was a bit lengthy.

Mary Jarrett – asked that the Borough continue to pursue the issue of ghost poles in town with UGI

Mr. Ron Kobusky agreed with Ms. Jarrett maybe with grant money they can hire contractor to remove the poles.

AGENDA VOTING:

MOTION MADE TO APPOINT: **(1) MICHAEL G. MINSAVAGE; (2) NICKOLAS V. BASOV; (3) BENJAMIN K. KELIORJOR.** AS A FULL-TIME PROBATIONARY PLYMOUTH BOROUGH POLICE OFFICER UNDER THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS HEREIN STATED: SAID OFFICER IS TO SERVE A PROBATIONARY PERIOD OF ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) DAYS UNDER SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY THE PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL. DURING THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD THE POLICE OFFICER SHALL NOT BE ENTITLED TO SHALL NOT RECEIVE ANY BENEFITS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO HEALTH CARE, VACATION, SICK DAYS, PERSONAL DAYS, PAID HOLIDAYS, OR ANY OTHER BENEFITS OR RIGHTS AS SPECIFIED IN THE CURRENT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE POLICE BARGAINING UNIT AND BOROUGH. IN ADDITION, THE EMPLOYMENT STATUS DURING THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE AT WILL AND NOT CHANGE UNLESS APPOINTED TO A FULL TIME POLICE POSITION. AT THE COMPLETION OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD, THE PLYMOUTH BOROUGH MAY AT ITS DISCRETION, APPOINT THE PROBATIONARY OFFICER TO THE POSITION OF FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER, AT WHICH TIME SUCH APPOINTMENT WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CURRENT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH AND THE POLICE BARGAINING UNIT. IN ADDITION, DURING THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD, THE PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER SHALL ACCUMULATE NO SENIORITY RIGHTS NOR HAVE ANY RIGHTS UNDER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CURRENT OF THE FORESAID COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, ONCE HAVING BEEN APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL TO A POSITION OF FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER, THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) DAY PROBATIONARY PERIOD TIME SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE OFFICERS' CALCULATIONS UNDER THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT. ALSO, IN THE EVENT OF APPOINTMENT ON THE SAME DAY, TO A FULL-TIME POSITION SENIORITY BETWEEN APPOINTEES WILL BE DETERMINED BY ORDER OF APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF PROBATIONARY OFFICER.

MOTION: Ms. Alexis Eroh

SECOND: Mr. Earl Cunningham

PASSED: 7 YES

*There was a brief recess while Mayor Frank Coughlin swore the three newly appointed officer into their new positions.

MOTION MADE TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING ON APRIL 8, 2021, TO DISCUSS COVID-19 ISSUES THAT THE BOROUGH WAS EXPERIENCING.

MOTION: Mr. Alec Ryncavage
SECOND: Mr. Adam Morehart
PASSED: 7 YES

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND FURTHER DUE TO THE EFFECT IT HAD ON THE BOROUGH EMPLOYEES AND FURTHER WITH THE CONCERN FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE BOROUGH EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC THAT THEY COME IN CONTACT AS PART OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES;

A MOTION WAS TO ADOPT THE ATTACHED COVID-19 PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS AS BOROUGH POLICY TO APPLY TO THE BOROUGH'S EMPLOYEES, AND AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH TO NOTIFY BY LETTER EACH BOROUGH EMPLOYEE AND HAVE THE EMPLOYEES SIGN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF SAID POLICY.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham
SECOND: Ms. Alexis Eroh
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION WAS MADE TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR THE LETTERS OF INTEREST TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE PLANNING AGENCY. THE APPOINTMENT WILL BE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE VACANT SEAT TERM, WHICH WILL END ON DECEMBER 31, 2022. LETTERS OF INTEREST MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, E-MAILED, (PLYMOUTHBOROUGH@COMCAST.NET) OR US MAILED TO 162 W. SHAWNEE AVENUE, AND THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 4:00PM ON MAY 7, 2021.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham
SECOND: Mr. William Dixon
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION MADE TO PAY TOTAL REFUNDS ON PROPERTY TAXES OF \$194.93, FOR PROPERTY REASSESSMENTS DUE TO THE FOLLOWING OWNER: ANTONIO BUENO FAUST.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham
SECOND: Mr. Alec Ryncavage
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION MADE TO PAY CENTRAL CLAY PRODUCTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,572.00 FROM LIQUID FUELS FOR SIX CAST GRATES.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham
SECOND: Mr. William Dixon
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION MADE TO PAY STU KRASAVAGE CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION \$1,500.00 FOR SEWER WORK IN FRONT OF 227 E MAIN ST.

*On the question: The lateral broke on Main at the connection.

MOTION: Mr. Adam Morehart
SECOND: Ms. Alexis Eroh
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MARCH FIRE & POLICE REPORTS:

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham

SECOND: Mr. Alec Ryncavage

PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION: TO PAY THE APRIL MONTHLY BILLS:

GENERAL FUND: 21-210GF - 21-275GF

LIQUID FUELS: 21-045LF - 21-055LF

RECREATION FUND: 21-015RF - 21-018RF

*On the question: John Thomas votes yes to pay all bills except bill #21-270GF-John Thomas, which is the payment for health insurance for retired police, of which there is a contractual conflict of interest


MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham

SECOND: Ms. Alexis Eroh

PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION: TO ADJORN made by: Mr. Earl Cunningham

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY;



Gail Burdulis, Borough Secretary