

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING-JULY 13, 2021

Work session for the July 13, 2021 regular meeting began at 6:02 and the regular meeting was called to order immediately following the work session

WORK SESSION:

Mr. Alec Ryncavage – Tonight is the first ZOOM meeting. Meetings can be live streamed for folks online. There will be no commenting. Residents will now be able to watch the Council meeting from home.
Progress on the Borough website- finalizing and will be applying for a .gov domain.
The last payment to the Downtown Center is on the agenda this evening. (Revitalization group)
This is the one-year anniversary of the drowning of the two young men from the boro while swimming in the river. Memorials have been erected on the Beade St near the dike and warning signs have been placed at the sandbar area to warn of danger.
\$20,000.00 (twenty thousand dollars) has been received from the closing of Retreat (SCI).
Changes are taking place regarding Act 65 (PA Sunshine Law) which will require that the meeting agenda be made available prior to the scheduled meeting.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – will speak with the solicitor regarding compliance and stated that we will be compliant for the September meeting.

Mr. Adam Morehart – Stated that there is a whole lot of interest in the military flags. Mr. Tom Hogan from the Plymouth Rotary has approached Mr. Morehart to assist in the project.
Anyone interested in the project can contact Councilman Adam Morehart on his Facebook page.
Planning for a safety meeting in August. There have already been enough safety meetings thus far to be in compliance.

Mr. Earl Cunningham - nothing to add

Ms. Alexis Eroh – Planning Agency met last Wednesday and swore in two new members.
Obtaining a URL so the Commission can have access to emails until the website is operational.
Lori Bolesta will assist.
Regarding #2 on the agenda– The present ordinance states the height of grass to be 10” (ten inches). Ms. Eroh has researched and compared this to other municipalities whose maximum is 6” (six inches). It is time for us to follow lead.

-Discussion followed regarding the subject.

Ms. Alexis Eroh – The time frame from the time the notice is received to the problem property being taken care of will be up to the discretion of the Code Enforcement Officer. The present 10 days (ten days) is not acceptable.

Attorney M. Kostelansky – There is a provision in the Ordinance that states Code Enforcement Officer may issue tickets immediately. Not currently doing that.

Mr. John Thomas – Complemented the Police Department on an excellent job.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – Thank you, Mayor

Mr. Bill Dixon – Kudos to the Street department on the excellent job they are doing.
A bill for \$900.00 (nine hundred dollars) will be submitted from the shredding event. We will be reimbursed by the County.

John Thomas, Earl Cunningham and himself were at Beade St for the flooding that occurred on Christmas Day. They met with the engineer and along with the Fire and DPW worked on the problem. There will be a meeting, Thursday, July 15, 2021 with the WVSA to hopefully get some help. A report will be forwarded to us from the engineer. The last time there was work done was in 2011.

Asked residents, who are in the flood plain, to be watchful of the river and do maintenance at your homes such as cleaning gutters etc.

Mr. John Thomas – there is work starting next week to raise the levy at Beade Street.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – The Luzerne County Flood Authority will work on the section that needs to be sand bagged. The raising the levy will be 100% funded by the LCFA. Access was given for use of the roads. Project should take about 9 (nine) weeks.

Mr. Bill Dixon – The site has been all marked by the DPW dept.

Mayor Frank Coughlin – Flooding does not just come from the river. Cited the 2011 Coal St. incident. Must watch all waterways.

Mr. Earl Cunningham – When there is heavy rain, he tours the town's waterways and streets to monitor.

Mayor Frank Coughlin – noted that there were 415 Police calls for the month of June. The police ARE doing their job.

On July 5, 2021 he met with residents on Lee Street in the Borough. They discussed code enforcement issue, storm drain and people were parking the wrong way and were being ticketed. The law states that cars are required to park with the passenger door against the curb. Some of the issues have been corrected, others are being handled.

Mr. Bill Dixon – will check on the storm drain.

Mayor Frank Coughlin – Referred to an article in the Times Leader about \$112,089 million American Rescue monies available. Expressed interest in reaching out and asking if there was funding for blight. Also expressed interest for help in funding for the Beade St project (flap gate) monies from the County.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – read the information and the ways to use the money are very vague.

There are restrictions. Hailstone will be working on how to get and also approval on how the money can be used.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – all towns have problems with blight.

Mr. John Thomas – we have spent \$80,000.00 (eighty – thousand dollars) on taking down blighted properties.

Mr. Alec Ryncavage – must be project based to get funding.

Mayor Frank Coughlin – regarding fireworks. This year not as bad as past years but still would like to see control of the firework laws to the borough. He has written letters to many about the issue. Urged residents to do the same.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – An audit has been conducted for last year 2020– liquid fuels. Usually there are recommendations from the auditor. We received no recommendations, Congratulated the Borough secretary, Gail Burdulis, on a job well done. (applause was recd. from the audience)

He went on to explain how the liquid fuels process works. \$303,000.00 (three hundred three thousand) or so has been deposited into a new account, on the advice of the solicitor.

The American flags on Main St. are up. Maintenance still being done (after the storm). Thanked John Thomas and John Kovach for their work on putting them up.

John Thomas, Bill Dixon and John Kovach replaced outlets in the Police station

Sgt Michael Thomas - all good now (re: electrical outlets)

Mr. John Thomas – 50 (fifty flags) have been fixed and there are 13 (thirteen) more to do. Flags will stay up thru the summer.

Mr. Adam Morehart – when flags are taken down, they will be stored at the VFW in a designated area until they are ready to be put up again in the Spring.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – showed a flyer floating around from a Bakery with an out of area phone number – Do not know who this business is but will have the CEO check on it. Also, The PPD and PFD are not soliciting for donations via phone calls. If you receive one ignore.

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Ron Kobusky, President of Council, immediately following the work session. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL, COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

There were no comments on agenda items.

Citizen's input regarding general items:

Resident from Turner Street (her personal info was left with information she brought) asked Council to consider permit parking on that street. Does not have to be the whole town. Parking has become a real problem. She brought back up information with her. Council asked her to hand the information over to the solicitor for review. The ONE WAY street sign is in bad shape.

Ms. Alexis Eroh – requested that a 15 minute parking sign for the front Miss Jane's Daycare on Turner St be added so kids can be dropped off easily.

Mr. Adam Morehart – questioned abandoned vehicles? Stated that he is on social media and this is a misnomer that the complaint forms are thrown away. Not true!

Sgt Michael Thomas – 72 hours after an abandoned car is ticketed, the car will be towed.

Mr. John Frey- requested an explanation of the money being received from the federal government

Mr. Ron Kobusky – Plymouth will receive about \$600,000.00 (six hundred thousand dollars) but it cannot be used for regular budget items such as bring down debt, payroll or pension. Council will be considering projects like blight resolution. The monies can be spent over years until 2024 unless there is a project that is ongoing then there can be an extension to 2026. Unused monies get returned to the County. Cannot be used to reduce debt.

Mr. Frey – Must not commit to something that the Borough will have to maintain in the future

Mary Ann Meeker – thank you to the Police Dept for doing a good job in her neighborhood recently.

Stated that the water problems she has experienced has been fixed and seems to be fine now. Thanked the Borough for their efforts.

AGENDA VOTING:

MOTION: A motion was made to appoint Ms. Alexandra L. Baloga as a part-time police officer for the Borough of Plymouth. Said officer would be paid at an hourly rate of \$17.25 and shall be an at will employee. Said officer shall receive a holiday bonus of \$35.00 added to her pay, if she worked on a holiday. Said officer would receive regular

hourly rate to attend court appearances, but be paid a minimum of two hours per appearance, Also, said officer shall receive overtime pay for hours in excess of eight hours in a day or forty hours in a week. Said part-time officer shall receive a \$200.00 clothing allowances per year at the completion of one continuous year of service to the borough, provided she worked a minimum of 300 hours in said year. The appointment does not include any other benefits of any type not specifically stated as part of this appointment. This appointment will be effective immediately.

*On the question: Mr. Kobusky explained that Ms. Baloga is his step daughter and would abstain from the voting.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas
SECOND: Mr. Earl Cunningham
*Mr. Ron Kobusky abstained
PASSED: 6 YES

Council took a small break while Mayor Frank Coughlin swore the in newly hired officer.

MOTION: A motion was made to pass ORDINANCE 1 of 2021. An Ordinance of the Borough of Plymouth, County of Luzerne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 185 Property Maintenance Article I, Exterior Property Areas, § 185-2 Maintenance of Exterior Property Areas, Subsection E

*On the question: This Ordinance pertains to the height of grass discussed in the work session prior to today's meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Alexis Eroh
SECOND: Mr. Alec Ryncavage
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION: A motion was made to pass ORDINANCE 2 of 2021. An Ordinance of the Borough of Plymouth, County of Luzerne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, repealing a sewer maintenance fee providing for the appointment of a collector for said fee and penalties for failure to timely pay the fee that has inadvertently included and adopted in Code of the Borough of Plymouth on December 11, 2020 (ORDINANCE NO. 6-2020).

*On the question: This sewer fee was mistakenly added to the code book codification process. The fee was never collected, nor was the Ordinance for the sewer fee ever enforced.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas
SECOND: Mr. Adam Morehart
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION: A motion was made to ratify the President of council's signature on a \$20,000.00 grant Plymouth Borough received from Luzerne County.

Whereas, the Borough received notification from Luzerne County that they were awarded \$20,000 from the State Facility Closure Program in the form of a Grant for the planning and execution phase of the Route 11 development project;

Whereas in order to obtain funds, the Borough must execute a Sub-Recipient Agreement with Luzerne County and in order not to delay or jeopardize the grant, Ron Kobusky, President of Council, executed the Agreement and the Borough Secretary attested to his signature and the Agreement was forwarded to Luzerne County in order to obtain the Grant Funds;

Now, Therefore, I move to approve and ratify the Luzerne County Sub-Recipient Agreement dated, May 30th, 2021 signed by Ron Kobusky, President of Council on behalf of the Borough and to ratify his signature on the

agreement and to approve the attestation of the Borough Secretary, Gail Burdulis to his signature as well as the submission of the Agreement to Luzerne County in order to obtain the grant funds of \$20,000.

I further move to authorize the President of Council to sign any and all further documents required as part of the grant and the Borough Secretary to attest to any and all required documents that are required under the grant program.

*On the question: The grant was time sensitive and had to be returned to the county prior to this meeting. Mr. Ryncavage applied for the grant and will check to see what projects he applied for to be sure the monies are used for their original intended use.

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

MOTION: A motion was made to appoint Mr. Jerome Bolesta as Health Officer for the Borough. The current Health Officer is unable to perform the duties of that position at the current time. The appointment is temporary and effective immediately and will last until December 31, 2021. This position is an at will position with no benefits of any type. Mr. Bolesta will be paid \$1,000.00 from now until December 31, 2021 and payments will be made in monthly installments of \$166.66, less the required payroll deductions required by law.

*On the question: The Health Officer for the Borough is currently out on sick leave. Mr. Bolesta was the Health Officer for the Borough for 15 years prior to his resignation.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas
SECOND: Mr. Earl Cunningham
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION: Motion made to approve meeting minutes: Special meeting minutes from March 27, 2020 and regular meeting minutes from: April 14, 2020; January 12, 2021; February 12, 2021; March 9, 2021; April 20, 2021; May 11, 2021 and June 8, 2021.

*On the question: Last year was a whirlwind of a year with many changes. With this the girls in the office have caught up completely with the meeting minutes. Thank you, Gail, and Jaynan!

MOTION: Mr. William Dixon
SECOND: Mr. Adam Morehart
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION: A motion was made to approve RESOLUTION 4 of 2021. A Resolution of Plymouth Borough, County of Luzerne, Pennsylvania, granting a lease extension for the borough premises located adjacent to 325 Barnes Street.

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

MOTION: A motion was made to approve payment of \$4,853.75 to The Pennsylvania Downtown Center, Inc. as final payment on the agreement between Plymouth Borough and PA Downtown Center.

*On the question: This is the final payment on the original agreement to revitalize the town. The borough still has two free training sessions still outstanding from the 2020 membership, for which Ms. Eroh is trying to schedule a grant writing training session to benefit the borough.

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

MOTION: A motion was made to approve payment of \$6,500.00 to Stu Krasavage Concrete Construction for a sewer main repair on Templeton Lane.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas
SECOND: Ms. Alexis Eroh
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION: Motion made to approve payment of \$2,555.01 to Sig Sauer for the purchase of five guns for the Police department.

*On the question: These are the same type of guns the department has already purchased. This way all officers will have the same gun issued by the Plymouth Borough Police Department. All of the guns should arrive by the end of July.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham
SECOND: Mr. John Thomas
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION: A motion made to accept the June Fire and Police reports.

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

MOTION: Motion made to pay the monthly bills.

GENERAL FUND:	21-455GF – 21-565GF
LIQUID FUELS:	21-080LF – 21-094LF
RECREATION FUND:	21-026RF – 21-029RF

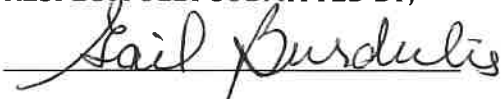
*On the question: John Thomas votes yes to pay all bills except bill #21-542GF-John Thomas, which is the payment for health insurance for retired police, of which there is a contractual conflict of interest.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham
SECOND: Mr. Adam Morehart
PASSED: 7 YES

MOTION TO ADJORN made at 7:02 PM by: Mr. Earl Cunningham

Minutes approved at Regular Meeting August 10, 2021

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY;



Gail Burdulis, Borough Secretary