

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING-JUNE 14, 2022 at 6:00PM

Work session began at 6:00pm.

Mr. Ryncavage said he met with the District Attorney regarding the use of a "speed trailer". Plymouth will be able to set it up and use it in town for a few weeks. DPW will have to go pick it up and move it throughout the town when we wanted to change the location.

Mr. Kobusky thought it would be a good idea as the Borough speed limit is 25mph whereas Plymouth Township is 35mph and cars may be coming into town a little fast.

Alec received a call from the resident at 151 Coal St. and was informed that there are kids throwing the sandbags into the creek. These are the sandbags that were placed to keep the water in the creek bed when the water rises and the concern is with the pending rainfall, this could be a very serious issue. Also, some of the smaller kids have been climbing into the hole that was created by the previous rains, and could get hurt. Can fences or signs be placed as this is a liability to THE borough.

DPW will put a plate to cover the hole and gatherer the sandbags.

Mr. Kobusky asked that DPW please make this a priority.

Mr. Morehart said the turn out for the ceremony for the Hometown Heroes' banners went very well and thanked all who helped out and who attended as well. Currently there are 105 banners and thanked all who had purchased banners for their loved ones. The garden flags and picture boards have been ordered. Lastly, he thanked all who helped with hanging these banners.

Mr. Morehart filed for a \$500,000.00 grant for the Coal Creek Project with the DCED and is still waiting to hear something back from them. This money will help to offset the cost of the Coal Street project.

Regarding the dogs. Todd Hevner said that due to budget cuts, the state dog wardens have also been cut back to 41 wardens statewide, and there is one warden for multiple counties around the state. They were also discussing the possibility of maybe having local municipal dog wardens. Wardens could be deputized by the SPCA. Adam urges all residents to write to their State Representatives and Senators regarding Senate bill 232 and House 526, both of which support reinstating dog wardens with an increased salary. Adam also added that the LSA grants open on July 1st for grant submission and goes until September 30th.

Mr. Cunningham said that fire station one is having the Electronic Recycling and handed the floor to Lori Bolesta to speak further.

Lori said there are flyers available on the table in the borough building. The flyer will state what is and isn't accepted. The event is open to the public and free of charge, but donations are welcome!

Ms. Eroh said that at the last Planning Agency meeting they honored the school crossing guards with a certificate of appreciation. She said they also honored Mr. Cunningham because of all the help he was filling in as guard this past school year.

She and Lori Bolesta met with the website developer and we are out of the design stage and into the content page. Asked all departments to get any content for the departments page, get it to her by next week. She will be meeting with DPW for their input. In Plymouth Alive news:

The KielbasiFest will take place on August 12th and 13th. The grand marshal will be Mr. John Kovach to honor him for all the extras he does for the borough. The parade will start at 11am on Saturday the 13th.

Mr. Kobusky said that he and Mr. Cunningham met with the fire departments at Wyoming Valley West High School recently to show the newest members the inside of the school. Some of them have never been inside and would have no clue where anything is should an emergency arise.

The generator in the borough building is very old (installed 1975) and not working properly. Mechanical Services was in to look at it and diagnose the problem. The transfer switch is bad and repairs will cost about \$10,000. The cost of a new generator is about \$40,000. Council will discuss their options. If they repair it, with the age of the generator, something else could go wrong and maybe not be able to get replacement parts. We need to have a generator per state occupancy regulations.

Mayor Coughlin thanked all who participated and help at the shred event. The borough plans to hold another one on October 8, 2022.

The 1st Annual Police Community Day will be held on July 9th from 1pm 4pm. At Community Park on Rowe Lane. There will be food, games, raffles, bike registration, and other activities.

Fireworks are prohibited in town. All fireworks must be 150 feet away from any structure in all directions to be lit off safely and legally. We don't have anywhere in town for that to happen. The police will be patrolling and citing any offenders. We don't want any accidents.

In May the police had 273 calls! Keep in mind the many other parts to every call. There are reports, court dates, arrests etc. When there is someone in the holding cell, an officer must be present and is unable to go out on other calls. Please have patience.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

Regular June meeting was called to order and a moment of silence followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was called: Present were council members: Mr. Earl Cunningham, Ms. Alexis Eroh, Mr. Adam Morehart, Mr. Alec Ryncavage and Mr. Ron Kobusky.

Not present: Mr. Bill Dixon and Mr. John Thomas were excused

There were no citizen's requests or comments regarding agenda items.

Citizen's requests and comments regarding general items:

Ms. Heather Northop, 111 Church Street; Thanked council for getting the Bilco door on Main Street repaired. She feels safer now. She said she is concerned about the lack of regulation over vacant buildings. She states that the condemned sign has been removed from the Fainberg's building and a "For Sale" sign put in the window. She asked what repairs were made to bring that building from the condemned status. If it is for sale people need to know it is condemned.

Mr. Kobusky said nothing has changed and it is still condemned and the signs will go back up.

Regarding her remarks from the last meeting about appointing an Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator. She received a letter from the President of Council and does not believe the borough has a clear understanding of the ADA, because the letter misrepresents it. She submitted a Right to Know today for a list of all borough employees.

Because the borough has not put a ADA Coordinator in place, she will bring her concerns directly to council.

1. The traffic button at the crosswalk at Dollar General cannot be accessed by her because the pavement does not go all the way to the light. It would cause her to go into a gully if she were to try to use it.

2. The sidewalk going up Eno St ends at Commercial Lane so there is no way for a person with a mobility issue to continue after that.

3. The PA building code has more lenient regulations about public access to commercial buildings. The ADA is a federal law and has a higher obligation. Of the three new businesses in town over the past two months, only one is accessible to those with mobility issues. If the Borough is truly committed to meeting the needs of their residents, as this letter states, I would expect more education and encouragement for businesses to be accessible to those with mobility issues. Because of this shortfall I recommend a disability commission be put into place to offer feedback and consultation to the Borough so it can meet the needs of

its residents according to the State law.

Mr. Kobusky – will look into all of these issues brought to our attention.

Ms. Eroh – suggested that maybe Jason Humenansky may have the support needed since he does the building inspections.

Mr. Kobusky – will reach out to him and get him involved.

Ms. Northrop- the businesses that are not accessible are the Hibachi Grill and the new Barber Shop on Main. The Hibachi Grill changed uses and by law they should have accessibility for customers with mobility issues. She offered any assistance needed from her.

Ms. Eroh read a question from Laura Glahn, a zoom viewer. Ms. Glahn would like to know if the meeting minutes could be posted online and the zoom meeting recordings be posted quicker than a month later. After a discussion with Mr. Ryncavage, it was determined that both things are possible.

John Mazur apologized that Alec Ryncavage would be a speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony at the Shawnee Cemetary. Alec had contacted the American Legion and said he was unable to attend.

Scott Nice and his wife own the new Skillet 11 restaurant on Main St. He has been having issues with people parking in his lot. He told council of 3 incidents involved since June 1, 2022. All 3 incidents involved threats and cussing at he and his wife. The police were called on 3 occasions. He wanted to know the status of the investigations. He addressed the mayor regarding this but unaware of these incidents the mayor could not respond. Sergeant Thomas did speak out about the events. As the investigation is ongoing, he could make no comment. Mr. Nice voiced his concerns and stated he had plate numbers and video, however, when Sgt Thomas requested to see it, Mr. Nice was unable to provide them. Both Council President Kobusky and Mayor Coughlin assured Mr. Nice that either the police and or the mayor would make contact with Mr. Nice once it was looked into. Continued discussion followed.

Mr. Kobusky – apologized to both Mr. and Mrs. Nice and assured them it would be taken care of. Mayor Coughlin again explained that residents need to be patient with the police.

Theresa Bradley inquired about crosswalks in town and whose responsibility it is to paint the lines/walks. She has noticed that some of them need to be repainted, especially the one at Plymouth Hometown Market. Mr. Kobusky – explained the process to Ms. Bradley. Mr. Shulla also added to the discussion.

Mr. Ryncavage- stated that there is about \$25,000.00 left from a grant he applied for when SCI Retreat closed. If Council is interested, he thinks a protected crosswalk could be put in. 2 spaces on the Main St. Business District would be ideal for the rapid flashing beacon to be installed. Explained how the beacon worked.

Ms. Eroh – Questioned the time limit on the funds.

Mr. Ryncavage – Funds must be used by year end and has to be used specifically for Main St. Projects. Suggested Dollar General as a possible site. Possible that Wyoming Valley West might put one down by the school.

Mr. Kobusky – Let's look at it. The money has to be spent and it is for the safety of the town. He will contact Kuharcik to take a look at the crosswalk buttons as well.

AGENDA VOTING:

Motion to approve Resolution 4 of 2022 – A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT FROM THE

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM ITS SINGLE APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Motion: Mr. Morehart
Second: Ms. Eroh
Approved: 5 YES * Mr. Dixon and Mr. Thomas were excused

Motion made to accept Zavada & Associates proposal to move forward with the audit of borough financial statements and books for 2021.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham
Second: Mr. Morehart
Approved: 5 YES * Mr. Dixon and Mr. Thomas were excused

MOTION to appoint Aiden Golightly, effective immediately, as a part-time summer worker to the Public Works Department at an hourly rate of Eight Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$8.50) with hours not to exceed Twenty-Eight (28) hours in a work week, with no benefits of any type, as an at will employee, and with no right or claim to the grievance procedure or any provision of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Plymouth Borough and Teamsters' Local 401 covering the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham
Second: Ms. Eroh
Approved: 5 YES * Mr. Dixon and Mr. Thomas were excused

MOTION to appoint Jeffrey Antoll, effective immediately, as a part-time summer worker to the Public Works Department at an hourly rate of Eight Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$8.50) with hours not to exceed Twenty-Eight (28) hours in a work week, with no benefits of any type, as an at will employee, and with no right or claim to the grievance procedure or any provision of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Plymouth Borough and Teamsters' Local 401 covering the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham
Second: Mr. Morehart
Approved: 5 YES * Mr. Dixon and Mr. Thomas were excused

A motion to pay the invoice submitted by Eckert Seamans, Attorneys at Law, in the amount of \$2,286.82, for professional legal fees regarding a personnel matter.

*On the question: Mr. Morehart asked when this billing would be done?
Mike Kostelansky, the Borough Solicitor will look into it.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham
Second: Ms. Eroh
Approved: 5 YES * Mr. Dixon and Mr. Thomas were excused

Motion to accept the May 2022 Fire and Police reports.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham
Second: Mr. Ryncavage
Approved: 5 YES * Mr. Dixon and Mr. Thomas were excused

Motion to pay the monthly bills:

*On the question: Mr. Morehart voted to pay all bills except bill #22-483GF-Adam Morehart which is a reimbursement for the fee he incurred when submitting the grant and felt it was a conflict of interest.

General Fund	22-392GF – 22-500GF
Liquid Fuels	22-092LF – 22-104LF
Recreation Fund	22-026RF – 22-032RF

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

Second: Ms. Eroh

Approved: 5 yes votes * Mr. Dixon and Mr. Thomas were excused

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cunningham

Respectfully submitted,



Gail Burdulis, Borough Secretary

*Approved at meeting July 12, 2022