

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING-May 9, 2023 at 6:00PM

Earl Cunningham - thanked Goodwill #1 for holding the Electronic Recycling Saturday. He reminded the senior citizens of the farmers market, and that there are government vouchers they can apply for.

Goodwill #2 will hold their annual Sip 2 Support wine event at the Goodwill #2 grounds on May 27, 2023 from 1PM to 7PM. The tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

Goodwill #1 will hold a TV Recycling event on July 15, 2023 at the Goodwill #1 grounds. Cost per TV is \$25 and flat panel tv's only.

Thomas Hogan had nothing to add at this time.

Adam Morehart - wished Happy Nurses week to all the nurses out there. Thank you for all you do. Hometown Heroes has started up for 2023 and the applications have started coming in. You can drop off the completed application at the VFW at 111 W Main Street from 9AM to 5PM. There was new ARPA grant paperwork required and submitted. We are still \$500,00. Short for completing the Coal Creek wall project and he is hoping that the FEMA grant that he applied for will come through. If not, we will need to scale back the project to work with the money we had been awarded.

Alexis Eroh - said the new website is now up and running and the old website will no longer be updated. Thank you to all who worked very hard to get it there.

Because we did not receive applicants in time, the Civil Service exam for this Saturday will be postponed or rescheduled. They will need to discuss that.

"Shawnee Indians Fun Day" will be June 24th from 12PM to 4PM and all members of community are invited to come out. There will be a vendor fair so if you are interested in being a vendor, contact a member. Also, the Shawnee Indians will hold a bucket drive fundraiser this Saturday. We had a record number of kids sign up to be Indians this year, which is great and we are trying to raise funds to help reduce cost to kids and the organization. They are the last of the sports organizations left in Plymouth.

Bill Dixon states that the Shawnee Indians are the only youth sports left in Plymouth so please help support them where you can.

John Thomas - had nothing to add at this time.

Mayor Frank Coughlin - said that the Pick Up PA day went very well this year, and thanked all who came out to help. He invited all who sit home and complain to take the time and come out and participate in cleaning up the town. Penndot took two truck loads of garbage from the clean up out of town.

He has succeeded in getting a Plymouth Day at the Railriders' field. It will be August 5 and discount tickets will be available, so come out and support.

The borough is down two police officers and they are very busy.

There will be a clean-up at the Shawnee Cemetery for the upcoming services for Memorial Day. This cemetery is run solely by volunteers and everyone is invited to come out and pitch in to spruce up this historic site.

The regular meeting for May 9, 2023 was called to order at the conclusion of the work session by Vice President William Dixon. The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited and followed by a moment of silence. Roll was called.

Council members present: Mr. Earl Cunningham; Ms. Alexis Eroh; Mr. Thomas Hogan; Mr. Adam Morehart; Mr. John Thomas and Mr. William (Bill) Dixon.

Ron Kobusky was absent and excused.

Citizens requests or comments regarding agenda items:

Mickey Goodrich, Eno St Plymouth – Has concerns with the signing of the contract with the SPCA, which is on the agenda, because it does not address the wandering dogs in town and they are a real problem. Bill Dixon explained that they will have to discuss it with the SPCA.

Mickey has concerns and asked what should residents do about stray dogs, call the police? She said she does not believe the police are trained to be dog wardens and dog catchers.

John Thomas said that the dog warden for the state had retired.

Adam Morehart said he spoke of the dog warden situation with the state and it is dismal. The state budget is nonexistent. We just don't have an answer at this time. We do have an Ordinance addressing loose dogs and instead of going on facebook how about taking them to the SPCA and when the owner has to pay to get their animal back a few times, the hope is that they will wise up and take care of containing their animals.

Mike Thomas said to call 911 and report the loose animal. Luzerne County has a new dog warden.

Mary Jarrett, Center Ave, Plymouth added to the dog warden conversation. She recently learned of new dog warden for Luzerne County, Joy. The new dog wardens for both Lackawanna County and Luzerne County are very much into checking into licenses of the animals. She would like council to consider going back to selling dog licenses here at the borough building.

Citizens requests or comments regarding general items:

Heather Northop, Church St, Plymouth – States that about a year ago she brought up some issues and they have not yet been addressed. First, the push button at Dollar General to cross Main Street. The button is set in too far from sidewalk and she there fore cannot reach it in her wheelchair. A fix would be to fill in the triangle with concrete. Second is the crossing at Eno and Commercial Lane which needs curb cuts to make handicap accessible. She also would like to see the town get an ADA Coordinator to handle complaints and problems like these.

David Bronsburg, 565 W Main Street, Plymouth – Speaks to the problem with the dogs. He suggests fixing broken fences to keep dogs in the yards.

Heather Perkowski, 134 Center Ave, Plymouth – garbage- GFL hostile to her.

Karen Laskowski, 23 Turner St, Plymouth – Said that the pet store was a tragedy and preventable. Something should have been done sooner and something should be put in place so it never happens again.

AGENDA VOTING:

Motion made to open the bids received before 2:00PM May 9, 2023, for the Beade Street Flood Gate project. Mr. Tim Holden from PennEastern Engineers was on hand to open the bid packs.

Motion to further move to table the bids to review by the Engineer.

*On the question: As the river rises, some basements of homes on Beade St take on water. This gate would help to elevate this problem.

MOTION: Ms. Alexis Eroh
2ND: Mr. Adam Morehart
Passed: 6 Yes
Absent: Mr. Ron Kobusky

1. Bid received from: James T OHara, 205 Old School House Road, Covington Twp., PA. 18444;
Bid amount: \$450,025.00 - bid bond included
2. Bid received from: Linde, 118 Armstrong Rd., Pittston, PA. 18640
Bid amount: \$455,995.00 - bid bond included

Motion made to approve Ordinance 5 of 2023: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ARTICLE II, SECTION 2 EXCEPTIONS OF ORDINANCE 3-2023 ON THE PARKING OF LARGE VEHICLES, MOTOR HOMES, TRAILERS AND OTHER TYPE VEHICLES.

*On the question: The original Ordinance 3 of 2023 in an oversight by council, failed to address the special needs of handicap. That was never their intention, so chose to amend it.

ORDINANCE 5 OF 2023

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Borough that the aforesaid Ordinance may preclude the parking of vans, minivans, or automobiles modified to accommodate handicapped individuals;

WHEREAS, it was not the Borough's intent to do so and in order to clarify the matter adopts the amendment herein after set forth below;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved and ordained by the Plymouth Borough Council in order to clarify that it has no intent to prohibit vans, minivans, or automobiles modified to accommodate the handicapped from parking on the streets of the Borough, it hereby amends Ordinance No. 3 of 2023, Article II, 2, Exceptions as follows:

ARTICLE II

1. EXCEPTIONS

- a. Emergency Vehicles as defined by 75 Pa. C.S.A . §102.
- b. Motor Vehicles, Large Vehicles, Recreation Vehicles, Trailers, and Trucks owned or leased by Plymouth Borough.
- c. Motor Vehicles, operated by the United States Postal Service.
- d. Motor Vehicles actively engaged in the construction or repair of streets, curbs, sidewalks or utilities.

- e. Vans, minivans, or automobiles modified for handicapped use, so long as they have affixed to it a valid handicapped license plate or valid handicapped sticker/placard displayed on the mirror of the front side window of the vehicle in question.

The provisions of this ordinance as far as they are the same as those ordinances in force immediately prior to the adoption of this ordinance are intended to be cumulative and a continuation of such ordinance and not as a new enactment.

In all other respects, except for this amendment Ordinance No. 3 – 2023 will remain in full force and effect as previously written and adopted.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

MOTION: Ms. Alexis Eroh
2ND: Mr. John Thomas
Passed: 6 Yes
Absent: Mr. Ron Kobusky

Motion made to approve and act on RESOLUTION 2 of 2023- A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM OF PAUL REESE TO PLANNING AGENCY.

RESOLUTION 2 of 2023

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has adopted Ordinance No. 1 of 2020 creating a Planning Agency to advise council on the items specified therein, consisting of five (5) members;

WHEREAS, Council expanded that membership to seven members (six residents of the Borough and one council member) by amending Section 2 of Ordinance No. 1 of 2020 by adopting Ordinance No. 4 of 2020;

WHEREAS, Section 2 authorizes the Council to appoint the members of the Planning Agency by Resolution;

WHEREAS, due to the resignation of member Paul Reese whose term expires on December 31, 2026, there is a vacancy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Borough Council of Plymouth, that the Borough hereby approves and appoints, as per Ordinance No. 4 of 2020, to the Planning Agency the following: Borough Resident Ted Reese, who is appointed to immediately fill the unexpired term of Paul Reese which will expire on December 31, 2026.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas
2ND: Mr. Earl Cunningham
Passed: 6 Yes
Absent: Mr. Ron Kobusky

Motion made to approve regular council meeting minutes: April 11, 2023

MOTION: Ms. Alexis Eroh
2ND: Mr. Earl Cunningham

Passed: 6 Yes
Absent: Mr. Ron Kobusky

Motion made to appoint Bryan Vasquez part time help for seasonal summer help at \$10.50 per hour for the DPW as an at will employee and shall receive no benefits of any type, including but not limited to; sick time, vacation time, holiday pay or health insurance coverage. Appointment shall start immediately.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas
2ND: Mr. Earl Cunningham
Passed: 6 Yes
Absent: Mr. Ron Kobusky

Motion made to pay Witmer Public Safety Group invoice in the amount of \$1,909.00 for a deck mount spray gun for engine #1 that was damaged in and incident with the garage bay door.
*On the question: there was an incident where the garage door came down on the engine while it was still not clear of the door, and damaged the spray gun, and the bay door. The insurance will cover it, but the borough has a \$1,000.00 dollar deductible.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas
2ND: Mr. Thomas Hogan
Passed: 6 Yes
Absent: Mr. Ron Kobusky

Motion made to approve the SPCA contract for 2023:
*On the question: Council will discuss the contract to come up with the best option to serve the borough in the most cost-effective way.

Council has agreed to sign a 5-year contract with the SPCA starting in 2023. They have chosen to go with Option A, which is pay per animal, making a one-time annual payment in April for current year. They have chosen to limit the animal intake to 30 animals per year.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham
2ND: Mr. John Thomas
Passed: 6 Yes
Absent: Mr. Ron Kobusky

Motion made to accept the April Fire and Police reports:

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham
2ND: Mr. Adam Morehart
Passed: 6 Yes
Absent: Mr. Ron Kobusky

Motion made to pay the monthly bills:

GENERAL FUND:	23-298GF – 23-377F
LIQUID FUELS:	23-059LF – 23-076LF

RECREATION FUND:

23-012RF - 23-017RF

MOTION: Mr. Adam Morehart

2ND: Ms. Alexis Eroh

Passed: 6 Yes

Absent: Mr. Ron Kobusky

*On the question: Mr. Thomas votes yes for all bills except his supplemental insurance which he has a personal interest.

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:48pm by Mr. Earl Cunningham

Respectfully submitted by:



Gail Burdulis, Borough Secretary

Approved at regular meeting July 6, 2023