

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING-NOVEMBER 14, 2023 at 6:00PM

WORK SESSION:

Mr. Earl Cunningham – Thanked all who helped with the Rotary Club Christmas Lighting. He added that on 12/7/23 Santa Claus will be coming to town.

Mr. Thomas Hogan – As mentioned in a previous meeting there is a Luzerne County business grant becoming available. Information on that grant should be available in the next 2 weeks. Will get it posted on the website when it comes out. He thanked all who assisted with the Rotary Christmas Lighting project. There was a small issue and there are still 15-20 more decorations that need to go up.

Mr. Kobusky – Asked if the lights will be lit on Thanksgiving and every night until Russian Christmas.

Mr. Hogan – Verified that was correct.

Mr. Adam Morehart – Said he is still waiting to hear back from No Nonsense Neutering for information on cost so we can budget for that particular project. Noticed that the payment for the Coal Street project was on the agenda for tonight. He needs to look at that a bit more. He believes there is another step that needs to be taken.

Mr. Kobusky – A bill was received last month and then another this month. Hopeful that the county will be paying those bills directly. There is going to be a significant number of invoices coming in which means we may not have the funds to pay them. The county has our money so he hopes they will take care of those invoices directly.

Ms. Alexis Eroh – The Statewide LSA grant is on the agenda as a motion for sponsorship for the Susquehanna Warrior Trail. It was approved prior to this meeting as Luzerne County LSA. They are now going statewide. They are hoping to get a portion from the county and a portion from the state. If they get it, it will be beneficial to Plymouth. Mr. Kobusky – Questioned if the filing fee of \$100.00 was paid by the borough. Ms. Eroh - No, they have our FEIN number and process it directly. Mr. Kobusky – Explained further that we apply for the local share of the LSA but the county applies for both. Ms. Eroh – Last year the amount was one million dollars. Thanked Plymouth Neighborhood Watch for a successful Trunk or Treat. The Plymouth Planning Commission coat drive is still going on until the first week of December. Mr. Morehart –Added that he may have a source for a number of coats, will advise. Ms. Eroh – The Plymouth Shawnee Indians will be having a Pancakes with Santa fundraiser on December 12, 2023 from 8:00 to 12:00 at the American Legion on Center Ave. Mr. Thomas – Don't forget that Rudolf will be there. Wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. William Dixon – Wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. The last day for yard waste pick up will be December the 4th 2023. Mr. Dixon introduced Sage Baralotin who is a 14-year-old student from Wyoming Valley West HS. Sage is learning about how local government works for a civics class. Welcome Sage.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – Bill for the generator is up for payment tonight. Provided update on the generator installation. The actual generator should be here the 1st week of January 2024. We will keep the boilers going via portable generators so there are no pipes freezing.

The paving project is completed except for a couple of sidewalk issues on Gaylord Ave.

Mr. Kobusky and Mr. Cunningham attended a conference in Erie and came back with some good information.

The Right to Know laws are changing. Cities and municipalities are being bombarded with these requests along with requests for years and years of documents. There is a lot of information being requested, and it is bogging down the system. This makes it more difficult to meet the 10-day response deadline.

There needs to be a discussion regarding Cybersecurity with the council. There is cybersecurity insurance that can be purchased to protect our information. We employ full-time employees and their personal information as well as Social Security numbers need to be kept private and safe as well as other critical information. We do not want to be hacked held for ransom which we cannot afford, the insurance will take care of that if it were to happen.

There was discussion about social media. He has a card from an attorney who specializes in social media and elected officials. Elected officials should not mix their private with borough business on their social media pages. The government can come in and take your device or devices and keep them until they have removed the official information. They suggest that you use 2 separate devices. There is a webinar that we, as council, should take an hour or so to watch.

There is a group here tonight along with Bobby Phelps who are looking to bring baseball back to town. They are members of the Shawnee Indians and would like to use the little league field for boys and girls. They are in the early phase of planning and getting the organization started. Spoke to most on council and tonight I would like to give keys to the gate and the buildings to Bob Phelps. There is some work to be done up there, it has been a number of years since anyone has done anything. So, if no one on council has a problem with that I would like to do that tonight.

Mr. Dixon – Voiced that he did have a problem with that. Until it is official someone can let them in if there is work to be done. We can open the gates and buildings.

Mr. Kobusky – When you say “we” there is a lot of this stuff that will be done after hours when the street dept will not be around. At night and weekends. We have to make sure someone is around to let them in.

Mr. Dixon – Did not believe the keys should be given until the paperwork is done and it is official.

Mr. Kobusky – Why? All they are going to be doing is cleaning up, why hold them back? The paperwork won't be completed for a while.

Mr. Dixon – We aren't.

Mr. Kobusky – They are just going to be cleaning up. I don't see a problem, in fact, I welcome it, the field is just sitting there.

Mr. Dixon – I don't want to sound like that. Bobby knows me. Just talking about protocol. They can call me, and I will go up.

Discussion around when baseball started in town with audience.

Mr. Kobusky – Look Mr. Dixon if you don't want to do this that's fine

I will make sure you can get in, give me 24 hours' notice. The deal is if we open you are responsible to close it up. Anyone else have a problem? No response. As we go along, we will speak to the solicitor and set up an agreement, a lease or whatever we need. You'll have to have insurance for the team members. You're a member of the football group so you know it better Bobby. (Phelps)

The regular meeting was called to order immediately following the work session.

The “Pledge of Allegiance” was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

The roll was called and all council members were present.

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

There were no requests or comments regarding the agenda items.

Requests and comments regarding general items:

Linda Johnston, of Church St wanted to thank the police for closing the street for the Halloween parade. She also thanked Earl Cunningham for wearing his fire dog costume to the trunk or treat, all three fire departments for all they did to help make it a success. There were about 600 children that came through for the trunk of treat this year! Thank you to everyone else who helped and all who participated.

Neighborhood Watch Breakfast with Santa will be December 2, 2023 at the American Legion at 8AM. Fire Engine #2 will bring Santa to the breakfast.

AGENDA VOTING:

*MOTION needed to amend tonight's agenda to include approval to pay invoice#22-092-06 a PennEastern invoice for \$9,035.00 for inspections of the downtown pave project.

Motion: Mr. Morehart

2ND: Ms. Eroh

Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to pay PennEastern invoice for \$9,035.00 for inspections of the downtown pave project.

Motion: Mr. Dixon

2nd: Mr. Morehart

Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to approve Resolution 8 of 2023 for submission of a Statewide LSA Grant for Susquehanna Warrior Trail to extend the Susquehanna Warrior 1.4 miles from the Levee to Avondale Mine Site.

Motion: Ms. Eroh

2nd: Mr. Thomas

Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes for September 12, 2023.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

2nd: Mr. Dixon

Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to approve the 2024 maintenance agreement with Verdin Clocks & Bells for the Main Street clock in the amount of \$720.00.

Motion: Mr. Dixon

2ND: Ms. Eroh

Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to approve payment of \$1,800.00 to Stu Krasavage Concrete Construction for back fill and paving due to road settlement on Ackley Street.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

2nd: Mr. Thomas

Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to approve payment of \$8,750.00 to Stu Krasavage Concrete Construction for repair to a collapsed sewer main on Coal Street by Mill Street.

*On the question: Mr. Dixon said when the road was open, they found that the main was broken and connection around the pipe. It was quite a project...big collapse. They also added a cleanout.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

2nd: Mr. Morehart

Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to approve payment of \$15,395.00 to Ed Krasavage Construction for laying of 70ft of clay pipe and connections to repair a sewer issue on Coal Street.

Motion: Mr. Thomas

2nd: Mr. Cunningham

Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to approve payment to North End Electric \$38,700.00 for work completed so far on the generator replacement project.

*On the question: Mr. Kobusky said that Plymouth Borough would be using the ARPA government funds to pay this invoice.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

2ND: Ms. Eroh

Passed 7 yes votes

Motion to approve payment to PennEastern Engineers \$3,160.00 for engineering design services for the Coal Creek Wall Replacement Project.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

2nd: Mr. Dixon

Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to approve payment of \$8,297.50 to PennEastern Engineers for engineering inspections for the CBGD Street Paving Project.

Motion: Mr. Dixon
2ND: Ms. Eroh
Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to approve and accept the October Police and Fire reports.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham
2nd: Mr. Thomas
Passed 7 yes votes

Motion made to pay the monthly bills:

General Fund:	23-762GF – 23-868GF
Liquid Fuels:	23-143LF – 23-159LF
Recreation Fund:	23-036RF – 23-039RF

Motion: Mr. Morehart
2nd: Mr. Cunningham
Passed 7 yes votes

*On the question: Mr. Thomas votes yes to pay all bills except for 23-828GF which is his insurance reimbursement because he has a contractual interest.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cunningham

Respectfully submitted:



Gail Burdulis,

Plymouth Borough Secretary

Approved December 12, 2023