

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING-OCTOBER 10, 2023 at 6:00PM

WORK SESSION:

Mr. Earl Cunningham – Attended a convention at Hershey in June. It was the PA State Association of Boroughs convention. They spoke about a Jr. Council Program that allows students to get involved with local councils. They can see how local government is run. He would like to go to Wyoming Valley West to see if there would be any interest.

Mr. Kobusky – The school has a similar program for Jr. Board members. It works out well. His nephew participated in the program and so has heard about it. They do not get a vote but they can comment. Please follow up on this.

Mr. Coughlin – Please speak with Mike as a similar program was looked into a couple years back for kids to be Mayor for the day. There were some issues so please talk to Mike about this.

Mr. Cunningham – will discuss it with Mike.

Mr. Adam Morehart – Hometown Heroes project has ended for the season. There were 23 new banners. There are 20-24 banners on their way for this year. If there are questions or concerns regarding the banners, there is a Facebook page.

He had a budget concern regarding No Nonsense Neutering as they are no longer using vouchers. He will reach out to them to figure out a new procedure and will advise the council so it can be added to the budget. Hopefully I will have the information in time.

Mr. Kobusky – The budget should be ready by the end of the month but must be hung up for review. In the meantime, it can be amended.

Mr. Morehart – It should not be a large cost. They did away with vouchers.

There is a resolution on the agenda that will allow us to apply for Pa act 13 Mitigation funds. We weren't successful last year. We came up with a new operation we want to discuss and will apply for this again this year. Several years ago, Plymouth was involved in planning flood mitigation as part of a requirement, but we never really jumped into it. We never lost anything because of that but we would benefit from applying for these funds. He will discuss further with council and Mike so we can send a letter of intent which is due by October 30th.

Mr. Kobusky – As Mr. Morehart mentioned in our conversation, this resolution will open some doors for us to apply for funds from other areas in the state. We can use it to dredge some run off creeks and impounding dams that have accumulated sediments and that makes the state nervous. The town would benefit from this money.

Mr. Dixon – Added that we should include how our impounding dams are built. We are surrounded by 2 other municipalities and there are 24 outfalls into the river. This would give us some teeth when applying.

Mr. Morehart – He and Mr. Dixon have talked about this and will talk more when applying for the grant.

Mr. Thomas – The last time they were dredged was 2011-2012.

Mr. Kobusky – It was after the double hurricane. They measure and he was not exactly sure how

they do it, but they tell us how much to dredge and take out. It is truckload after truckload and very expensive.

Mr. Thomas - At that time we did Browns Creek, Wadham Creek and Duffy's Run.

Ms. Alexis Eroh - The LSA grant for the new roof on the library roof was due on September 30th. It has been submitted in the amount of \$177,800.00 she believed.

The Planning Commission will be doing the kids coat drive again this year. The new and gently used coats can be dropped here in the lobby. This is the project sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. It will run until probably 1st week of December.

Mr. John Thomas - No report at this time.

Mr. William Dixon - There will be a shredding event on October 14th from 9 to 12 noon. Residents must show ID. There is a 3-box limit per resident.

Mr. Kobusky - There are limitations on the size of box, correct?

Mr. Dixon - Determined that it would be like a copy paper size box. He went over the list of items that would not be accepted. Check our website for more information. The weather does not look good for the day. Any changes will be posted on the website.

Mr. Kobusky - If there are any weather-related changes it will be posted on the website on Saturday.

Mr. Dixon - Thanked the Wyoming Valley Sanitation Authority for their cooperation. They service 33 plus municipalities and do the same for them as they do for us. They fixed 3 drains on 22 E. Shawnee Ave., 141 W. Shawnee Ave., and a double drain at the intersection at Rowe Lane. They flush our storm drain systems and our sewer system and are always available for emergencies. Just wanted to give them a shout-out.

We will try to schedule street sweeping for fall, will give more information when it is available.

The last day for yard waste pick up is 12/4.

On a personal note, Bill congratulated the mayor on the fantastic police department that we have at this time. It is the best he has seen in his 50 years of residency.

Mr. Coughlin - On behalf of the police thank you. It is a group effort. It is possible because of council and good leadership in the police department as well.

Mr. Kobusky - asked that Bill please advise on the incident on Nottingham.

Mr. Dixon - On Friday night we had a lot of rain, and it washed the milling from the top down Nottingham St. We had to haul away about 40 ton. He reached out to Mr. Kobusky, Mr.

Cunningham, the engineer and the contractor, Donnie Bower. We had some milling stored luckily so that helped because there were divots on the sides of the road. He thanked Mr. Kobusky and Mr. Cunningham for their assistance.

Mr. Kobusky - This affected people who had ruts about 18 inches deep 12 to 14 inches wide in front of their driveways. The residents were very patient. Luckily it was a Saturday. It was repaired and today it got its binder coat on and may get paved in the next couple days, weather dependent.

Mr. Dixon - yes, if there are no issues it will be paved soon.

Mr. Ron Kobusky - There was an issue on Ackley St. Where there was an opening in the street. We hired an excavator and dug out underneath. There was a void under the street. It was about 2-3 ft

deep and about 14x14 wide. We were in contact with the Dept of Mining who, through their maps, advised that there were no mines in that spot. We opened it all up and repaired it. There is stone over it now, but it will be permanently sealed before winter.

Engine #2 is out of service, temporarily. It went in for annual inspection and it needs rear brakes, rotors and 2 drums. They are waiting for parts and as soon as the work is done, and it is inspected it will be back in service.

Good news on the library roof, we will be paying the bill tonight. All of the roof seals were resealed with a new type of sealant that is supposed to be the best one on the market. We had all that rain on Saturday and there are no new spots or leaks. He is confident it will hold until next year when we can look at replacing the roof. Don Rittenhouse completed the work.

He reminded the council that he and Mr. Cunningham will be going to a conference in Erie this weekend.

Mayor Frank Coughlin – Commended the paving company stating he thought they did the best job. He and Mr. Kobusky agreed it was a good job throughout town.

The police department is very busy. There were 393 police calls in September. We have 3 cadets going to the academy.

Robert Lehman will be hired tonight. He brings many years of experience to the force and will be an asset to the department.

He attended a meeting of the mayors at Wilkes Barre mayor Brown's office recently. One of the ideas that came out of the meeting was called Safety Stick. Wilkes Barre is trying it now. They are 100% maintenance free. The company installs and maintains them. For very \$25.00 ticket issued the company gets \$3.00. They are solar powered, and it takes a picture of the car, the plate and the area where it was issued. It records the time the car parked and the time it left, it prints and mails the ticket. There are about 6 in Wilkes-Barre now. Since they have had them, their fines have really gone up. He would like to discuss this further will council and pursue it. He is waiting for more information.

Mr. Kobusky – Sounds like a great idea. Please look into it.

Mr. Coughlin – Vandalism is expected but they pay for it. They have insurance for this. Asked for approval to look into it.

Ms. Eroh – Are there local reps?

Mr. Coughlin – Every mayor asked for more information. He did not have a wedding report but thinks there was only one for this period. He will add it to the next report.

Mr. Dixon – Thinks Thursday they are going to start putting in the crosswalks. They will go in at Ferry St., Girard Ave, Gaylord Ave. and up at Nottingham at the intersection.

Mr. Kobusky – They are also going to do the turning lanes at the bottom of Gaylord and have the sensor replaced. Discuss the sensor issue. The one lane at Gaylord was shown as parking on the map that was used. His understanding is that the road was cut but only one lane had a sensor. That is why the other lane sensor was not working. They were using old maps, but it will be repaired. He explained the reasons behind the issue.

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 council members present were:

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

Absent and excused: Mr. Thomas Hogan

There were no citizens' requests or comments regarding agenda items.

Citizens' requests and comments regarding general items:

Charles Lewis, Main St thanked the mayor for his work and dedication in getting the ghost poles problem in town corrected.

Mayor Coughlin added that our state reps also helped so should get credit too.

Mr. Lewis suggested that maybe a description of what an actual police call entail. Many people do not have any idea of what happens after the cuffs are put on.

The mayor thought it to be a good idea and said he would look into it.

Resident – She stated she was a runner and suggested that more garbage cans be added to Main St. She also suggested places where they might be put.

Ms. Eroh said a grant was received and council and the planning are looking into putting more receptacles on Main St.

Mr. Coughlin – There used to be cans but they were damaged.

AGENDA VOTING:

Motion made to approve Resolution 7 of 2023: RESOLUTION 7: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS.

Motion: Mr. Morehart

2nd: Mr. Cunningham

Passed 6 yes votes 1 absent & excused

Motion made to hire and appoint Robert Leman as a part-time police officer at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. The officer shall not be entitled to 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. This appointment shall be effective immediately.

Motion: Mr. Thomas

2nd: Mr. Dixon

Passed 6 yes votes 1 absent & excused

Brief pause in the agenda voting to allow time for the mayor to swear in Robert Lehman as a part-time officer with Plymouth Borough.

Motion made to accept the meeting minutes from council meetings:

Regular meeting: August 8, 2023 Special meetings: August 22, 2023 and September 26, 2023:

Motion: Mr. Dixon

2nd: Ms. Eroh

Passed 6 yes votes 1 absent & excused

Motion made to submit to Luzerne County for payments to Don E Bower Paving for the ongoing Downtown Paving Project.

*On the question: Council voted to pay all bills except the last one. They will pay the last bill when the complete job has been finished and the engineer has inspected and gave the ok.

Motion: Ms. Eroh

2nd: Mr. Thomas

Passed 6 yes votes 1 absent & excused

Motion made to submit for payment a PennEastern Engineers invoice in the amount of \$17,390.00 for engineering plans for the Coal Creek Wall Replacement Project.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

2nd: Mr. Morehart

Passed 6 yes votes 1 absent & excused

Motion made to approve THE 2024 Financial Management contract with Freedom Systems in the amount of \$2,708.

Motion: Mr. Dixon

2nd: Mr. Morehart

Passed 6 yes votes 1 absent & excused

Motion made to approve payment of \$2,397.00 to Rittenhouse Brothers Construction for repairs made to the roof of the library.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

2nd: Mr. Thomas

Passed 6 yes votes 1 absent & excused

Motion made to pay \$2,765.00 to PennEastern Engineers for the compilation of the bid packs for the RT11 Inlets & Manhole project.

Motion: Mr. Morehart

2nd: Mr. Cunningham

Passed 6 yes votes 1 absent & excused

Motion to approve 2024 renewal of contract with CivicPlus for website mitigation in the amount of \$2,827.80.

Motion: Mr. Dixon

2nd: Ms. Eroh

Passed 6 yes votes 1 absent & excused

Motion to pay the monthly bills:

GENERAL FUND: 23-703GF – 23-761GF

LIQUID FUELS: 23-131LF – 23-142LF

RECREATION FUND: 23-033RF – 23-035RF

Motion: Mr. Morehart

2nd: Ms. Eroh

Passed 6 yes votes 1 absent & excused

*On the question: Mr. Thomas votes yes to pay all bills except for 23-754GF 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