

## PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING-OCTOBER 13, 2020

The Plymouth borough work session began at 6:00pm and the Regular meeting was called to order immediately following the work session by: Mr. William Dixon, Council Vice-President.

#### WORK SESSION:

Mr. William Dixon opened the work session by asking if anyone had any questions or comments before proceeding to the agenda.

Mr. Alec Ryncavage – Plymouth will be hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual electronics recycling day on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 12 pm. at the WVV parking lot Main Street/Wadham Street. Each resident, not household, will be allowed 1 television set, flat screen etc. not the large tube style. There will be no limit, on the number of small appliances, ie: DVRs, etc. There is a list available in the lobby of acceptable items. Alec gave instruction on how the event will be handled. He stated that for the first one he is not expecting a large turnout.

Mr. Bill Dixon – there will be a police department and street department presence. Alec, Bill and John will be present to check Id's as this is an event open only Plymouth residents.

Mr. Alec Ryncavage – RE: electronics recycling: allowing Plymouth businesses to participate as well.

Working with Lori B and other departments, road crew, police stations and admin office/code enforcement on the Covid Cares grant. He applied for \$90999.71. There are 4 large dollar items that he submitted to the county that are still being reviewed by the County and he hopes to hear back by end of week. All departments are accounted for within the grant – at about roughly \$80,000 so far and hopefully can get the rest approved.

Mr. Earl Cunningham- Thanked the EMS, Fire Depts and Police depts for all of their help with the tragedy 2 weeks ago

Mr Adam Morehart – The Safety Committee met this month – not many changes. Discussed the boat launch area, Beade St. Will go down and take a look around for signage, lighting and things that can be done to improve safety in that area. Thanked the EMS, police dept and fire depts with their help at the tragedy at the river that occurred 2 weeks ago. Also finalized the by-laws. Council will get a copy of them once typed up. – still looking into the Hometown Heroes banners. This would be tremendous for our town and a permanent way to honor servicemen and women. Will keep everyone updated.

Mr Bill Dixon – re: Hometown Heroes, reminded Mr Morehart that any plan(s) for the banners must go thru the street dept/traffic committee. Secondly, to remember that Plymouth Alive puts the Kielbasifest banners up every year.

Mr. Adam Morehart – agreed and understood what is involved

Ms. Alexis Eroh – Update on the 2020 Census: our numbers are up and because of Covid the deadline has been extended to October 31, 2020 which will be the last official day. We are at 56.9%, Luz County, is at 65.7% and PA is at 69.4%. Not where we need to be but getting there. If you do not have computer access, the Library will allow you access and assistance if needed.

Planning Commission – had 2 meetings – 9/23 meeting minutes are available and by-laws are completed. Gave both to Gail to keep as a part of the public record.

Meeting also elected officers – Charles Steinhauer as Chairman, Barbara Harvey as Vice Chair and Alexis Eroh as Secretary. Meeting has full participation and now have a better understanding of the mission and vision; ideas can be presented to council. Next meetings are 11/4 at 6 p.m., 12/2 at 6 p.m. at the Borough Bldg. Public is welcome and encouraged.

Mr. Alec Ryncavage -supposed to hear from PDC this week or next.

Ms. Alexis Eroh – had conversation with DCED which gave a better idea of what the focus of DCED which is citizen input and businesses vs the Planning Commission solely focusing on what the Boro can do to make improvements.

Mr. Alec Ryncavage – questioned if his timeline mentioned previously was correct?

Ms. Alexis Eroh – Yes, it is correct, definitely need follow up.

Mr. John Thomas – Thanked Mr Ryncavage on the fine job of applying for the CovidCare grant. Thanked Jerry Lech and the Lech family for the donation of Mums and Plymouth Alive for planting them

Mr Bill Dixon – we received a final warning regarding foreign objects mixed in with paper and cardboard. Apologized to those that follow the rules and stated that it is the few who do not that can ruin it. If Wilkes Barre tells us we are done then residents will be responsible for taking their own recycling to Mascaros. We have tried all we can to monitor. We have had DPW workers at the truck but sometimes they are taken away for another duty. It can be gone through and restacked but that takes time. Beware, this is a good thing for our town.

Clarified misconception: the sewer laterals are the responsibility of the homeowner. The Borough is only responsible for the main line. Some have already experienced this problem. If Roto Rooter is called, they will advise that is the Borough's responsibility. If you have aged laterals you are encouraged to get some kind of insurance policy for them. We do not have a sewer authority like many surrounding towns. It was approached once but the residents did not want it. Other towns charge taxes to cover but we cannot spend taxpayer money for lateral repairs.

Commended the street dept for going over and above. Treat them kindly. Introduced Shawne Jumper to the staff and commended Gail for taking over the Secretary position. Stated that she has gone through 2 secretaries while still training herself. Be patient with the staff in their new transition.

Mr. Frank Coughlin – Reminders regarding Covid: people are becoming relaxed. Repeated the rules and regs, please follow them. Was disgusted with a story he heard on the news regarding people getting shot. It is illegal to discharge firearms in town If you do, you will be dealt with. Halloween is coming up and urged everyone to be careful. At this time there are no restrictions in town. Accompany children and be careful driving thru town.

Plymouth is losing a part time police officer, Holly Stull. Holly did a great job but has accepted a fulltime position in Jackson Twp. There is a shortage of police, trying to find PT police. We do not currently have the funds for a FT officer.

The bill for \$3101.63 (motion 4) is the bill for outlets for the Christmas lights in town. Thanks to Mr. Dixon, Mr. Kovach and Mr. Thomas 100 outlets have been put up on the poles and upstairs. They have been working with the Rotary on the Christmas lights. Dave and Bill went thru town and he has a list and information on the project.

There are a couple of Rotarians in the audience:

Mr John Karavis from the Rotary stated that they are trying to refurbish as many lights as they can. Refurbishing is, of course, cheaper than purchasing new ones at a cost of about \$500.00. There has been some delay due to the COVID pandemic. They are trying to hit the 100 mark but will try to do as many as possible.

Mr. Frank Coughlin – continued to speak of the benefit of the lights to the town. If anyone would like to volunteer to help the Rotary, I am sure they would appreciate it.

Mr. John Karavis – Thanked all for the financial support.

Mr. John Thomas – When the repairs are done, they can be brought to the Borough garage and they will be hung.

Mr. John Karavis – discussed the area above the Press Box.

Mr. Frank Coughlin – discussed the spacing of the lights. Might have to space them better

Mr. John Thomas – decided to do every other pole

Mr. John Karavis – Better to have a few lights through town concentrate on Bull Run to Carolina, unsure about Santa coming to town, mindful of the restrictions and how it would be handled. Want to do something just not sure what.

Mr. Frank Coughlin - If anyone would like to volunteer to help the Rotary. I am sure they would appreciate it. The mums that Plymouth Alive planted look great. Got the results from the liquid fuels audit for the period 1/1/18 to 12/31/19. All of the results were good. We were previously cited for some deficiency which have since been worked on and corrected. The Dept of Auditors complemented Gail on the work she did to get it done. Thank you, Gail for working so diligently to get it done.

Was recently approached about performing wedding ceremonies and has decided to do it. Will forward a letter to Council to advise as per Borough code. Asked that if anyone is interested to please contact the Borough offices to set up.

Mr. John Thomas – Is this a free service or is there a charge?

Mr. Frank Coughlin – It will all depend on the situation.

In March of 2019 Council kicked around what we needed to do to get the revitalization going in the town. Asked former secretary Holly Spece to reach out to developers. They came to town to take a look around for a lot. Had a few meetings with them and then had to approach the Hudaceks to purchase the lot. Without the Hudacek property it could not be done. John, myself, with the help of Mr Joe Mazur (WVW) met with Mr. Hudacek and they finally conceded and sold the lot. But there were still issues. Dollar General made many demands including wanting the mineral rights and there were deed issues. Thanked Atty. Kostelansky for the many hours of work that he put into getting the deal done. People complained saying we lost the property but as you can see now, that is not the case. Hoping for end of year opening. Thanked, John, Holly, Mike and Council for getting it off the ground and for the support of the project.

Council needs to get something done with the garbage from High St and up. It is terrible, looks terrible and is not what someone wants to see when coming into our town. It needs to be addressed. Ordinance says not to put garbage out before the end of the day before the day of pick up. We are trying to work on revitalization and this mess is what people see.

Last month ran into a gentleman who told me that he heard we lost the money for the Beverly Drive project. He would not say who told him but I told him that if he wanted to know what is going on around the town to come to a council meeting. Last month we voted to put the project out for bid. If you need something, have a question come to us, we will answer or find out the answer if we cannot.

Mr. Bill Dixon – Introduced Laura Keller, the new Plymouth Public Library, Library Director.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Alexis Eroh

Mr. Earl Cunningham

Mr. John Thomas

Mr. Adam Morehart  
Mr. William Dixon, Vice-President  
Mr. Alec Ryncavage  
Mr. Ronald Kobusky, Excused

CITIZEN'S COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS: None

CITIZEN'S REQUESTS AND COMMENTS REGARDING GENERAL ITEMS:

Mary Jarrett – spoke up about all of the loose dogs, especially pit bulls and people are afraid. Some take to the SPCA and they say we do not participate in their program- Averaging 1 dog per day

Discussion – we do pay a fee and do participate in the program. We pay \$500.00/yr.

Mary Jarrett – spoke with the SPCA yesterday and they have a lot of PT people who do not know all the ins and outs. Last week there were 9 dogs. Getting to the point where we know their names. They don't have licenses. She is home all day and can take them but is there a letter or something?

\*This conversation was difficult to hear.

Sgt. Michael Thomas – the police contact the game warden, Jim Spencer

Mary Jarrett – Jim Spencer handles 4 counties and is only in Luzerne County 1 day. There are so many dogs and you don't really know which are dangerous. Is there any way a fenced in area could be put behind the Borough building for overnight?

Mr. Bill Dixon – No, there is not.

Mr. Alec Ryncavage – Nonetheless, perhaps Gail could send a letter to the SPCA to put a note in their file that we do have an agreement with them? They can file it and refer to it.

Mr. Adam Morehart – Has a longstanding relationship with the SPCA because of his profession. He can talk to Todd Hevner about some possible solutions. He can educate his part time staff in regard to the agreement.

Mr. Bill Dixon – clarify that Mary Jarrett said can a fence be put up?

Ms. Alexis Eroh – verified that is what she said. A kennel behind the Borough building.

Mr. Adam Morehart – Will look into solutions and report back with any information. If decided that a kennel is a possibility that he could probably assist with that.

Mr. Frank Coughlin – asked Adam to follow up. There is supposed to be an arrangement for after hour pick up. Payment per capita perhaps? Animal is dropped off and the Borough gets charged.

Mary Jarrett – Stated SPCA is \$100.00 per animal

Mr. Frank Coughlin – Will have the contract reviewed and verified. Will look up the contract.

Mr. Adam Morehart – The problem is that there is a lack of volunteers. It was bad before but with the pandemic it has gotten worse. If you have the time, volunteer. Will check on information and report back

Mary Beth Rosensteel – used to volunteer at the SPCA. They will not accept an animal from a resident, only a police officer or Borough rep. Do our officers have time for that? Plains police used to have a key for after hour drop offs

Sgt. Michael Thomas – Plains stopped that procedure. Insurance was a problem as many of the officers were not trained on how to wrangle a dog. If the Plains Police were on a call or busy it could take a while – spoke about ordinance \*also hard to hear/understand

Mr. Adam Morehart – Jim Spencer is a great guy, good man. His plate is full and he is not a young man and is stretched pretty thin.

AGENDA VOTING:

MOTION WAS MADE TO INTRODUCE THE PROPOSED CODE CODIFICATION PREPARED BY GENERAL CODE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH PENNSYLVANIA, AS WELL AS THE ATTACHED PROPOSED CODE ADOPTION ORDINANCE AND SCHEDULE A (SPECIFIC REVISIONS AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION), WHICH WILL BE PLACED ON THE DECEMBER 8, 2020 MEETING AGENDA FOR APPROVAL BY COUNCIL.

MOTION: Mr. Adam Morehart

SECOND: Mr. John Thomas

PASSED: 6 YES

MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF HOLLY STULL FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A PART-TIME OFFICER.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas, with much regret

SECOND: Ms. Alec Ryncavage

PASSED: 6 YES

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,556.25 TO GENERAL CODE FOR THE BALANCE OF THE CONTRACT AND ONE YEAR E-CODE SUBSCRIPTION.

On the question: Mr. Alec Ryncavage – as a part of the \$12,000.00 website revamp grant, can the e codes be put on the website? They can be put on the website and a link can also be added to go to e-codes.

MOTION: Mr. Adam Morehart

SECOND: Ms. Alexis Eroh

PASSED: 6 YES

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,101.62 TO SCHAEGLER-YESCO FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES TO REPAIR THE OUTLETS USED FOR THE DOWNTOWN CRISTMEAS LIGHTS.

MOTION: Mr. John Thomas

SECOND: Mr. Earl Cunningham

PASSED: 6 YES

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,800.00 TO STU KRASAVAGE CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION FOR REPAIRS TO THE CATCH BASIN ON GIRARD AVENUE.

\*On the question: This is the catch basin out behind the church.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham

SECOND: Ms. Alexis Eroh

PASSED: 6 YES

MOTION MADE TO APPROVE PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,630.56 TO WILKES-BARRE SPRING AND ALIGNMENT FOR REPAIRS MADE TO #2 BRUSH TRUCK OF FIRE COMPANY NO. 2.

MOTION: Ms. Alexis Eroh

SECOND: Mr. Earl Cunningham

PASSED: 6 YES

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FIRE AND POLICE REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER.

MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham

SECOND: Mr. Alec Ryncavage

PASSED: 6 YES


MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE AND PAY THE MONTHLY BILLS:

\*On the question: John Thomas votes yes to pay all bills except bill #20-754GF which is the payment for health insurance for retired police, of which there is a contractual conflict of interest.

GENERAL FUND: 20-692GF - 20-761GF  
LIQUID FUELS: 20-362LF - 20-371LF  
RECREATION FUND: 20-045RF - 20-048RF  
MOTION: Mr. Earl Cunningham  
SECOND: Ms. Alexis Eroh  
PASSED: 6 YES

MOTION TO ADJORN MADE BY MR. EARL CUNNINGHAM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY;

  
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Gail Burdulis, Borough Secretary