

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

WORK SESSION:

Mr. Alec Ryncavage – The Plymouth Neighborhood Watch will be holding the annual yard sale October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Hydration for Heroes program has kicked off and Plymouth Neighborhood will collect supplies and funds, which will go into an account, to support first responders when they respond to situations. There will be a table in the library parking lot during the yard sale.

The Halloween parade is scheduled and will have details at October meeting.

Alec feels the grant funds awarded to the borough from SCI would be best used for a protected crosswalk on Main St. possibly by the Dan Flood Senior Living. He spoke with president of council and then to the borough engineer regarding a quote and design. The grant is for \$25,000.00 and must be used by the end of the year

Mr. Adam Morehart – said there are now 130 Hometown Heroes banners! Application cut off for this year is September 30, 2022. Applications will open in March of the following year. The banners that need to be moved will be done shortly. The bucket truck was out on loan and weather stalled the move.

He is in the final stages a grant to the Luzerne County Arbor for \$2.5 million for work on Coal Street.

Waiting for some validation letters from finance offices and then that can move forward.

We should hear about the Flood Litigation grant, \$500,00.00, on or after September 30, 2022.

Dispelled rumors in town that there is no follow-up by Council on these grants. The rumors are false. There have been many obstacles to get thru from Covid to restraints on supplies etc. He assured audience the work will be done in a timely manner. Condolences to the family of the young man whose life was lost last weekend.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – Commented on the grant obstacles. The federal government flooded billions of dollars into the economy for infrastructure. There are just not enough contractors to get all the work done. We have to wait our turn to get these bids out. The Main and Beade St. bids will go out at the end of October or early November. In October we will open bids for the generator in this building.

Mr. Earl Cunningham – Condolences to the family for their loss in the tragedy on the weekend.

Ms. Alexis Eroh – reported that the Planning Agency met on September 7, 2022. The website design is back from the designer for our review. Lori Bolesta is working on the content.

The Planning Agency will be voting in October on the Mary Atkinson Award. Applications are still open until October 1, 2022.

The agency is also working on updating ordinances in an effort to work on blight in the town, and asked Council's permission to discuss changes with Atty. Kostelansky.

On September 10, 2022 the Civil Service Commission met to certify results from the Civil Service testing.

Officer Jordan Pardini had exceptional scores and council will be voting tonight to hire.

Alexis finished by thanking all Borough personnel and the town for their support with the Kielbasa Festival.

Mr. John Thomas – Condolences to the family on the loss in the tragedy last weekend. The banners will be repositioned tomorrow.

Mr. William Dixon – Condolences to the family for their loss.

He spoke with the company going to install plates on the telephone poles, they will contact us if they require us to do anything.

Bill read communication from Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority regarding a free seminar on rain barrels

and rain barrel collection. The event will be held at Kirby Park on Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 12 pm. He explained the benefits of rain water collection and how rain barrels can help reduce the rain tax. On October 8, 2022 the County will hold a used tire collection at the Hanover Area HS. You must pre-register. There are flyers on the back table with details for this event. The borough will host a shred event is on October 8, 2022 from 9am to 12pm. Bill outlined some details for the event. There are also flyers with details on the back table for this event.

Mr. Ron Kobusky – The house on Powell St, was taken down by the Borough as it proposed a threat of collapse. It was deemed an emergency and the cost was \$2,500.00. This amount will be assessed to the owner of the property and she is aware that she has 30 days to clean up the debris. The drain on West Main Street near Driscoll Street was on a list to be replaced for the project that going out for bid, however, it failed earlier than expected. It will cost tens of thousands of dollars to replace it. The materials are about 6-8 weeks out. PennDot is aware of the situation as it needs immediate repair. Ron explained the size of the drain and where the water that goes into it comes from. Will be meeting with Senator John Blake who is the top aide to Congressman Cartwright to seek funds to aid in the repair. We can use general funds in the meantime and then redeposit the money from a grant that used. Federal money could take 6 months to 1 year to receive. The zero turn has been finally ordered and will be delivered in approximately 2-3 weeks. The bids for the generator in the municipal building will go out in October. Council will hold a special meeting will be held next week regarding a few grants the borough will be submitting. State grant applications have to be submitted by September 30, 2022. One of the grants is for Rails to Trails and the other two will be for the Borough.

Mayor Frank Coughlin – Condolences to the family on their loss last weekend. He commented on the fact that PennDot will pave, paint and plow Route 11 but the stormwater drains are the responsibility of the Borough. The State will assist but will not expand their resources to storm drains. Police report for August, 8-1 thru 8-31, 232 calls. Reminded everyone what work is involved in an arrest. Commended the police for their fine work during the Kielbasa Festival. Many people from out of town remarked on the police presence and the feeling of being safe while in town.

---

The Pledge of Allegiance” was recited and after a moment of silence the roll was called.

All council members were present: Earl Cunningham; Alec Ryncavage; Alexis Eroh; Adam Morehart; John Thomas; William Dixon & Ron Kobusky.

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

There were no citizens’ requests or comments regarding general items.

#### AGENDA VOTING:

A motion was made to adopt Ordinance 1 of 2022: An Ordinance, which if adopted will replace the current Stormwater Ordinance contained in Chapter 201 of the Code of Plymouth Borough. The purpose of adopting this Ordinance is to update the current Stormwater Management Ordinance as required by the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act (Act 167). This Ordinance regulates Stormwater Management standards, site plan requirements, fees and expenses, penalties and other matters.

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
Second: Ms. Eroh  
Vote: 7 Yes

A motion was made to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement dated August 2, 2022, between the Firefighters Local 840 which was negotiated between the parties for the contract year January 1, 2023 and ending on December 31, 2025. I further move to authorize President of Council, Ron Kobusky, Councilman John Thomas and Councilman Earl Cunningham to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Borough and have the Borough Secretary, Gail Burdulis to attest to the same and affix the Borough seal to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

\*On the question: Ron stated that the contract consisted of \$1.00 per hour raise per year (next 3 years); 2.5 days paid training per year; will appoint someone to keep a maintenance log of all vehicles.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

Second: Mr. Thomas

Vote: 7 Yes

A motion was made to approve the bargaining agreement between Wyoming Valley West School District (WVW) and Plymouth Borough for a School Resource Officer at the WVW High School effective January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2023. I further move to authorize President of Council, Ron Kobusky, to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Borough and have the Borough Secretary, Gail Burdulis to attest to the same and affix the Borough seal to the WVW Resource Officer Agreement.

\*On the question: WVW would pay around 83.3% of insurances and salary for the officer and that it is a 2-year contract.

Mayor Coughlin thanks all who worked so hard to get this contract finalized. He added that they are trying for a 2<sup>nd</sup> officer at the high school.

Motion: Mr. Thomas

Second: Mr. Dixon

Vote: 7 Yes

A motion was made to appoint Jordan Pardini as a full-time Probationary Plymouth Borough Police Officer under the following terms and conditions as herein stated: Said Officer is to serve a probationary period of one hundred eighty (180) days under such terms and conditions that may be prescribed by the Plymouth Borough Council. During the probationary period the police officer shall not be entitled to shall not 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. In addition, the employment status during the probationary period will be at will and not change unless appointed to a full-time police position. At the completion of the probationary period, the Plymouth Borough may at its discretion, appoint the probationary officer to the position of full time Police Officer, at which time such appointment will be subject to the terms and conditions of the current collective bargaining agreement between the Borough and the Police Bargaining unit. In addition, during the probationary period, the probationary police officer shall accumulate no seniority rights nor have any rights under the terms and conditions of the current of the foresaid collective bargaining agreement. However, once having been appointed by the Council to a position of Full time Police Officer, the one hundred eighty (180) day probationary period time shall be considered as part of the officers' calculations under the collective bargaining agreement. Also, in the event of appointment on the same day, to a full-time position seniority between appointees will be determined by order of appointment to the position of probationary officer.

Motion: Mr. Thomas

Second: Mr. Cunningham

Vote: 7 Yes

A motion was made to appoint Brian Pall as a part-time Plymouth Borough Code Enforcement Officer 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. He shall be paid \$16.00 per hour and shall work no more than 29 hours per week.

\*On the question: Ron Kobusky said Brian was a police officer for Plymouth Borough years ago and left to pursue a career with the PA State Police and is now retired from the state police and he lives here in town.

Motion: Ms. Eroh  
Second: Mr. Cunningham  
Vote: 7 Yes

A motion was made to raise the hourly rate of the WVV Crossing Guards from \$8.75 to \$9.75.

\*On the question: Ron stated that they have not had a raise for many years and that they are the lowest paid crossing guards for WVV and that the borough is reimbursed 60% of the wages back from WVV.

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
Second: Mr. Cunningham  
Vote: 7 Yes

Motion to accept the Aircon 2022 maintenance proposal for the PTAC units (22) and the boiler maintenance of the borough building.

Motion: Mr. Morehart  
Second: Mr. Cunningham  
Vote: 7 Yes

Motion to accept the Aircon 2022 maintenance proposal for the condensing unit and fan coil maintenance of the borough building.

\*On the question: Ron said the borough used to have the agreements years ago. Stopped maintenance and now having problems.

Motion: Ms. Eroh  
Second: Mr. Cunningham  
Vote: 7 Yes

Motion to approve the Aircon invoice for \$1,326.92 for repairs to the air conditioning in the police station.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
Second: Mr.  
Ryncavage  
Vote: 7 Yes

Motion to refund the following residents due to property reassessments:

John & Nancy Wright:	\$320.38
Paul Thomas:	\$207.30
Debra Jones:	\$81.72

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
Second: Mr.  
Ryncavage  
Vote: 7 Yes

Motion to approve August fire and police reports:

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
Second: Mr. Morehart  
Vote: 7 Yes

Motion to approve the monthly bills:

.	General Fund:	22-645GF – 22-742GF
.	Liquid Fuels:	22-118LF – 22-148LF
.	Recreation Fund:	22-038RF – 22-044RF

\*On the question: Mr. John Thomas votes yes to all bills except his health insurance reimbursement which he feels a conflict of interest.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
Second: Mr. Morehart  
Vote: 7 Yes

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cunningham

Respectfully submitted;



Gail Burdulis, Plymouth Borough Secretary