

July 22, 2021

Apollo Borough Council Meeting

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a brief invocation, the Apollo Borough council meeting was called to order by Council President John Steele at 7:00 p.m. at 631 N 2nd Street, Apollo PA 15613 (Soldiers & Sailors Hall).

Present: Council members John Steele, Mark Tarle, Michelle Beck, Jennifer Mullins and Craig Williams were present. Secretary/Treasurer, Engineer and Solicitor were present. The Mayor, Patrick Zelonka and Kristina Fox were absent.

Public Comments:

Becky Kane: Becky thanked Public Works for the wonderful job they are doing keeping up with the grass at Owens Grove Park.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Jennifer Mullins to go into Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Craig Williams and seconded by Michelle Beck to come out of Executive Session at 7:31pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Jennifer Mullins to approve the June 24, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Engineering Report:

Rich Craft discussed the Multi Modal Grant and Armstrong County CDBG Grant with the Development of the Riverfront Property. He is working with Council to resolve the issues with the drainage on N. 2nd Street and Terrace Avenue.

Discussion of First Evangelical Lutheran Church requesting a curb cut for a ramp for the church near their kitchen entrance for the purpose of meals on wheels. The installation of a flush ramp would require construction to meet current ADA requirements. The location of the curb cut would create a mid-block crossing and direct users out into the street which causes liability concerns. The appropriate location for the ramp would be across from the church lane and would direct users to the alley. This location may defeat the purpose of the curb cut for the transportation of the meals. Councilman, Mark Tarle, discussed the possibility of using a lightweight, portable ramp to transport the meals to the delivery vehicle and offered to let them borrow his to see if it could resolve the problem and save them money. The engineer will discuss this option with the church along with the suggested location of the curb cut.

Kerr Manufacturing submitted sub-division application and has hired someone to draw up a plan. They will provide information at the next planning meeting on August 12th. Council will need to vote to approve the plan at the following council meeting on August 26th.

A motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Craig Williams to approve signing the public/private partnership agreement with the First Evangelical Lutheran Church and West in Arms. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Jennifer Mullins to adopt a Resolution for the grant applications for the Revitalization Project on N. 4th Street, N. 7th Street and N. 9th Street. Motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor's Report:

Jennifer Mullins wanted to put on record that civil cases against the borough by Mr. & Mrs. Brunermer has cost the tax payers nearly \$60,000 in legal expenses all over a permit and a \$300 fine.

A motion was made by Jennifer Mullins and seconded by Mark Tarle to pay the Solicitor's Invoices of \$4719.00. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Craig Williams and seconded by Mark Tarle to pay the retainer fee for Marshall Dennehey to represent the borough in the Federal lawsuit. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Craig William and seconded by Mark Tarle to pay the Engineer invoices of \$4504.46 upon reviewing a few questions on invoices by council. Motion passed unanimously.

Engineer did explain that a percentage of expenses on invoices relating to multi-modal grant may be reimbursed as well as some of the administrative expenses incurred by the secretary-treasurer for time spent working on the grant.

Public Safety: Mark Tarle, chair.

Required police training will be over budget by \$25.00. Council approved the expense unanimously.

The police budget also allows for \$200 towards ammunition if needed.

Mayor's Report: The Mayor was absent.

No report was submitted.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Apollo-Ridge Volleyball Boosters wants to have a fundraiser with Kona Ice and asked Council if they would waive the solicitation fee. Council approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Jennifer Mullins to accept and advertise to adopt a Food Truck Ordinance and a Fireworks Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member, Craig Williams, discussed maybe restructuring police hours from the middle of June to the end of July so they are available during fireworks season.

Council Member, Michelle Beck is currently working on adaptations to the Nuisance and Grass Ordinance.

Finance Committee Report: John Steele, chair.

A motion was made by Michelle Beck and seconded by Jennifer Mullins to advertise the bid specifications for a new waste removal contract. Bids to be submitted to the borough office by August 18th at 1:30 p.m. and will be opened publicly on August 19th, 6 p.m. at 631 N. 2nd Street (Soldiers & Sailors Hall). Motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Mark Tarle and seconded by Michelle Beck to pay the bills, including payroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of items for payment as follows (6/24/2021 – 7/21/2021)

Garbage Fund- \$8050.00
General Fund (includes payroll) - \$37,638.05
Liquid Fuels Fund - \$7097.39
Parking Fund - \$219.67
Sewer Fund - \$8012.17
Sewer Separation Fund - \$2395.03
Total – \$63412.31

Personnel/HR Committee Report: Jennifer Mullins, chair.

No updates.

Public Works & Streets Committee Report: Patrick Zelonka, chair:

There are 3 bids submitted for cutting down the Oak Tree at Owens Grove Park.

A motion was made by Jennifer Mullins and seconded by Michelle Beck to contact Bakers to cut down the tree. Motion passed unanimously.

Property & Planning Committee Report: Mark Tarle, chair.

Some of the patrons at the park said mulch is in bad shape. Public works checked into pricing on rubber mulch and said it is very expensive. They will look into the problem areas at the park and see what they can do to improve them.

Mr. Davis received his letter for the nuisance property on N. Warren Avenue. A gate will be put up once it comes in. It is still currently on back order and there is no time table for when it will arrive.

Public Relations/Citizens Advisory Committee Report: Jennifer Mullins, chair.

Jennifer Mullins suggested to change the Events Fund from a savings account to a checking account per request by the secretary-treasurer to make it less complicated for reconciling expenses. Council agreed unanimously.

The Events Committee is partnering with the Apollo Area Lions Club to purchase a new sign for Owens Grove Park for \$350. The Events Committee has offered to pay half of the cost or \$175.00. Council agreed unanimously.

The Owens Grove celebration has been postponed.

The Events Committee has created a website and invites interested individuals who would like to participate in future events to provide their contact information on the site. www.apollopaevents.org

At the July 28, 2021 Wheel Good Wednesday, there will be a table for people to paint river rocks. The painted rocks will have QR codes on them and will then be placed throughout town and Roaring Run. Anyone who finds a rock can return it to Wheel Good Wednesdays and receive a prize. There will also be 5 gold rocks which will award special prizes if found.

At 8:52 p.m. a motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Michelle Beck to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.



John Steele
Council President



Deanna Shupe
Borough Secretary/Treasurer