

February 25, 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 PM @ Apollo Hose Company #2 located on 327 N. 4th St., Apollo, PA 15613.

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

Public Comments:

Nancy Walker wanted to thank Ron Polka/Public Works for the great job done on snow removal during the recent snow storms.

Sara Bowser asked council if they were working on residential permits for parking meters placed in front of resident's properties. Council said they have been discussing the idea but would need to review details to formulate a plan. Sara thanked council for their help.

Joe Thompson asked council to check into guidelines for painting the yellow lines on N. 8th street. His fiancé has gotten parking tickets due to this and he feels there is an ADA issue. He believes the yellow line is 14 ft. longer than the 20 ft. maximum allowed by the state. Pat Zelonka – Chair of Public Works said they will check into this issue and state guidelines on painting the yellow lines. It was already on their list of priorities along with the residential permits.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Jennifer Mullins and seconded by Mark Tarle to approve the minutes from the January 28th, 2021 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor discussed hearing on February 24th, 2021 was continued to another date. The appeal that was filed by individuals in the borough against the borough was dismissed by the superior court. The appeal to the superior court was the original summary case that was filed back in 2018.

Council member Jennifer Mullins wanted to point out the inordinate amount of time that has been spent by our solicitor and borough personnel on the court hearings and appeals.

A motion was made by Jennifer Mullins and seconded by Patrick Zelonka to pay the Solicitor's Invoices of \$3952.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Engineer's Report: Absent. A written report was presented to council for review.

A motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Michelle Beck to pay the Engineer invoices of \$1064.04. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Safety: Mark Tarle, chair:

Officer Romagnoli presented an idea for fundraising to purchase new hardware/software for the police vehicles. The software would enable the officers to print thermal copies of citations and e-file them directly to the magistrate and also load accident reports into the office computer. This would allow officers more time to spend on the roads. The cost of the software would be around \$2000 - \$3000 per vehicle. They would like to have the software in two vehicles.

Jennifer Mullins made note that Officer Baustert advised of a public safety issue with people parking in the safety zone in front of the Post Office in the plaza. The reflective tape is worn and needs to be replaced.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Virostek reported in the month of January, there were 16 - complaints, 9 - incidents, 21 - Police calls, 24 - State Police calls, 32 - EMS calls, 17 - Apollo Boro and other EMS units, 6 - STN40

The Mayor mentioned that the big conference table the borough was using actually belongs to the historical society. The Historical Society would like to be notified if council no longer has any use for it and does not want it anymore.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

- Report on monthly expenses presented to council.
- Annual audit to start on Tuesday, March 9th.

Finance Committee Report – John Steele, chair:

A motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Kristina Fox to pay the bills, including payroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of items for payment as follows (1/25/2021 to 2/23/2021)

Garbage Fund - \$9412.91
General Fund (includes payroll) - \$24522.31
Liquid Fuels Fund - \$10355.17
Parking Fund - \$81.74
Sewer Fund - \$5792.31
Sewer Separation Fund - \$2395.03
Total – \$52559.47

John Steel advised that re-appointed officials have not yet been accepted for 2021.

A motion was made by Patrick Zelonka and seconded by Mark Tarle to keep all appointed officials the same as 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

The contract with Shank Waste Management is up at the end of the year and the borough will need to advertise to get bids for 2022.

Personnel/HR Committee Report: Jennifer Mullins, chair:

HR to contact 2 candidates next week for the part time public works position.

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

Pat Zelonka thanked public works, Ron Polka, for the great job he did on plowing the roads during the snow storm and informed council that they are still in good shape with the salt supply.

Public Works will check into the legalities of yellow lines being painted on N. 8th Street per request by resident Joe Thompson.

Public Works to review the parking meter ordinance for a potential residential parking permit for residents who have meters in front of their homes.

Property & Planning Committee Report: Mark Tarle, chair:

A motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Patrick Zelonka to approve the demolition of the property on 702 Armstrong Avenue by the land bank. The Secretary-Treasurer will submit a letter of approval to Brigid Beatty, Program Manager of Armstrong County Planning and Development. Roll call vote: John Steele – yes; Mark Tarle – yes; Patrick Zelonka – yes; Kristina Fox – yes; Jennifer Mullins – yes; Michelle Beck – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jennifer Mullins and seconded by Patrick Zelonka to advertise the newly revised Vacancy Ordinance to be adopted at the next council meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Mullins sent out for a grant application for a USDA Rural Business Development Program. When speaking with USDA they had said an updated feasibility study would be covered under the grant 100% so resident taxes would not need to be spent. A feasibility study could cost as much as 20-30 thousand dollars. There is a small window to apply for this year and the borough may not be eligible due to USDA guidelines. Apollo is not listed as an economically disenfranchised area but it may be due to the Apollo area zip code and not Apollo Borough municipality. USDA said if we can get a proposal in by the deadline, March 31st they will take a look at it and if we do not get anything this year we should continue to apply again in the future.

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

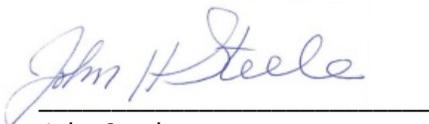
Laura Hawkins is asking for two letters of support from the borough for grant applications. One is for an application to DCNR pertaining to the Roaring Run Watershed Association looking to rehab 2.5 miles of the trail. The other letter is for an application that Laura's employer submits to DCNR to support her position.

Jennifer Mullins asked for approval from council to use some Event Fund money to purchase t-shirts to help with funding hardware for the police vehicles. Council unanimously approved to use some event funds to help out the police.

Becky Kane said she had heard Apollo Ridge High School was looking for a project for the students to sell T-shirts. Jennifer Mullins said she would check with Christine Kostiuik at the high school.

Council thanked Apollo Hose Co. #2 for letting them use their hall for the meeting to allow space for social distancing.

At 8:01 pm a motion was made by Patrick Zelonka and seconded by Jennifer Mullins to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.



John Steele
Council President



Deanna Shupe
Borough Secretary/Treasurer