

Home Rule Borough of Edinboro
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 13, 2018

CALL TO ORDER:

Monday, August 13, 2018 the regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Mayor Aaron Gast at 6:32 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Council members present were Jim Kiley, Aaron Gast, Mary Ann Horne, Pat Davis, Nathan Latimer, Alyssa Dobson, and Fred Langill

Also present were Solicitor Tim Wachter, Manager Kevin Oppe, Finance Director Jason Spangenberg, Maryann Mook, Will Collins, Nancy Crawford, Pat Koloskee, and Cal Robinson.

MINUTES:

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve the July 23, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. Pat Davis seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Dave Anthony, Washington Township Manager. Mr. Anthony thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and stated that he has been at Washington Township for 21 years. He asked that the discussion be restarted for a joint water and sewer authority between the Borough and Township. He said that the two separate sewer departments have a good working relationship, and he believes a joint authority would benefit both municipalities. Development opportunities in the Township are growing, and Mr. Anthony said that this could benefit the Borough and the community at large. He asked to Council consider beginning reasonable discussions for a joint authority and thanked Council again.

Will Collins, First National Insurance. Mr. Collins stated that he worked with the Borough for a number of years while at Northwest Insurance, and he hopes to continue to work with the Borough now that he had moved to First National. He briefly explained his plans for handling the Borough's insurance needs, should Council vote to make First National the Borough's insurance broker.

Fred Langill, Borough Councilman. Mr. Langill said that he was speaking as a citizen and not as a Councilman. He discussed the need for improved community relationships and explained changes that have occurred in the Borough over the years. He requested that the Borough, the University, and the community work to come up with a new community mission

statement. Mr. Langill stated that old conflicts should be put in the past and he has heard enough complaints about the Borough. He hopes to improve relationships and communication between all parties.

With no further speakers, Mayor Gast closed public participation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee:

Jim Kiley moved to approve bills paid July 23, 2018 totaling \$10,637.50; and bills paid August 13, 2018 totaling \$83,951.55. Mayor Gast seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve payroll ending July 28 and paid August 3, 2018 totaling \$99,320.52. Mayor Gast seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

Manager Oppe presented his report to Council. The water projects are still progressing on schedule to finish this year. The water building opening has been pushed back due to delays with the plaque. The water tower is about three-quarters complete.

The outdoor movies on campus in July were a success with good attendance for all four movies. Next summer we will reserve the larger hall inside the student center in case of rain. The University was very helpful with this new partnership. We are looking into sponsorships for the movie series.

PennDOT has been looking at a solution to improve downtown traffic congestion. They are in the beginning stages and were pleased with the input received at the recent public meeting.

Jason Spangenberg briefly discussed the Erie Area Council of Governments meeting he attended recently. Mr. Spangenberg said that the EACOG will generate an ordinance for all municipalities to consider for giving volunteer fire fighters a tax credit. The recommendation was to give volunteers an earned income tax credit as opposed to a property tax credit, since any volunteers who rent their homes would be ineligible for a property tax credit.

Manager Oppe mentioned the movie filming that has been happening in town over the last few weeks. The director has been working with business owners and the police department to minimize disruption.

Tar and chipping is planned to take place the week of August 22 on Brookview, Dundon, Lakeland, High, Ontario, Beau, Sherrod Hill, and Casey. Mayor Gast asked about crack sealing. Manager Oppe replied that some minor crack sealing will be completed as per the normal budget. He noted that West Normal Street will be the big project for next year.

Finance:

Jason Spangenberg stated that a motion would be needed to appoint First National Insurance as the Borough's insurance broker. He explained that Will Collins was the broker at Northwest Insurance until he moved to First National last year. A strong relationship was established with Mr. Collins, so the desire is to continue to work with him. First National would handle getting quotes from various providers for 2019 insurance coverage. Mary Ann Horne moved to appoint First National Insurance as the Borough's broker of record. Mayor Gast seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Zoning:

Manager Opple stated that a motion would be needed to approve combining 113 and 115 Pine Street into one lot, as recommended by the Planning Commission. He said that this would allow the owners to build an attached garage, and no variances are needed, so he also recommended approval. Mary Ann Horne moved to approve the combination of lots as recommended, Mayor Gast seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNITY LIAISONS:**PML:**

Mayor Gast moved to appoint Mary Ann Horne as the Borough voting delegate for the 2018 PML conference if she attends. Jim Kiley seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Washington Township:

Nathan Latimer discussed the Boro-Town Trail agreement with Washington Township that was on the table for approval. He said that this agreement would allow the feasibility study to move forward. Dave Anthony discussed the vision for the project, which would be a trail from the Borough to the Township's Wainer Park and the General McLane campus. A DCNR grant could fund a portion of the feasibility study. Manager Opple asked if there was a dollar range for the potential cost of the feasibility study and how the cost would be divided. Mr. Anthony said that there could be a wide range in the potential cost based on many factors, and he believed the cost should be split fifty-fifty. Solicitor Wachter confirmed that the agreement on the table would just be to contemplate and look into the proposed trail. Fred Langill noted that General McLane and Edinboro University could be involved as well. Mayor Gast moved to approve the Boro-Town Trail agreement. Nathan Latimer seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Fred Langill mentioned that he will be speaking for the Jefferson Society on September 10 and he invited all to attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nathan Latimer made a motion to allow student rental permit holders to rent to non-students for up to three years without losing their student rental permits. Fred Langill seconded. Mayor Gast said that a more comprehensive change to the student rental regulations is needed. Mr. Latimer agreed but said that this would be a good short-term solution. Solicitor Wachter said that an ordinance would be needed for this change. Manager Opple said that nothing needed to be done until December, since that is when rental permits renew. He added that statistics regarding the vacant rentals should be provided for making this decision. Mayor Gast recommended tabling the motion until the next meeting since this was not on the agenda. Fred Langill stated that it shouldn't be up to the Borough who a property owner wishes to rent to. Jim Kiley moved to table the motion until the next meeting. Nathan Latimer seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mary Ann Horne moved for adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:



Manager Kevin Opple



Mayor Aaron Gast