

Oklahoma Borough Meeting
April 8th, 2024 – 7:00 pm
Oklahoma Borough Building

Meeting called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by President Joe Cali.

Roll call taken: Present: President Joe Cali, Councilwoman Christine Emerick, Councilman Charles Blair, Councilman John Knittel, Solicitor Tim Miller and Secretary Alecia Sherbondy.

Absent: Vice President Adam Lockhart, Mayor Emerick, Mr. Braun from Senate Engineering and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Troup.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS: Joyce Spillers – observe.

Susan Cranmer-Jervis explained an issue with the deed for 1572 Hancock Avenue that she is in the process of selling.

Cedric Stopansky reminded everyone to vote on April 23rd.

MINUTES: Motion made by Mr. Blair to adopt the minutes from the March Council Meeting. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

SOLICITORS REPORT: Mr. Miller prepared a resolution increasing the fee for a zoning board hearing.

Mr. Miller feels the issue with the deed for 1572 Hancock Avenue should be addressed with Westmoreland County. Further research will be done, and a final opinion will be provided.

A final draft of Ordinance 1 of 2024 has been provided to the council. In addition, a separate notice has been sent to the state. A form will need to be completed and returned within the next 60 days. This form will require the name of the company that will enforce the UCC on behalf of Oklahoma Borough.

Motion made by Mr. Knittle to approve the Solicitor's report. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Braun sent an email stating a follow-up electrical inspection for the salt shed will take place soon.

The CCTV bid is going through an internal QA/QC process and should be advertised soon.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to approve the Engineer's Report. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

ZONING/ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Copies of the report were provided to Council.

Danny McCoy is interested in filling the vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to approve the Zoning/Code Officer's report. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: The first quarter employee taxes have been filed and paid.

Approval is needed to pay the fee in the amount of \$1,591.32 from West Penn Power to connect/install electricity at the salt shed.

The Apollo Kiski Little League’s insurance certificate has not been received.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to approve the Secretary’s report. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The bank reconciliation for the period ending 3/31/2024 is as follows:

General Fund - \$249,523.72
Sewer Fund - \$451,895.26
Liquid Fuels - \$61,329.65
Special Road Fund - \$210,194.85

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to approve the Treasurer’s report. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT: The amount of taxes deposited in the month of March:

Wage - \$8,124.72

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to approve the Tax Collector’s report. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

READING OF THE BILLS: Copies of the bills were provided to the Council and the Mayor. In addition, two invoices have been received from DeBernardo, Antoniono, McCabe & Davis, P.C. with a combined total of \$3,037.50 for legal expenses.

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to approve the bills. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Apollo Kiski Little League plans to change their name to Apollo Area Athletic Association at the end of the year.

A letter was received from Moody and Associates, Inc. notifying the council that Olympus Energy, LLC is applying for Permits to Drill and Operate Wells that may be located inside, adjacent or within 3000’ of Oklahoma Borough.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STREETS/SEWERS/SOLID WASTE: 1681 Hancock Avenue was demolished, and the property owner had the sanitary sewer capped and would like to discontinue sewer fund payments. Ms. Troup emailed photos to the council. The council would like to have Mr. Braun review before a decision is made.

The storm drain at the end of Walnut Street is sinking further. There is also a section on Chambers Street that seems to possibly be sinking between two storm drains.

FINANCE: None.

PARKS AND RECREATION: The Secretary made a suggestion to move the port-a-potty and dumpster away from the front of the pavilion.

PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS AND ORDINANCES: None.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Mr. Knittel has done research on a retirement plan through First Commonwealth Bank. Information will be emailed to the council.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT: None.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Mrs. Emerick was on the Human Resources Committee when Ed Mowers was hired. Mr. Mowers was hired for snow removal and agreed to do odd jobs here and there as needed due to the fact that Mr. Mowers has another job. Mrs. Emerick asked that the council keep this in mind when assigning odd jobs.

President Cali would like to contact PennDOT regarding the condition of Red Onion Hill.

There is construction equipment being stored at the fire department. There are concerns with the parking area being used for this type of storage.

OLD BUSINESS: Council would like President Cali to contact a mechanic for a second opinion on the borough truck. Council would like to know what repairs are needed and an approximate cost to determine whether a new truck will be needed.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to approve Resolution 2 of 2024 to set the fee for a zoning board hearing at \$1,800.00. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding 1681 Hancock Avenue being removed from the sewer fund will be tabled until the May meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to adopt Ordinance 1 of 2024 to adopt the uniform construction code. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to appoint Bureau Veritas to administer and enforce the UCC on behalf of Oklahoma Borough. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to contract with American Legal as a provider for codification. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

President Cali suggests the following ordinances be considered for adoption and/or reviewed; rental/vacancy inspection, rental occupancy inspection, road opening repair, tree maintenance and park disposal.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to appoint Mr. Danny McCoy to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to approve Tom's Auto to inspect the borough truck to determine what repairs are needed. Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to approve the \$1,591.32 fee for the electrical installation at the salt bin. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Cedric Stopansky enjoys the Movies In the Park.

Motion made to adjourn by Mr. Blair. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Joseph Cali, President

Alecia Sherbondy, Secretary