

Oklahoma Borough Council Meeting
August 14th, 2023 – 7:00 pm
Oklahoma Borough Building

Meeting called to order by President Joe Cali.

Roll call taken: Present were: President Joe Cali, Vice President Ron Norton, Councilman Adam Lockhart, Mayor Emerick, Mr. Bill Braun from Senate Engineering and Secretary Alecia Sherbondy.

Absent: Councilwoman Christine Emerick and Councilman Charles Blair.

VISITORS: Observe: Danika Bracken and Todd Sherbondy.

Leslie Uncapher Zellers spoke and answered questions about her campaign for District Judge.

Cedric Stopansky asked questions regarding zoning/code enforcement.

John and Vickie Winters made a request to have 1323 Hancock Avenue condemned.

MINUTES: Motion made by Mr. Norton to adopt the minutes from the July Council Meeting. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

SOLICITORS REPORT: None.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: The 2023 Paving Program is scheduled to begin in approximately two weeks. Mr. Braun stated that there is an issue with trees hanging over the edge of Thorn Street near the sharp bend on the Community Park Road side of the borough. This will need to be addressed to prevent damage to the paving equipment. Mr. Braun believes these trees are not in the right-of-way.

Shick Contracting was the lowest bidder in the amount of \$69,062.00 for the salt shed project. An application for a building permit will need to be submitted to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the amount of \$4,427.80.

Several properties near the park, including the park pavilion have been dye tested. The dye tests confirmed all the lines tested connect to the manhole at the park.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The contract for the 2023 Paving Program has been signed and returned to Senate Engineering.

The S.W.I.F. insurance policy has been renewed.

There have been several issues with the cameras at the park. The Secretary is working to have them repaired.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The bank reconciliation for the period ending 7/31/2023 is as follows:

General Fund - \$414,015.77

Sewer Fund - \$439,231.20

Liquid Fuels - \$40,761.56

Special Road Fund - \$183,098.85

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: The amount of taxes deposited in the month of July:

Wage – \$2,661.41

Real Estate - \$3,175.19

Per Capita - \$135.00

READING OF THE BILLS: The general and monthly utility bills for Oklahoma Borough have been paid for the month of July.

The following invoices were received:

1. AA Garrett Roofing & Heating in the amount of \$275.00 for dye testing four homes near the park and the park pavilion to continue the I/I Study. This was paid from the Sewer Fund account.
2. Allegheny Township in the amount of \$4,271.41 for tar and chipping Community Park Road.
3. Code.sys in the amount of \$200.00 for building inspection fees.
4. A&G Auto Parts in the amount of \$116.33 for a new tractor battery.
5. Cincinnati Insurance Company in the amount of \$5,120.00 for an insurance premium renewal.
6. Trib Total Media in the amount of \$432.50 for advertising the salt shed bids.
7. Senate Engineering in the amount of \$2,152.50 for the design and bidding of the new salt shed project.
8. Senate Engineering in the amount of \$3,874.50 for the design and bidding of the new salt shed project.
9. Senate Engineering in the amount of \$226.00 for the 2023 Paving Project.
10. Senate Engineering in the amount of \$1,261.00 for the I/I Study to be paid from the Sewer Fund account.
11. S.W.I.F. in the amount of \$666.00 for a workers compensation insurance installment.

COMMUNICATIONS: A solicitation permit application for PennDOT was submitted for the borough's approval by the O.V.F.D.

A letter was received from the Westmoreland County 250th Anniversary Committee requesting a donation for their time capsule.

A letter from Geary, Loperfito & Generelli, LLC including a copy of the Rate Resolution of Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority was received.

A request for a donation was received from the Vandergrift Public Library.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STREETS/SEWERS/SOLID WASTE: None.

FINANCE: None.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Mr. Norton obtained a quote from Robert Villella Sign & Design.

There was an issue with bees stinging a child at the park. Ed Mowers sprayed the bees to resolve the issue.

There are a few concerns: a grey truck has been continuing to put garbage and debris in the dumpster. The cameras are not working correctly so the committee is unable to investigate the issue. There was also a disabled vehicle being stored at the park for several weeks.

An espresso cart would like to sell drinks at the park.

There are two upcoming park rentals in September. Rentals have gone very well this season.

The Pennsylvania State Police patrolled the area during an activity that took place at the park due to comments made on social media. The Parks Committee was thankful for their assistance in ensuring everyone was safe.

Gravel is needed in the parking area at the park.

PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS AND ORDINANCES: None.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT: None.

HUMAN RESOURCES: None.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: President Cali continues to research recoding the ordinance book.

President Cali called all members of Council, the Mayor, and the Secretary to an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The Executive Session began at 7:31 p.m. and ended at 7:35 p.m.

There are several positions that need to be filled on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to award the salt shed project to Shick Construction in the amount of \$69,062.00. Second by Mr. Norton. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to accept the quote from Whalen Exteriors for the roof replacement in the amount of \$13,137.03 using the COVID funds. Second by Mr. Norton. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: President Cali read a resignation letter from Mr. Lee Schumaker as zoning/code enforcement officer.

Motion made by Mr. Norton to accept the quote from Robert Villella Sign & Design with changes made by Council in the amount of \$7,235.00. The committee requests a spending limit of \$12,000.00. Second by Mr. Lockhart.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to table the above motion for the park sign purchase until the September meeting. Second by Mr. Norton. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Norton to suspend the Oklahoma Borough Sewer Fund collections unless the fund drops below \$300,000.00. All monies in the fund currently will remain to be used as needed. Any residents that are behind in their payments will still be required to pay what they owe to the borough. Should the fund fall below \$300,000.00 at any time the citizens will be notified and the collection of the sewer fund money will resume immediately. Second by Mr. Lockhart. There was no vote. This motion will be moved to Old Business for the September meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to submit a building permit application for the salt shed project to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the amount of \$4,427.80. Second by Mr. Norton. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to approve the boot drive solicitation permit for PennDOT made by the Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department in the month of September at the intersection of Orr Avenue and Hancock Avenue. Second by Mr. Norton. Mr. Lockhart voted yes. Mr. Norton chose to abstain because the Oklahoma Borough Fire Department has not made a request for PennDOT approval or asked for Council's approval in the past. Mr. Cali voted no.

Motion made by Mr. Norton to make a donation to the Vandergrift Public Library in the amount of \$250.00. Second by Mr. Lockhart. There was no vote. This motion will be moved to Old Business for the September meeting.

Council revisited the motion regarding the Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department boot drive. There was a tie therefore the Mayor was required to vote. Mayor Emerick voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion made to adjourn by Mr. Lockhart. Second by Mr. Norton. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Joseph Cali, President

Alecia Sherbondy, Secretary