

Oklahoma Borough Meeting
August 5th, 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, Vice President Adam Lockhart, Councilman Chuck Blair, Councilman John Knittel, Solicitor Tim Miller, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Troup and Secretary Alecia Sherbondy.

Absent: Mr. Braun from L.S.S.E.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS: Todd Sherbondy, Joyce Spillers, Chris Glavan, Cedric Stopansky, Veronica Azzarella and Ron Norton – observe.

Rick and Linda Shupe voiced concerns regarding a missing stop sign on Middle Street and the properties owned by Laurie Bence.

Rich Wenskowski expressed his dissatisfaction with the gas company's restoration work at the corner of Thorn and Walnut Street.

Amy Blair commented on several issues at the park.

Fred Champion also voiced concerns regarding the properties owned by Laurie Bence.

Brian Dudley asked for an update regarding the creek near 220 South Pine Street. The solicitor found no easement owned by the borough in this location.

Pat Strong (arrived 7:29 p.m.) voiced concerns regarding the properties owned by Laurie Bence.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT: The paper street adjoining 1497 Hancock Avenue was tabled until the September meeting.

The solicitor provided information on a possible revision of the PA Tort Claim Act. These changes could have a significant impact on the borough's insurance rates.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to approve the solicitor's report. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT: No report.

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

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

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Council was asked to choose a day for fall clean up as well as trick or treat. Due to trick or treat falling on a Thursday treats will be passed out during office hours. Council decided to have cleanup day on Saturday, October 12th.

The Westmoreland County Tax Collection PSD Delegates need to be updated.

Don and Christine Emerick were featured in an article published in the newspaper.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT: The bank reconciliation for the period ending 7/31/2024 is as follows:

General Fund - \$263,828.67
Sewer Fund - \$457,075.76
Liquid Fuels - \$57,357.92
Special Road Fund - \$216,968.85

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to approve the Treasurer’s report. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

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

Wage - \$4,956.50
Real Estate - \$2,633.88
Per Capita - \$155.00

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

READING OF THE BILLS: Copies of the check registers were provided to the Council and the Mayor. In addition, the following invoices have been received:

To be paid from the General Fund:

In addition, two invoices have been received from DeBernardo, Antoniono, McCabe & Davis, P.C. with a combined total of \$2,445.00 for legal expenses.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to approve the bills. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Info from Westmoreland County was received regarding the 2025 Community Development Block Grant Application.

A letter was received from First Commonwealth Bank to notify Oklahoma Borough that funds were deposited into an incorrect account and the error has been corrected.

A roster from the O.V.F.D. was received.

A letter from CNX Gas Company LLC was received to notify Oklahoma Borough Council they are applying for Permits to Drill and Operate Gas Wells that may be located inside, adjacent to or within 3000’ of Oklahoma Borough.

A letter was received from the K.V.W.P.C.A. to notify Oklahoma Borough Council that the Board of Directors has adopted a Rate Resolution with an increase of \$0.75 per each 1,000 gallons thereby changing the treatment costs from \$4.50 per month per 1,000 gallons to \$5.25 per month per 1,000 gallons. The cost for well customers will also increase to \$5.25 per month per 1,000 gallons or quarterly \$52.50 per quarter. The rate increase is scheduled to take place October 1, 2024. The tapping fee will remain \$851.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STREETS/SEWERS/SOLID WASTE: No report. A suggestion was made to investigate installing a weight limit sign at the Oklahoma end of Community Park Road. Mr. Lockhart will contact PennDot to see if this will be possible.

FINANCE: The COVID funds still need to be spent.

PARKS AND RECREATION: There were approximately 14 people who attended the July Movie in the Park. The next movie is scheduled for August 10th.

The committee would like to purchase a sign listing rules for Oklahoma Borough Park.

Mr. Blair is still waiting for an update on the grant for the parking lot.

Mr. Blair has obtained telephone quotes for installing three grills on an 8'x10' cement pad at the park. The lowest quote was in the amount of \$7,334.14.

PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS AND ORDINANCES: President Cali plans to request several sample ordinances from American Legal.

HUMAN RESOURCES: No report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT: No report.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: The truck will need inspected in the next couple of months. The salt spreader is also in need of repair.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Mr. Blair to nominate Christopher Glavan to fill the vacancy on council. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to appoint Christopher Glavan to fill the vacancy on council. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to adopt Resolution 3 of 2024 appointing Christopher Glavan as councilperson of the Borough of Oklahoma. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

Amy Blair and Ron Norton submitted applications for the mayor vacancy.

President Cali opened nominations. Mr. Knittel nominated Amy Blair for the position of Mayor. President Cali nominated Ron Norton for position of Mayor.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to close nominations. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to appoint Amy Blair as Mayor. Second by Mr. Knittel. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Blair – abstained, Mr. Cali - yes, Mr. Knittel – yes, Mr. Lockhart – yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to adopt Resolution 4 of 2024 appointing Amy Blair as Mayor of the Borough of Oklahoma. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to accept the quote to install three grills and cement pad at the park in the amount of \$7,334.14. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Linda Shupe expressed concern regarding overgrown shrubs around stop signs on Middle Street.

Fred Champion asked questions regarding a paper street.

Cedric Stopansky expressed concern regarding speeding on Hancock Avenue.

President Cali appointed Chris Glavan as the Chair of the Finance Committee and Chuck Blair as the Co-Chair. In addition, President Cali appointed himself as the Chair of the Public Safety, Streetlights and Ordinance Committee and Chris Glavan as the co-chair.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Joseph Cali, President

Alecia Sherbondy, Secretary