

Oklahoma Borough Meeting
December 9th, 2024 – 5:00 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 Chris Glavan, Councilman John Knittel, Mayor Amy Blair, Solicitor Tim Miller, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Troup, Mr. Braun and Jessica Brett from L.S.S.E and Secretary Alecia Sherbondy.

Vice President Adam Lockhart addressed the visitors asking everyone to conduct themselves in a courteous manor due to the number of visitors in attendance.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS: Lisa Schwab, Dee Rago, Danny Ferrero, Sandra Dougal, Dot Knittel, Mike Barnett, Barb Antoniono, Matthew & Stacy Borchevsky, Laurie Moyer, Daina Cleveland and Pam Baird – observe.

Lieutenant Michael Sbardella and Sargent Jordan Spallone answered questions regarding the Pennsylvania State Police coverage in Oklahoma Borough. In addition, they provided a brief report on calls within the borough over the past six months.

Joyce Spillers voiced concerns with Council considering the change from the Pennsylvania State Police to the Southern Armstrong Regional Police Department and the possibility of raising taxes to cover the new police coverage in 2026.

Ralph & Clare Corcetti voiced concerns regarding changing the police coverage. Mr. Corcetti feels the Pennsylvania State Police do a good job and the borough could make other improvements with the money.

John Harmon is concerned with speeding on Hancock Avenue.

Rita McClain has had the Pennsylvania State Police sit in her driveway to monitor speeding on Hancock Avenue.

Mark Rago is in favor of keeping the Pennsylvania State Police to provide services to the residents of Oklahoma Borough. Mr. Rago had an attempted break in at his home and was satisfied with the Pennsylvania State Police response time. In addition, the State Police were helpful when filing a report regarding identity theft.

Cathy Norton made a request to give her three-minute speaking time to her husband, Ron Norton. Ron Norton was a member of Council when the borough made the change to use the Pennsylvania State Police for coverage. Mr. Norton feels the decision was a positive move for Oklahoma Borough and continues to support the use of the Pennsylvania State Police. Mr. Norton feels that the Pennsylvania State Police are visible in the borough and would like to continue to use them for coverage.

Alivia Sherbondy sees the Pennsylvania State Police in Oklahoma Borough regularly and feels they do an amazing job.

John Collier sees the Pennsylvania State Police regularly throughout the borough and feels they are doing a great job.

Tom Dougal sees the State Police regularly passing by his home on Hancock Avenue. He had seen them perform traffic stops and was also pleased with their response to a break in at his home. Tom is very upset with the idea of the possibility of raising taxes.

Doug Cairns sees the Pennsylvania State Police in the borough often and feels they do a great job. Mr. Cairns feels that the borough would be wasting money if they decided to change to pay for police coverage.

Dave Bash agrees the Pennsylvania State Police do a good job and sees no reason to waste \$35,000.00 on a change in police coverage. He also voiced concerns about the cost of police coverage rising after the first year and asked where the money would come from. Mr. Bash feels the money would be better spent on improving the fire department.

Margie Bash asked if the proper research has been done on changing police coverage. Mrs. Bash asks that the Council take into consideration what the people want for police coverage.

Deb Barnett is in favor of keeping the Pennsylvania State Police.

Dom Antoniono asked Council where the \$35,000.00 was taken from in the proposed budget. Mr. Blair stated the money was moved from the parks line along with a few other line items.

Marilyn Quillen asked Council why they are considering changing the police coverage for Oklahoma Borough.

Pat Stefanik feels that the Pennsylvania State Police are doing a good job. In addition, the State Police park in his driveway on Orr Avenue on different occasions. Mr. Stefanik would like to see speed bumps and LED speed monitoring signs on Orr and Hancock Avenue. Lastly, Mr. Stefanik had the State Police come to his home a few weeks ago looking for someone in his barn. No one was found.

Lisa Tarasewski would like Council to keep the Pennsylvania State Police. She feels that they do a good job.

John Winters is in favor of keeping the Pennsylvania State Police. Mr. Winters had a break-in last year and the State Police brought in an investigator from Greensburg. The State Police also sit in Mr. Winters driveway periodically.

Vicki Winters feels that no matter what police coverage the borough uses there will always be speeding on Hancock Avenue.

Donna Scholl is in favor of keeping the Pennsylvania State Police. Ms. Scholl was attacked by a dog and the State Police responded to the call within ten minutes. Donna voiced several additional concerns regarding the dangerous dog. President Cali advised Ms. Scholl to speak with the Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer.

Mike Corcetti is in favor of keeping the Pennsylvania State Police.

Steve Schwab is in favor of keeping the Pennsylvania State Police.

Ted Schwab is in favor of keeping the Pennsylvania State Police. Mr. Schwab feels that people cannot afford to have their taxes raised.

Mark Proviano, former Mayor of Oklahoma Borough, is in favor of keeping the Pennsylvania State Police. In addition, Mr. Proviano had an incident where his vehicle was broken into on Hancock Avenue and a gun was stolen. The State Police brought in a forensic unit from Greensburg to perform an investigation. Mr. Proviano feels the Pennsylvania State Police did everything they needed to do to handle the issue, and it did not cost the borough any money.

Renee Lubik of the Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department was in attendance to answer questions or concerns regarding the fire department. Ms. Lubik encouraged anyone that is interested in joining the fire department to attend the fire department meeting. The O.V.F.D. is aware of the fire hydrants not working on Hancock Avenue. This was discovered during the fire that occurred a few weeks ago. Adam Lockhart is aware and working with the M.A.W.C. to have the issue corrected.

Cedric Stopansky asked questions regarding the salt spreading. The Secretary stated that there was a problem that has been repaired.

Todd Sherbondy is happy with the choice the previous council made to bring in a world class organization like the Pennsylvania State Police with no cost to Oklahoma Borough. Mr. Sherbondy is concerned that the closest point that the Southern Armstrong Regional Police patrols is nearly double than Pennsylvania State Police. The State Police have a trooper stationed at the barracks to take non-emergency calls 24/7. Some of the other regionalized police departments do not have a fully staffed office. Mr. Sherbondy thanked Renee Lubik for attending the monthly meetings to provide information to residents regarding the fire department.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT: The solicitor has resent the 2Krew letters due to the lack of response.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: A monthly report was provided to Council and the Mayor.

The field work portion of the CCTV project was completed. LSSE provided a rough cost estimate of \$2,500.00 to prepare a report that shows manholes that need maintenance and repair. A map of the sewer lines has already been created.

The weight limit study was sent to the borough. LSSE recommends a few additional items to complete a thorough report. The approximate cost to complete the study would be \$7,000.00.

Information regarding the Traffic Calming Study on Thorn Street, Vista Drive and Walnut Street was provided to Council and the Mayor.

LSSE performed a field review of the inlet cleaning contract work. LSSE sent the pay request from Holbein, Inc. to the borough. Holbein cleaned two extra inlets for no additional charge.

The LSA Grant items including the Opinion of Probable Cost, photos and Location exhibit were prepared and provided to Council and the Mayor at the October meeting. Mr. Braun recommends putting the project out to bid early next year.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to approve the engineer's report. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blair was appreciative to hear about response times that others have witnessed regarding the Pennsylvania State Police. Mayor Blair's experience regarding her fence took nearly half a day for the State Police to respond.

Mayor Blair will continue to look for an organization that would be willing to take the filing cabinet and cabinet/counter that had to be removed to install the counter in the borough office. The organizations that have been contacted so far neither would take the furniture or there is a charge for pickup.

Mayor Blair is researching the possibility of collecting donations for a borough family that lost their home in a fire. Solicitor Miller will need additional time to research the situation.

The Mayor personally thanked Bill Braun for all of the work he has done for the borough over the years.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to approve the mayor's report. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Blair had questions regarding a property on South Pine Street. He felt that the property did not outwardly appear to have any violations. Ms. Troup received a complaint and did reach out to the property owner.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to approve the zoning/code enforcement report. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A Liquid Fuels audit is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th.

The PSAB membership and magazine subscriptions are due. Information on the Association of Mayors provided to the Mayor.

Mr. Lockhart was in communication with Matt Zundel of the M.A.W.C. regarding the sinking road patch at the end of Community Park Road. The M.A.W.C. will send a restoration team to investigate Community Park Road as well as an area on Vista Drive. In addition, Matt Zundel reported to Mr. Lockhart that the area in question at the park is not due to a waterline leak.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: The bank reconciliation for the period ending 11/30/2024 is as follows:

General Fund - \$184,361.36

Sewer Fund - \$357,605.65

Liquid Fuels - \$23,359.39

Special Road Fund - \$230,516.85

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

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

Wage - \$14,887.03

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to approve the Tax Collector's report. Second by Mr. Glavan. Motion carried.

READING OF THE BILLS: Copies of the check registers were provided to the Council and the Mayor.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: A check in the amount of \$121.95 was received for State Police Fines and Penalties.

Notification from Westmoreland County to notify the borough a property in the borough is listed for Judicial Sale scheduled for January 14th, 2025.

A letter from PennDOT forwarded by Julie Hansen, Transportation Director for Kiski Area School District was received regarding installation of School Bus Ahead Signs.

A letter from CNX to notify Oklahoma Borough that Olympus Energy, LLC is applying for coverage for a Permit to Drill and Operate an Unconventional Well from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for one modification was received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STREETS/SEWERS/SOLID WASTE: An issue with a manhole on West Penn Drive was reported by a resident. After investigation Mr. Lockhart felt that it was an emergency repair and contracted Eveready Contracting to make repairs immediately. A permanent repair will need to be made in the spring.

FINANCE: Mr. Glavan reassured residents that the taxes would not be raised for 2025. He would not be in favor of raising taxes unless there was a justifiable reason to maintain the solvency of the borough.

PARKS AND RECREATION: The grills at the park have been installed. The grill tops will be attached in the spring.

Eveready Contracting is scheduled to start the manhole repair this Tuesday.

PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS AND ORDINANCES: President Cali received the draft copy of the recodification. American Legal will send additional information to begin the borough's review process.

HUMAN RESOURCES: No report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT: No report.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

OLD BUSINESS: The draft Zoning Ordinance was discussed. Mr. Glavan prepared several amendments to the zoning ordinance for Council and the Solicitor to review. A public hearing is needed prior to advertising.

There has been no response from the Department of State regarding the UCC.

Motion made by Mr. Cali to eliminate the \$35,000.00 line item in the 2025 Budget for police funding. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to adopt the Proposed 2025 Budget. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to adopt Resolution 6 of 2024 to keep the taxes exactly the same as they were in 2024. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Renee Lubik appreciates the public comment at the end of each meeting.

Margie Bash asked questions regarding street signs and streetlights.

Deb Barnett expressed a concern with the salt shed light being on at night.

Pat Stefanik made several suggestions that could be investigated to reduce speeding on Hancock Avenue.

Joyce Spillers thanked everyone for attending the meeting to voice their concerns about the borough's police coverage.

Vicki Winters voiced concerns about the fire hydrants on Hancock Avenue not functioning properly or at all. Renee Lubik provided information on several issues with fire hydrants.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Joseph Cali, President

Alecia Sherbondy, Secretary