

Oklahoma Borough Meeting
February 12th, 2024 – 7:30 pm
Oklahoma Borough Building

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

Roll call taken: Present: Councilman Joe Cali, Councilwoman Christine Emerick, Councilman Charles Blair, Councilman Adam Lockhart, Mayor Emerick, Mr. Braun from Senate Engineering, Solicitor Tim Miller, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Troup and Secretary Alecia Sherbondy.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS: John Knittel, Joyce Spillers and Cedric Stopansky – observe.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to accept Christine Emerick’s resignation from the two-year council term. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to accept the letter of interest from John Knittel to fill the vacancy on council. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

Mayor Emerick swore in Mr. Knittel to fill the two-year term.

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

NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS AND APPROVAL:

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to nominate Mr. Cali as Council President. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to nominate Mr. Lockhart as Vice President of Council. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

President Cali assigned the following committee chair and co-chair positions:

Streets, Sewers and Solid Waste

Chair: Adam Lockhart

Co-Chair: John Knittel

Finance

Chair: Christine Emerick

Co-Chair: Joe Cali

Parks and Recreation

Chair: Chuck Blair

Co-Chair: Christine Emerick

Public Safety, Street Lights and Ordinances

Chair: Joe Cali

Co-Chair: Charles Blair

Human Resources

Chair: John Knittel

Co-Chair: Adam Lockhart

SOLICITORS REPORT: None.

ENGINEER’S REPORT: Senate Engineering has submitted the application for the electrical permit for the salt shed. There is no further update.

Mr. Braun provided an estimate to televise and clean approximately 25,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer line at a rough cost of \$3.50 per linear foot.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart 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.

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

SECRETARY’S REPORT: The Secretary requests that Council set a day for spring cleanup.

Bidding thresholds have increased for 2024.

The borough’s annual audit began on Wednesday, February 7th and will be completed soon.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT: The bank reconciliation for the period ending 12/31/2023 is as follows:

General Fund - \$233,142.23
Sewer Fund - \$446,574.42
Liquid Fuels - \$40,763.27
Special Road Fund - \$203,420.85

For period ending 1/31/2024:

General Fund - \$237,417.02
Sewer Fund - \$447,032.51
Liquid Fuels - \$40,763.61
Special Road Fund - \$203,420.85

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

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

Real Estate - \$687.13

Wage - \$8,901.56

Per Capita - \$11.00

January

Real Estate - \$1,089.69

Wage - \$4,090.84

Per Capita - \$33.00

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to approve the Tax Collector's report. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Notification of the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association Annual Banquet was received.

An email from Peoples Gas was received requesting right-of-way widths for multiple alleys in the borough.

A letter was received from CNX Gas Company LLC notifying the council that they are 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: Gene Burns of the K.V.W.P.C.A. emailed the borough a photo of a sinking manhole on West Penn Drive. Mr. Lockhart feels that it is not an issue.

The truck will not pass inspection next year. A suggestion was made to get a second opinion.

FINANCE: The DCED reports for the salt shed grant have been completed.

Mr. Blair is working to obtain a grant to resurface the parking area at the park. In addition, Mr. Blair is investigating a new grant to build a new borough office at the park.

PARKS AND RECREATION: The little league has a new president, Nathan Fryer. They will provide the new insurance information once registration is completed.

Kiski Area's Youth Day of Caring will be held on April 19th. Mr. Blair has requested four volunteers.

PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS AND ORDINANCES: None.

HUMAN RESOURCES: None.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT: An email was received regarding the minimum volunteer fire fighters required to remain an active department. Mr. Lockhart does not feel the borough should respond to an anonymous request.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: After filling in for the Secretary President Cali feels everyone does not realize what all the job entails.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to discuss adopting the UCC ordinance. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to table the above motion regarding the UCC ordinance. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to have Senate Engineering move forward with preparing a bid package and putting out to bid a CCTV study/cleaning of the sanitary sewer lines throughout the borough and base the acceptance of that bid on a \$3.50 per foot maximum. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Mr. Blair to advertise for bids for the re-codification of the borough's ordinances. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to accept the proposal from J&L Lawn Care for 2024 with no price increase. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to discuss changing the meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to change the meeting time to 7:00 p.m. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Mrs. Emerick, Mr. Lockhart, and Mr. Knittel voted in favor. Mr. Blair was opposed. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to have spring clean-up day on Saturday, April 13th. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Cedric Stopansky voiced his opinion on the change in meeting time.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Joseph Cali, President

Alecia Sherbondy, Secretary