

Oklahoma Borough Meeting
March 11th, 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, Councilwoman Christine Emerick, Councilman Charles Blair, Mayor Emerick, Mr. Braun from Senate Engineering, Solicitor Tim Miller, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Troup and Secretary Alecia Sherbondy.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS: Joyce Spillers and Todd Sherbondy – observe.

MINUTES: Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to adopt the minutes from the February Council Meeting. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

SOLICITORS REPORT: None.

ENGINEER’S REPORT: Senate Engineering has received the electrical permit for the salt shed. The secretary is working to establish a new account with West Penn Power to proceed with the inspection.

Mr. Braun feels the CCTV for the sanitary sewer lines should be ready to put out for bid in approximately 2 weeks.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to approve the Engineer’s Report. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

MAYOR’S REPORT: None.

ZONING/ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Copies of the report were provided to Council. Ms. Troup made a recommendation to raise the fee for a zoning hearing. The Solicitor was directed to draft a resolution to increase the zoning board hearing fee to \$1500 to present at the April meeting.

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

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Oklahoma Borough’s annual audit was completed, and copies have been provided to the Finance Committee. An extra copy is on top of the filing cabinet if anyone would like to review it.

A copy of the three-year audit proposal from Estermyer & Associates, PC has been provided to council for review. The secretary provided information on the new process of filing the end of year employee taxes.

A check in the amount of \$592.14 was received from the Municipal Authority of Washington Township for the transmission fees for 12 EDUs for the time period January 2023 - December 2023. This will be deposited into the Sewer Fund.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT: The bank reconciliation for the period ending 2/29/2024 is as follows:

General Fund - \$247,120.46
Sewer Fund - \$447,081.05
Liquid Fuels - \$61,329.15
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 February:

Real Estate - \$13,012.35

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

COMMUNICATIONS: The 2024 Liquid Fuels Allocation has been received in the amount of \$20,565.21.

The Westmoreland County Borough’s Association Dinner & Meeting notice was received. The meeting will take place on March 20th.

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.

The Westmoreland County Borough’s Association Annual Banquet invitation was received. The banquet will take place on April 26th.

A letter was received from Civil & Environment Consultants, Inc. notifying the council that Olympus Energy, LLC is applying for a Permit to Drill and Operate Wells for 8 gas wells that may be located inside, adjacent or within 3000’ of Oklahoma Borough.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

7:07 p.m. – Visitor, Danika Bracken arrived.

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 received photos and will forward to council.

FINANCE: None.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Mr. Blair is working with Senate to gather information to submit the application for a grant to pave the parking area at the park.

President Cali advised the Parks Committee of a few items that are needed for the park. A new lock is needed for the gate leading to the salt shed. A new hose is needed for the little league to water down the field to keep the dust at a minimum. The little league will also need reminded to water down the field. Lastly, the spigot inside the pavilion for the hose will need to be protected to prevent damage during rentals.

PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS AND ORDINANCES: None.

HUMAN RESOURCES: None.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT: None.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: There was discussion regarding the procedure to ask Ed Mowers to perform different tasks. President Cali will draft and send an email with the procedure to council.

OLD BUSINESS: There was discussion regarding an employee retirement plan. President Cali provided additional information to council. There was a suggestion to investigate options of a plan or IRA with First Commonwealth Bank. Motion made by Mr. Knittel to table the discussion until the April meeting. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

Motion made by President Cali to advertise Ordinance 1 of 2024 to adopt the uniform construction code. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

Information was provided to the council regarding re-codification. Three companies have been contacted but only one response was received. Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to table the discussion until the April meeting. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Mr. Blair to host Movies In the Park from June through October. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to waive the rental fee for the Healing and Hope Event to be held on July 13th hosted by Danika Bracken with insurance provided. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Joseph Cali, President

Alecia Sherbondy, Secretary