

Oklahoma Borough Meeting  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 Chris Glavan, Councilman John Knittel, Councilman Chuck Blair, Mayor Amy Blair, Solicitor Tim Miller (via telephone), Mr. Braun, Kevin Brett and Jessica Brett from L.S.S.E and Secretary Alecia Sherbondy.

Absent: Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Troup

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS:** Todd Sherbondy, Rita McClain, Veronica Azzarella, Dom Antoniono, Dot Knittel and Joyce Spillers – observe.

State Representative Jill Cooper recognized Nora Caporali and her family (Mathew, Jenelle and Addie) for collecting pajama donations for The Ronald McDonald House.

Matthew and Stacy Borichevsky – Mr. Borichevsky thanked the Mayor and her husband for attending the funeral for their personal friend that was a member of the Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. and Mrs. Borichevsky asked for the borough’s “end goal” regarding the Borichevsky’s hearing at the magistrate’s office.

Fred Champion voiced concerns regarding 1478 Hancock Avenue, speeding on Hancock Avenue and his dissatisfaction with the Pennsylvania State Police.

Cedric Stopansky thanked all the veterans for their service and all of those who came out to vote on Election Day.

Steve, Lisa and Alie Schwab on behalf of the Oklahoma Bar & Grille were in attendance to address concerns that were brought to their attention regarding their establishment. Steve Schwab reviewed camera footage to verify the reckless driving brought up by a resident of Hancock Avenue at the October meeting was not a patron of the bar. The incident was reported to the Pennsylvania State Police. Steve also stated that there is a frequent police presence in and around their establishment. The Schwab family is open to discussion with any issues so that they can address them. In addition, the owners of the Oklahoma Bar & Grille frequently work with the Pennsylvania State Police to report any concerns.

Renee Lubik of the Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department was in attendance to answer questions or concerns regarding the fire department.

**MINUTES:** Motion made by Mr. Knittel to adopt the minutes from the October Council Meeting. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

**SOLICITORS REPORT:** The solicitor has drafted a letter to 2Krew but will follow up with his paralegal to ensure that it was mailed.

A resolution is not needed to transfer the COVID funds to the General Fund.

The solicitor did not find any issues with the donation letter submitted by the O.V.F.D. Mr. Blair asked several questions regarding the compliance audit from June of 2024. In addition, Mr. Blair asked if the issue stated in the audit in regard to renewing their bond had been satisfied. Ms. Lubik was unsure but agreed to find out. Council agreed there are no issues with the donation letter.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to approve the solicitor's report. Second by Mr. Blair. 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 the manholes that need maintenance and repair. A map of the sewer lines has already been created.

The weight limit study field work was completed. A report will be provided soon.

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

LSSE identified five storm inlets that need to be cleaned. A quote from Holbein, Inc., in the amount \$1,810.00 was received.

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. Blair is waiting for additional information. 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. Glavan. Motion carried.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Blair took a moment to acknowledge Veteran's Day and thanked all borough veterans for their service.

Mayor Blair and Councilman Blair attended the memorial service for the Oklahoma Borough volunteer fireman, Christopher Negley.

Changes to the borough office regarding safety were discussed. Mr. Glavan and Mr. Cleveland were thanked for their time building the counters.

Mayor Blair made a suggestion to donate the cabinet that had to be removed to install the counter in addition to an old filing cabinet.

Mayor Blair requests to use the borough office as a drop off location for various gift donation organizations through the holiday season.

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

**ZONING/ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:** No report received.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Sikora Plumbing and Excavating repaired the storm drain at the end of Walnut Street. The Streets, Sewers and Solid Waste Committee agreed the job was satisfactory.

The patch made by the M.A.W.C. at the end of Community Park Road is sinking. The Secretary suggests that someone from Council reach out to let the M.A.W.C. know that there is an issue. The M.A.W.C. is not responding to the Secretary about the status of a potential water leak at the park.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The bank reconciliation for the period ending 10/31/2024 is as follows:

General Fund - \$189,585.46  
Sewer Fund - \$360,656.54  
Liquid Fuels - \$23,359.20  
Special Road Fund - \$230,516.85

Motion made by Mr. Knittel 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 October:

Wage - \$3,046.62

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:

Chris Glavan in the amount of 2,550.00 for his time building the counter in the borough office.

American Legal Publishing in the amount of \$5,360.29 for the second installment of the recodification process.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Notification from the M.A.W.C. was received to notify the borough that both back flow prevention devices are due to be tested.

The borough's solvency fee in the amount of \$41.34 for 2025 is now due.

A letter from Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. 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:** No report.

**FINANCE:** The Proposed 2025 Budget was presented. The budget reflects several cuts to the building maintenance, park maintenance, vehicle repair and maintenance as well as street paving line items to allow the borough to discontinue service with the Pennsylvania State Police and explore other police coverage options. There will be no tax increase for 2025 but the committee plans to explore the possibility of an increase in 2026.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** The grills at the park will be installed in the near future.

Mr. Blair was in contact with a gentleman from Harrisburg regarding the grant for replacing street signs. The borough should know whether the grant has been awarded by spring.

Mr. Blair is working to complete the grant application for the walking path.

Ed Mowers needs to be notified to take down the swings at the park. In addition, the pickle ball group emptied the trash cans.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS AND ORDINANCES:** Mr. Blair contacted Washington Township, Allegheny Township and the Southern Armstrong Regional Police to provide a proposal for police coverage. Washington Township did not respond. The proposal from the Southern Armstrong Regional Police was distributed to members of Council and the Mayor. A proposal was received from Allegheny Township this afternoon. Mr. Blair suggests that the solicitor reviews both contracts prior to the next meeting so they can be considered for approval.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** No report.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT:** No report.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** President Cali made a suggestion to reimburse Mayor Blair for the flower arrangement purchased for the fireman that passed away.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The borough truck was taken to the shop for repairs and passed inspection.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to have LSSE prepare a probable cost estimate for the manhole repairs discovered during the CCTV inspection throughout the borough at a cost of \$2,500.00. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to adopt the Street Opening Ordinance No. 2 of 2024 as advertised. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

The draft Rental Agreement Ordinance was discussed. Mr. Blair voiced several concerns and feels the zoning/code enforcement officer is not qualified to perform a rental inspection. Mr. Lockhart also voiced concerns, and further consideration should be given to community impacts.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to table the above discussion. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

The draft Zoning Ordinance was discussed. Mr. Blair and Mr. Lockhart voiced concerns and feels the amendments are not needed. A public hearing is needed prior to advertising. President Cali is concerned that large trucks could damage the borough streets. Council asked LSSE to continue performing the weight limit study for Oklahoma Borough.

Motion made by Mr. Glavan to table the above discussion. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Two quotes were received to repair the leaking manhole near the playground at the park. Sikora Plumbing and Excavating in the amount of \$12,500.00 and Eveready Contracting in the amount of \$5,260.00.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to accept the quote provided by Eveready Contracting in the amount of \$5,260.00 to repair the sewer manhole near the playground at the park. Second by Mr. Lockhart.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to accept the quote from Holbein in the amount of \$1,810.00 to clean five storm inlets along South Pine Street, Chambers Street and Thorn Street. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried. The Solicitor will follow up with the state to check the UCC status for Oklahoma Borough.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Blair has concerns with listing the Council and Mayor's address and phone numbers on the website and newsletter. All agreed to list email addresses only for the foreseeable future.

The Solicitor was asked to review the police coverage contracts from Allegheny Township and the Southern Armstrong Regional Police Department. Council decided to post the December meeting agenda on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

Motion made by Mr. Blair to adopt Resolution 5 of 2024 for the grant application for the walking path project. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to change the time of the December Regular Meeting to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9th. Second by Mr. Glavan. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Glavan to donate the filing cabinet, cabinets and countertop to Habitat for Humanity. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

All members of Council agreed to use the borough office as a drop off space for Christmas gifts to be donated for various charities in the community throughout the holiday season.

Motion made by Mr. Knittel made a motion to reimburse Mayor Blair in the amount of \$53.50 for the flower arrangement purchased for Christopher Negley's funeral. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Cedric Stopansky asked if the cost of police coverage would be made public prior to the next meeting. The Proposed 2025 Budget has a line item of \$35,000 for police coverage.

Joyce Spillers feels the change in police coverage should be advertised to the public. Mrs. Spillers feels that many residents are happy with the Pennsylvania State Police coverage and have no idea that Council is proposing a change that could potentially raise taxes. In addition, Mrs. Spillers voiced concerns with Southern Armstrong Regional Police Department being located in a different county.

Mr. Blair plans to present information at the December meeting to raise taxes for 2026 to cover the cost of police coverage.

Dom Antoniono asked what budget cuts were made to allow for the \$35,000.00 police coverage line item. Mr. Blair stated the cuts were made to roads maintenance and repair, park improvements, building maintenance and vehicle maintenance and repair. Mr. Antoniono is concerned about the possibility of raising taxes.

Todd Sherbondy is opposed to raising taxes. Mr. Sherbondy is in favor of the borough using the Pennsylvania State Police for coverage and feels they do an exceptional job. He sees them frequently in the borough. In addition, the state police have responded to calls made by Mr. Sherbondy and were resolved in a timely manner. Lastly, Mr. Sherbondy would like to see additional information regarding the walking trail project at the park. He requests an environmental study if available to determine how it could affect his property and the other properties on Vista Drive.

President Cali is pleased with the response he received from the Pennsylvania State Police during a potentially dangerous incident with a dog running at large at his home.

Fred Champion voiced dissatisfaction with the Pennsylvania State Police and their response time.

Mayor Blair stated that the Pennsylvania State Police did not help them with an issue with their fence.

Secretary, Alecia Sherbondy sees the state police in the borough and was also pleased with the response by the state police when her parents experienced a break in attempt.

Fred Champion voiced concerns with Council expressing the topic of an Executive Session.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

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Joseph Cali, President

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Alecia Sherbondy, Secretary