

Oklahoma Borough Meeting
October 14th, 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, 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.

Councilman Chuck Blair arrived at 7:14 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS: Rita McClain and Joyce Spillers – observe.

Corporal Trey Parsley of the Pennsylvania State Police provided a review of calls for Oklahoma Borough.

Matthew and Stacy Borichevsky – Mr. and Mrs. Borichevsky asked for a response regarding their case at the magistrate’s office. In addition, Mr. Borichevsky would like to see Oklahoma Borough merge with Allegheny or Washington Township.

Charles Pioveson and Pat Strong are concerned with speeding on Hancock Avenue.

Fred Champion and Veronica Azzarella asked for a report regarding the sewer line inspection done throughout the borough. In addition, concerns were voiced regarding speeding on Hancock Avenue and alleged motorcycle gangs frequent the Oklahoma Inn. Lastly, Mr. Champion would like Oklahoma Borough to use local police coverage.

Brian Dudley asked for an update regarding the creek near 220 South Pine Street.

Lisa Stariha is concerned with the issue of parking commercial trucks in Oklahoma Borough. In addition, Ms. Stariha has concerns about speeding on Hancock Avenue.

Renee Lubik of the Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department provided a draft donation letter to Council for approval to avoid any future concerns. The solicitor will review the letter.

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

Motion made by Mr. Knittel to adopt the minutes from the September 27th Special Meeting. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

SOLICITORS REPORT: The solicitor does not believe a resolution is needed to transfer the COVID funds to the General Fund. If a resolution is found to be needed the solicitor will notify the Secretary.

There was some clarification needed prior to sending a letter to 2Krew regarding the sewer line damage at the park. Correspondence will be prepared and mailed this week.

Several draft ordinances have been prepared and provided to Council including Street Opening, Rental Inspection and amendments to the zoning ordinance.

An update was given regarding the Pennsylvania agenda amendment law and the Right to Know form.

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

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

The CCTV project field work portion has been completed. LSSE will review and prepare a report. Council would also like a plan for repairs and a cost estimate. The project came in \$18,617.46 under the estimated cost. LSSE recommends payment to State Pipe Services in the amount of \$76,457.54.

The LSA Grant items including the Opinion of Probable Cost, photos and Location exhibit were prepared and provided to Council and the Mayor.

A weight limit study has been completed and LSSE recommends a 10 ton weight limit on Walnut Street, Vista Drive, Sheridan Road, Grove Street and Thorn Street. 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.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Blair discussed the issue of dangerous and destructive behavior regarding a young male at the park with the minor's foster parents. The young man's foster parents were very receptive.

The Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department was sent a reminder via email that the borough trick or treat will be held on Thursday, October 31st. Mayor Blair plans to remind the Pennsylvania State Police this week.

Mayor Blair is working with State Representative, Jill Cooper to recognize a young borough resident for her efforts in collecting pajamas for Children's Hospital. The recognition is scheduled for the November meeting.

A call report for Station 49 was provided to all members of Council. This report will be distributed quarterly unless instructed otherwise. Mayor Blair invited a representative from the fire department to the meeting to establish a relationship and promote safety for the borough.

The borough's trick or treat has been advertised in the Stroller for additional notification.

Mayor Blair requests to use the borough building on Saturday, December 7th to host pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Mayor Blair provided information on several upcoming events being held by State Representative, Jill Cooper.

A list of important dates for the general election was reviewed.

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

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

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

SECRETARY’S REPORT: The third quarter employee taxes have been filed and paid.

Sikora Plumbing and Excavating has the storm drain at the end of Walnut Street on the schedule to be repaired at the end of October or beginning of November. In addition, Sikora Plumbing and Excavating provided a quote to repair the leaking manhole near the playground at the park.

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.

A plumber and real estate agent brought to the Secretary’s attention that they feel a 30 day window for dye testing is too short. They would like to see it extended to 60 or possibly 90 days. Ms. Troup feels that 30 days is sufficient, and it works well with other municipalities.

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 9/30/2024 is as follows:

General Fund - \$269,233.03
Sewer Fund - \$438,079.98
Liquid Fuels - \$57,358.87
Special Road Fund - \$216,968.85

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 September:

Wage - \$6,492.07
Real Estate - \$33.66
Per Capita - \$5.50

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to approve the Tax Collector’s report. Second by Mr. Blair. 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:

Two invoices from DeBernardo, Antoniono, McCabe & Davis, P.C. totaling \$1,200.00 for solicitor fees.

S.W.I.F. in the amount of \$1,381.00 for workers compensation insurance.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Notification for the Westmoreland County Borough’s Association dinner meeting notice was received.

Information regarding the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority Community Development Project Management Workshop was received.

The estimated Liquid Fuels allocation for 2025 is \$20,160.05.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STREETS/SEWERS/SOLID WASTE: No report.

FINANCE: No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION: The committee obtained a quote in the amount of \$750.00 to repair the playground surface.

The grills for the park have been delivered and the cement pads were poured last week.

Mr. Blair should have an update on the grant for the parking lot by the November meeting.

The lock on the ballfield shed is inoperable. Mr. Glavan will replace the lock this week.

There were approximately 24 people who attended the October Movie in the Park.

Nathan Fryer of the Apollo Kiski Little League was in contact with Mr. Blair. It is possible that the little league will want to use the park again next year. Mr. Blair plans to contact Mr. Fryer later this week and provide additional information at the November meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS AND ORDINANCES: Several ordinances will be discussed under Old Business.

The Mayor plans to continue to work with the Pennsylvania State Police to decrease the speeding on Hancock Avenue.

HUMAN RESOURCES: No report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT: No report.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Cali called all members of Council, the Mayor and Solicitor into an Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 8:36 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: The borough truck was taken to the shop for repairs. The truck needs a new battery and several parts. Due to the age of the vehicle a few parts are difficult to find but are expected to arrive this week. In addition, the spreader needed a new motor, hoses and other repairs.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to advertise the Street Opening Ordinance No. 2 of 2024 for adoption. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

The Rental Agreement Ordinance was discussed.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to table both the Rental Agreement Ordinance and the Zoning Ordinance until the November meeting. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart accept the quote provided by Sikora Plumbing and Excavating in the amount of \$12,500.00 to repair the sewer manhole near the playground at the park. Second by Mr. Knittel. There were concerns regarding stacking so Council plans to obtain an additional telephone quote.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to table the above motion. Second by Mr. Glavan. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to pay State Pipe Services \$76,457.54 for services rendered. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to host pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the borough building. Second by Mr. Blair. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to repair the playground surface at the cost of \$750.00. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

Council asked LSSE to provide an estimate to clean the storm drains throughout the borough.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to change the ordinance for the dye testing requirement from 30 days prior to closing to 60 days prior to closing. Second by Mr. Knittel. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Joseph Cali, President

Alecia Sherbondy, Secretary