

Oklahoma Borough Council Meeting
September 11th, 2023 – 7:30 pm
Oklahoma Borough Building

Meeting called to order by President Joe Cali.

Roll call taken: Present were: President Joe Cali, Vice President Ron Norton, Councilman Adam Lockhart, Councilwoman Christine Emerick, Councilman Charles Blair, Mayor Emerick, Mr. Bill Braun from Senate Engineering and Secretary Alecia Sherbondy.

VISITORS: Observe: Danika Bracken

Cedric Stopansky enjoys Movies In the Park.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT: None.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: There is a new LSA grant available. Information has been provided to Council.

The 2023 Paving Program is scheduled to begin next week.

Senate Engineering has two interested parties to provide bids for the sewer line repair near the park. The deadline for bids is tomorrow. Senate feels the project should be under \$12,000.00.

The contract with Shick Contracting has been signed for the new salt shed. The building permit from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has not been received.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

ZONING/ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: No report was received.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The October Sewer Fund bills will be mailed in the near future.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The bank reconciliation for the period ending 8/31/2023 is as follows:

General Fund - \$410,642.63
Sewer Fund - \$438,168.42
Liquid Fuels - \$40,761.91
Special Road Fund - \$189,872.85

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

Wage – \$13,639.72

READING OF THE BILLS: The general and monthly utility bills for Oklahoma Borough have been paid for the month of August.

The following invoices were received:

1. Whalen Exteriors in the amount of \$1,313.70 for a deposit for the borough office roof repair.
2. Cincinnati Insurance Company in the amount of \$2,539.00 for an insurance policy premium.
3. AA Garrett Roofing & Heating in the amount of \$160.00 for the outside faucet installation at the park pavilion.
4. Trib Total Media in the amount of \$85.75 for advertising the new meeting start time.
5. Allegheny Township in the amount of \$659.00 for zoning and code enforcement services in the months of June and July.
6. Swant Motion Pictures in the amount of \$305.00 for movie rights for the August 25th Movies In the Park.
7. Lee Schumaker in the amount of \$1,275.00 for mowing expenses in the month of August including trimming the former Tin Hut property and a tree removal at the park.
8. First Commonwealth Bank in the amount of \$151.58 for checks and printing paper.

COMMUNICATIONS: An invoice was received in the amount of \$669.88 to renew the borough's website with Stephanie Motchar. There was an increase from last year.

A dinner and meeting notice was received from the Westmoreland County Borough's Association was received.

A Grant and Funding Program Directory was received from Jill Cooper's office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STREETS/SEWERS/SOLID WASTE: None.

FINANCE: The \$3000 LSA grant for the borough street signs will need to be paid for and then reimbursed.

PARKS AND RECREATION: The pickle ball group emptied the trash cans at the basketball courts. There is a seam on the court that will need to be repaired.

PUBLIC SAFETY/STREET LIGHTS AND ORDINANCES: None.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT: None.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Council is unhappy with the borough's current Solicitor. He has been unresponsive and has not attended one meeting in the past two years. A letter of interest was received for the position. President Cali spoke with Gary Falatovich and he would be interested in serving as an assistant Solicitor.

The zoning/code enforcement officer has resigned from Allegheny Township. Allegheny Township is not interested in continuing with the borough's intergovernmental agreement for zoning/code enforcement. A letter of interest was received.

Information on a municipal retirement plan was distributed to Council to review.

Council would like the new Solicitor the review the status with the labor union.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: President Cali would like to include the re-codification in the 2024 Budget as well as the possibility of a municipal retirement plan.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to order gravel for the parking lot at the park. Second by Mr. Norton. Motion carried.

Council discussed the possibility of suspending the borough sewer fund. Mr. Norton voted yes. Mr. Lockhart, Mr. Blair and Mrs. Emerick voted no. Motion did not carry.

Council discussed making a \$250.00 donation to the Vandergrift Public Library. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to accept Stephanie Motchar's invoice in the amount of \$669.88 for the borough's website renewal. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to adopt Resolution 1 of 2023 appointing Timothy R. Miller as borough Solicitor and appointing Gary Falatovich as assistant solicitor. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to appoint Brenda Troup as the zoning/code enforcement officer on a probationary period of 6 months pending the Solicitor's approval. Second by Mr. Blair. No vote was taken.

Motion made by Mr. Lockhart to amend the above motion to state a probationary period of 3 months and have the Solicitor draft a contract. Second by Mr. Norton. Motion carried.

Concerns regarding a letter distributed door-to-door to residents from the Oklahoma Volunteer Fire Department was discussed.

Motion made by Mrs. Emerick to repair the seam in the pickleball court. Second by Mr. Norton. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Norton to approve the sewer repairs at the park with a cost less than \$11,200.00. Second by Mr. Lockhart. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Blair to purchase borough street signs in the amount of \$3000.00 for the LSA grant. Second by Mrs. Emerick. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Joseph Cali, President

Alecia Sherbondy, Secretary