

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

May 4, 2021

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hastings Borough Office.

CALL TO ORDER: Alison Link, Council President

ROLL CALL: Members of the Council present – Alison Link, Melanie Zearfoss, Mayor Donald C Drass, Thomas Kinney, Jeff Semelsberger, John Schettini, Sam Patterson, Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, and Rhonda Churella. Absent was Jeff Zearfoss.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and to dispense with their reading, since all were provided with a copy. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

VISITORS: Karen Keefe

Karen Keefe lives at 213 Kirkpatrick Street. She said, "I am here inquiring about the alley between Fourth Avenue & Fifth Avenue near my property. I would like to obtain partial or full ownership of it. I know Rob Pierce has done this." Melanie Zearfoss said, "Rob used Elias. You and your neighbor take 50/50." Rhonda Churella said, "The alley is Cardinal Road." Karen Keefe said, "My neighbor is Richard Farabaugh. That alley has never been used since I was a kid. My family took care of it for many years." Patrick Fanelli replied, "As long as it is laid out and has not been a public street for decades, then it would be open to 50/50. I have seen a lot of cases where you record a deed from yourself to yourself. People who take it are subject to private rights to go there." Karen Keefe said, "My father got permission to black top in front of the house. On another note, can anything be done to get Larry Kline to trim his hedges?" Jeff Semelsberger replied, "We are working on it. There are a lot of problems with that house." Mayor Donald C Drass said he will talk to Larry about this.

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- Saint Bernard Church sent a letter requesting closure to traffic on Miller Street from August 8, 2021 to August 17, 2021, for their Annual

Homecoming Picnic. We are still in the process of planning this event and will adapt as needed for the COVID 19 virus. Sam Patterson said they are only planning on selling food like they did last year.

- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Sam Patterson, to approve the road closing on Miller Street from August 8, 2021 to August 17, 2021 for Saint Bernard Church annual homecoming picnic.

Motion Carried.

- Melanie Zearfoss received an email from Weber Property Services, LLC (WPS). They specialize in Forestry Mulching, which can be a quicker and more cost-effective way to clear those areas that are overgrown with shrubs, trees, and other vegetation. We will send one person and a machine in and clear all or even select areas of vegetation to make sure the area remains open and clear for any future needs or emergencies. We leave less of a footprint and a rich natural mulch will cover the ground when we are finished. Council said to keep on file for future reference.
- Rhonda Churella asked Council if they want to do a road project this year? If not, do you want me to use street light invoices to get the \$5,300.00 from Cambria County? Thomas Kinney said they have not looked around the town yet. Thomas Kinney said he has noticed the road on Beaver Street from Second Avenue to Cole Street needs done. Sam Patterson said, "Leave that road as is to keep the traffic down. The park area needs done by the curve by the baseball field and widen it out." Thomas Kinney said to contact Mike Bowser and schedule him to come out on a Monday.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve application for County aide Road Project # 21-11-417-01 CA.

Motion Carried.

- Melanie Zearfoss stated Joe Wentz talked about the storm grates. There is one he wants to put an eight-inch pipe in the ditch so it drains and cover it with dirt. Jeff Semelsberger said, "If it helps with debris on the road, then we should. I will talk to Joe about it."
- Sam Patterson said, "Michelle McGlynn of 307 Coleman Street complained to him about water ponding in front of her house from the sewer project." Alison Link asked, "Should she go to a sewer meeting?" Melanie Zearfoss said, "It is a closed sewer system and it don't drain anymore." Jeff Semelsberger said, "Have Joe look at it and see if he can do anything with it." Thomas Kinney said, "The sidewalk will be under water if we build up

road. Digging a ditch is a possibility.” Sam Patterson said, “Maybe they didn’t slope it.”

POLICE COMMITTEE/REPORT:

- Mayor Drass read the monthly report for April 2021.
- Sam Patterson asked if we have an officer on duty on Sundays? Mayor Drass replied, “We have at times from 10am to 6pm. The times vary so it’s not the same all the time. We usually get a part time police officer to work on the weekends but remember they work other jobs too.” Sam Patterson stated, “Beaver Street is a race track every Sunday.”
- Alison Link stated, “The new police cruiser won’t be done until June. They are behind.”

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT: Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected from April 1, 2021 to April 24, 2021.

Real Estate Tax Collected.....	\$34,915.15
Per Capita Tax Collected.....	\$818.30
Total Collected.....	\$35,733.45

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer’s from April 14, 2021 to May 4, 2021.

Gross Tax Collected.....	\$7,891.84
Delinquent Per Capita.....	\$99.00

- Motion was made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to approve the Tax Collector’s Report as read. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Council looked through the Financial Reports. Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve the Financial Report as of April 1, 2021. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Meeting minutes on April 8, 2021 were given to each Council member.
- Thomas Kinney stated, “We are putting a new fire hydrant on Sixth Avenue and Beaver Street on Thursday. Troy Feighner is doing the work.” Melanie Zearfoss asked, “Can we do that first thing in the morning because Paula Bonneau has a perm at 9:30am? Rich Banik told me they will shut down from Fourth Avenue to Seventh Avenue.”
- Thomas Kinney reported they will replace the water line from Bridge Street to the Sewer plant.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Meeting minutes on April 14, 2021 were given to each Council member.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Mayor Drass said, “We need to do something about the kids at the hockey court. Melanie ordered signs about no bicycles, scooters, or skate boards. They are climbing the fence. I kicked them out several times.” Sam Patterson said, “Nobody is over there when I play pickle ball at the tennis court.” Melanie Zearfoss suggested putting camera signs in use at the hockey court to deter. John Schettini said, “You can buy fake ones to put up.” Alison Link said, “We can purchase another camera and add it to the park ones too.”
- Mayor Drass stated “Bob Mortenson wants to change the Fireworks Ordinance. Instead of listing Memorial Day and Labor Day, he wants to change it to the weekend of Memorial Day and Labor Day.” Melanie Zearfoss said, “He is not 150 feet away from any structures.” Mayor Drass replied, “Yes he is because he sets them off at the other end of the creek.” Patrick Fanelli stated, “If you redo that ordinance you need to be specific on the days, such as Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Saturday, Sunday, Monday.” Mayor Drass said, “Mort is certified to set them off.” John Schettini confirmed commercial grade fireworks need a permit but smaller stuff on a personal level does not. Jeff Semelsberger asked, “Are bottle rockets going to be fined?” Mayor Drass stated tanaried goes off too. John Schettini asked, “Personal fireworks are what you can purchase in the stores?” Melanie Zearfoss replied, “Yes and you do not need a permit.” Mayor Drass asked, “So fireworks you can purchase underneath tents do not need a permit?” John Schettini said, “We need to have control of when and how often.” Alison Link said, “We need to add something for another day such

as getting special permission. We can let the police know for “special occasions.” Patrick Fanelli said, “You need to do this with no discretion. You must meet these criteria for consumer fireworks.”

- Melanie Zearfoss stated, “We have four red-tagged houses being torn down. Don and I will be starting a new batch.”
- A complaint form was received on April 19, 2021, from “Anonymous” at Railroad Street states 117 Rock of Ages Dr. Hastings 1. chicken’s coop is bringing racoons & rodents around 2. chickens were chased out of neighbor’s yards on Railroad St. 3. worried about kids & these chickens & racoons carrying disease. You cannot read the signature.
- Rhonda Churella had Melanie Zearfoss put something on the borough’s website where residents are getting the complaint forms stating they must provide a name, address, phone number and sign the form or they will not be brought to a Council meeting.
- Dustin & Mikaela Pellas are very interested in purchasing the old school building & property. Rhonda Churella said, “They are on two separate deeds. We purchased the ground from Anthony P & Jean A Kline on November 30, 2011 for \$3,000.00. I have questions for Patrick Fanelli about selling borough owned real property according to the Borough Code. Section 1201(4)(i) of the Borough Code states if the appraised value exceeds \$6,000.00 then the borough must advertise for bids one time in a newspaper of general circulation and set the fair market value as the starting point no less than ten days prior to the date scheduled for the opening of bids or public auction. The advertisement must include the date for the opening of bids. The council enacts a resolution then to sell to the successful bidder. The complete payment must be submitted to the borough within 60 days. If the appraiser indicates that the real property is worth less than \$1,000.00 the borough must pass a resolution stating the above and sell it through a public process.” Patrick Fanelli said, “You will need an appraisal.” Mayor Drass suggested Dave Lantzy. Melanie Zearfoss said, “Should we sell the boiler in it?” Jeff Semelsberger replied, “Yes.” Alison Link told her to take pictures and put them on Municibid for sale.
- The Conservation District gave an estimate of \$2,765.00 to do Brubaker Run by the VFW ballfield. Melanie Zearfoss said she will ask Sody’s Excavating for an estimate since they won the bid to do the creek on Coleman Street tomorrow. Melanie Zearfoss stated Mark from the Conservation District is

going to do another grant for us for 2022, but Brubaker Run needs done now before someone gets hurt.

- Resident Wendell Rouch was in the borough office on April 29, 2021, stating he would like an article in the Star Courier stating the Hastings tennis court and pickleball court are opened to the public.
- Rhonda Churella got an estimate of \$3,500.00 over the phone from Kevin Galinis of Galinis Construction to do the bridge across from the park by the T-ball field. Kevin said he can do it in two weeks.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Sam Patterson, to approve Galinis Construction to do the bridge near the T-ball field with treated lumber completed by May 21, 2021 for \$3,500.00.

Motion Carried.

- Melanie Zearfoss reported the pump is not in yet for the filter room. They don't know where it is but they did order another one from another company. Alison Link said, "We are going to put a fence up to stop kids from going on top of the dugouts." Sam Patterson asked if they considered raising the rates on ticket prices since we are investing a ton of money in a new slide and new filter room. Sam Patterson said, "If we raise the rates maybe we won't have certain people come." Melanie Zearfoss replied, "We have a community pool. The grant people are considering paying for the pump."
- A complaint form was received on May 4, 2021, from "All Residents" at Railroad Street states Building Roof falling in on RH Kelly and Son. The building is rough, roof pieces in our yards after a wind storm. The back building roof is sinking in. Front porch falling/chunking off. Nine pictures were attached with another letter stating To Whom It May Concern, I was called upon by RH Kelly & Son 212 Rock of Ages Dr. Hastings Pa 16646 to come in and cut the edges of the trusses to relieve pressure due to rotted roof and walls buckling in. Upon my belief there are many code violations 1. Trusses have been cut so many times they are on top of 440 phase line power sitting, 2. Hole in the roof with chunks falling to the ground, 3. Walls are buckling out and also have rotted wood, 4. Air tank that is riveted and illegal. I am a certified laborer and this walk through is the most terrifying walk through I have come upon in my many years in the construction business. On my behalf and also for the safety of the employees that still work in the back stock room this needs to be addressed. The roof will cave in and the walls will buckle out. This is making the building a safety concern

and violation for safe working conditions and needs to be condemned. Please note if the roof and trusses are cut anymore there will be an emergency. Thank You for taking your time to read this and provided are photos taken from inspection. Of course, it was night signed or a name printed. Mayor Drass said he and Melanie Zearfoss will go talk to RH Kelly and Son tomorrow.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- An employment application was received on April 7, 2021, from Patrick James DePetro. Jeff Semelsberger said to keep it on file for thirty days.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

- None.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Sam Patterson, that an Order is drawn, and the bills be paid, as funds become available. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council President called an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and matters of possible litigation.

END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: The session ended.

ADJOURN: Motion made by Sam Patterson, second by Jeff Semelsberger, this meeting adjourned at approximately 9:36 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager