

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

June 1, 2021

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 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 Thomas Kinney, 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:

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- Alex Gunther of 162 Church Street, came into the office to report the alley is washed away. There are deep ruts. Jeff Semelsberger stated to have Joe Wentz look at it. John Schettini said, "I have millings at my house. He is welcome to have it."
- Jim Warner was weed eating today and people came up to him complaining about culverts being blocked up by Eagle Road. Michelle Baker was to send Rhonda Churella pictures of the culvert. They were not sent yet.

POLICE COMMITTEE/REPORT:

- Police Chief Jason Owens read the monthly report for May 2021.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Sam Patterson, to approve May 2021 Police Report.

Motion Carried.

- Police Chief Jason Owens stated the FOP contract is coming due at the end of the year. The paperwork is due in by September 12, 2021. Alison Link said, "I am giving this to Melanie Zearfoss since she is on the police

committee.” Melanie Zearfoss, Jeff Semelsberger, and John Schettini are on the police committee.

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT: Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected from April 25, 2021 to May 15, 2021.

Real Estate Tax Collected.....	\$48,263.85
Per Capita Tax Collected.....	\$482.70
Total Collected.....	\$48,746.55

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer’s from May 6, 2021 to May 28, 2021.

Gross Tax Collected.....	\$13,524.52
Delinquent Per Capita.....	\$49.50

- Motion was made by John Schettini, 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 Melanie Zearfoss, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve the Financial Report as of May 1, 2021. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Rhonda Churella called Northern Cambria, Carrolltown, and Patton Borough for quotes on how many mills they give to their Fire Companies. Carrolltown Borough gives one mill with the value of mills being \$7,541.00. They pay \$628.42 monthly. Northern Cambria Borough gives 1.535 mills, which is \$38,000.00. They give to two Fire Companies \$19,000.00. Patton Borough gives .95% of a mill of the assessed valuation on the taxable property in each ward. They have two wards. They go by the assessed value from the previous year. They pay them toward the end of the year.
- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Sam Patterson, to open the borough office and police department to the public effective June 1, 2021.

Motion Carried.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Meeting minutes on May 13, 2021 were given to each Council member.
- Thomas Kinney stated, “We are still working on the grant.”
- A lease of land for public recreational purposes between Hastings Municipal Authority and Hastings Borough for twenty-five years, dated June 6, 2021, for 11.2-acre tract of land (Park & Pool area) for \$1.00 per year.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to approve a lease of land for public recreational purposes between Hastings Municipal Authority and Hastings Borough for twenty-five years, dated June 6, 2021, for 11.2-acre tract of land, which consists of deed number 33-019.200.00 for 5.2-acres, 33-022.-104.000 for 6-acreas, lease all land **except** Water Plant on deed number 33-022.-104.000 for \$1.00 per year.

Motion Carried.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Meeting minutes on May 12, 2021 were given to each Council member.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Melanie Zearfoss talked about Red-Tagged properties. There is a garage caving in on Fourth Avenue. We got an online complaint form from Renee McMahon of 1153 Spangler Street that states, “Red house with red tin roof next door is abandoned/not lived in, used for storage, owners come by once a month to cut grass and stuff more junk inside. Rodents, squirrels, birds living inside the house. The house is an eye sore.”
- We received an online complaint form from Randy Pierce of 252 4th Avenue that states, “The grass at 256 4th Ave (Larry Shilling property) is above knee height. We have concerns of rats, snakes, and bees as we have children and pets. We take pride in maintaining our property and don’t like the idea of the weeds overshadowing our sidewalk that runs along the property line as well as the shrubs that are growing through and over our fence. Are we allowed to trim the bushes and flower that are coming over the property line?” Police Chief Jason Owens said, “There is a litigation on that property between a brother and two sisters.” Jeff Semelsberger said, “The only thing we can do is cut it and put a lien on the property. Our hands are tied too.”
- Melanie Zearfoss asked Patrick Fanelli, “Are municipal authorities able to put it in a sheriff sale?” Patrick Fanelli replied, “Yes. There is a process with

several steps that must be taken. A few of these are filings and a notice to respond, with a writ of execution being last.” Melanie Zearfoss asked Patrick Fanelli, “What is the average cost of a sheriff’s sale?” Patrick Fanelli replied, “In Blair County it is \$1,500.00 fee that gets added to the sale. In Cambria County it may be approximately \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00.” Melanie Zearfoss said, “We may want to do this on this one and the car wash.”

- Patrick Fanelli talked about the Hastings Moose. Patrick Fanelli said, “Moose International needs to state if they walk away from ownership claims and contents.”
- Melanie Zearfoss stated, “John Mertens is going to remove the toilets at the park/pool. We are going to put on doors from the old school.”
- Rhonda Churella talked to Travis Lantzy about a commercial appraisal on 278 Beaver Street. Joe Lantzy doesn’t do them anymore. Travis gave a few people to call. Ginger Jakubowski gave a cost quote of \$1,200.00 with 5-6 weeks completion. Chris Bartoletti gave a cost quote of \$1,500.00 to \$1,700.00 but may be able to go to the lowest price of \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00 with 3-4 weeks after inspection. Shultz Real Estate never returned two messages to give us a quote.
- Motion made by John Schettini, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to hire Ginger Jakubowski for \$1,200.00 to do a commercial appraisal on 278 Beaver Street.

Motion Carried.

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a permit report for April 2021.
- The Hastings Fire Club would like to block off Eagle Road from Beaver Street to Maple Street on June 19, 2021 from 4:00pm to 2:00am June 20, 2021. Council approved them doing this.
- The VFW would like permission to park motor cycles on Beaver Street on June 12, 2021 from 12:30pm to 1:30pm for a fund drive for Riders out of Clearfield, PA. Council approved them doing this.
- The office received a post card from L&L Roofing, LLC of Clymer, PA on commercial roofing. John Schettini said to call them if they will give us a free estimate on the Memorial building roof.
- Alison Link stated people in town have seen a mother snake with a ton of babies in the creek by the bridge behind where Lois Baker lived. Melanie Zearfoss said, “If we keep the creek banks cut back then maybe they would leave this habitat area. We can order snake boots for the borough crew so that they don’t get bit by a snake when they clean the creek bank.” Jeff

Semelsberger said he has some contacts that would catch the snakes. Unfortunately, they are on vacation right now. As soon as they get back, I will call them. John Schettini said he knows the same snake catchers that Jeff does and yes, they would do it.

- Sam Patterson talked about Northern Cambria installing an access control system at their borough office for security reasons. The customer would need to be buzzed in the door for access to the window. Our girls cannot see who is coming in until they are half way or all the way up to the window. If something were to happen it is too late then. Rhonda Churella got a copy of Northern Cambria borough's quote of \$2,040.00 from Gittings Security of Ebensburg, PA. If we cannot do this now, I think we should add it to the budget for next year. Alison Link said to get a quote from ADT and ask Gittings Security the cost to add this to our current plan. Melanie Zearfoss said, "The police department needs a camera inside their office for security reasons too."

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- An employee questioned a time card decision that both office girls made on a weekend. Jeff Semelsberger said, "You both made the right decision. Thank you for catching those things."
- Melanie Zearfoss stated she talked to the Sewer Authority Chairman about using Jim Warner to help the borough crew more during the week. He told Melanie that there is not enough work for him to do at the sewer plant. Melanie reported Joe & Shep are doing a lot at the pool. Weed eating is something that needs caught up.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

- None.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Jeff Semelsberger, 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:

- We got an email from Chad W Stiffey, Susquehanna Township Supervisor, about the Cambria County Municipal Award that will be presented at the 2021 American Legion Co Fair. The municipal award was created to show case what can be accomplished by many of the hobby and back yard poultry producers in Cambria County. He is asking for a \$25.00 donation to cover the cost of the award that will be presented. They are planning on purchasing a shovel and getting it engraved. Jeff Semelsberger said we should donate since our Police Department does their coverage area.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to donate \$25.00 toward the Cambria County Municipal Award.

Motion Carried.

- A post card was received on May 19, 2021 from PA State Association of Boroughs about current subscribers to the paper edition of the Borough News can visit boroughs.org/digital to access the Borough News online from any browser or mobile device.
- Mayor Donald C Drass stated the Joey Bearer tournament is this weekend. We need “No Parking” signs put up and ticket them.

ADJOURN: Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Sam Patterson, this meeting adjourned at approximately 8:47 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager