

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

January 2, 2018

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hastings Borough Office.

CALL TO ORDER: Donald C Drass, Mayor

ROLL CALL: Members of the Council present – Thomas Kinney, Christopher Gibbons, Alison Link, Kristen Bollinger, Melanie Zearfoss, Mayor Donald C Drass, Jeffery Zearfoss, and Rhonda Churella. Absent was Eugene Huber.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Melanie Zearfoss, 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: Swearing in of newly elected individuals: Christopher Gibbons, Alison Link, Kristen Bollinger, Jeffery Zearfoss, and Melanie Zearfoss by Mayor Donald C Drass.

Nominations for President: Motion made by Alison Link, second by Kristen Bollinger, for Christopher Gibbons. **Secretary cast the lone ballot for the single nominee.**

President, Christopher Gibbons, takes over the meeting.

Nominations for Vice-President: Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Melanie Zearfoss, for Alison Link. **Secretary cast the lone ballot for the single nominee.**

Nominations for President Pro Tem: Motion made by Jeffrey Zearfoss, second by Thomas Kinney, for Eugene Huber. **Secretary cast the lone ballot for the single nominee.**

Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Thomas Kinney, to reappoint the following: Rhonda M Churella as Secretary; Walter

Thomas as Street Commissioner; Calvin J Webb II as Solicitor; Robert Shaffer as Auditor; Bruce Strittmatter to Water Authority for 5 year term to expire 12/31/2022; and John Mertens to Water Authority to replace Derek McLaurin with term expiring 12/31/2020.

Motion Carried.

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- Christopher Gibbons stated that Walt, Chris, and Tom have been keeping up with snow plowing.
- Christopher Gibbons gave Walt permission to take two cylinders for his snow plow to get fixed at Mining town. Walt will be in the office for a purchase order.

POLICE COMMITTEE/REPORT:

- A formal letter of Retirement as Chief of Police was given to Council and Mayor from Ronald J Sharkey, Sr. effective January 2, 2018.
- Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Alison Link, to approve Ronald J Sharkey, Sr. retirement letter as Chief of Police.

Motion Carried.

- Council discussed Ronald J Sharkey comp time and gave Borough Office Manager approval to pay this on the next scheduled payroll. Christopher Gibbons approved paying him for eight hours on New Year's Day, January 1, 2018. Borough Office Manager was instructed by Council to contact Ronald J Sharkey and schedule an appointment for him to pick up his belongings and hand in his keys, etc.
- Borough Office Manager read a complaint letter received by a worried parent.
- Officer Owens talked to Council about the Municipal Drug Task Force Agreement. The borough's solicitor has been notified about this change and is working with the Attorney General's office.

Officer Owens stated that Hastings Borough needs a new agreement for us to continue this service.

- Motion made by Alison Link, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to adopt this new agreement for Drug Task Force.

Motion Carried.

- Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Alison Link, to appoint Jason Owens as Hastings Borough Police Chief with a 15% pay increase effective January 3, 2018.

Motion Carried.

- Alison Link stated we must advertise for part time police officers.
- Alison Link stated the police cruiser went to the garage for an oil change and the back tire was losing air.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected for the month of October 2017.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Real Estate Tax Collected..... | \$0.00 |
| Per Capita Tax Collected..... | \$0.00 |
| Total Collected..... | \$0.00 |

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer's from November 22, 2017 to December 22, 2017.

Gross Tax Collected.....\$7,565.26

- Motion was made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Alison Link, to approve the Tax Collector's Report as read. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Council looked through the Financial Report. Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Alison Link, to approve the Financial Report as of November 1, 2017. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Thomas Kinney reported John Mertens is on the committee of the Water Authority.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Jeffrey Zearfoss stated in February 2018, the Sewer Authority will be selecting a contractor for the sewer project.
- Christopher Gibbons asked what is going on with the easements for vacant properties. Jeffrey Zearfoss stated that the solicitor told them Cambria County Recorder office in the courthouse will be changing their fees on January 1, 2018. The solicitor suggested getting the easements done and recorded before then. The Sewer Authority is concerned that easements on vacant properties were recorded and paid for. This was an added expense that should not have been. A meeting is scheduled to have both the solicitor and engineer at the next meeting. They both state they are looking into this. Melanie Zearfoss contacted James Burkey, Chairman of Sewer Authority, about this matter. James Burkey was on speaker phone and stated Michelle has been questioning the vacant lots for a while. She was told to get ALL easements signed and they ALL got filed. Someone needed to go through the easements and sort through them. Christopher Gibbons stated he will attend the next Sewer meeting.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a Municipal contract form to the borough office. Council appointed Thomas Kinney as the Representative to the Agency's board and Eugene Huber as Alternate Representative.

- Alison Link and Kristen Bollinger asked Borough Office Manager to call John Thomas Heating & Plumbing to fix the oil furnace in the Memorial building. Eugene Huber was to get in touch with them about this.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Borough Office Manager brought a form with remaining vacation time and comp time for Council to look over on each employee. This information was on the table.
- Borough Office Manager received a job application from Joseph Owens for part time grass mowing. Council stated to keep this on file and they will look at this in February 2018.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

- Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Kristen Bollinger, to accept Ordinance # 2017-1 Tax Rate for fiscal year 2018 to 20 ½ mills.

Motion Carried.

- Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Alison Link, to adopt and approve the 2018 budget for the general fund and building fund.

Motion Carried.

- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Alison Link, to accept Resolution # 2017-5 Authorizing the collection of 511 Taxes & Directing Other Necessary & Proper Action.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Motion made by Alison Link, second by Thomas Kinney, 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:

- Borough Office Manager stated the Dance Den owed rent for December 2017 & January 2018. Alison Link stated she is having problems with her phone, contact her with a letter.
- Christopher Gibbons stated committees will be ready by the next meeting.

ADJOURN: Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Thomas Kinney, this meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager