

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

May 15, 2018

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hastings Borough Office.

CALL TO ORDER: Christopher Gibbons, Council President

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Eugene Huber, 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: Albert Schrenkel, Jody Link, and Amber Novella.

Albert Schrenkel-Albert asked Council if they can eliminate the ditch or fill it in with dirt from the sewer project on Railroad Street. Albert said there hasn't been any water go through that ditch in several years. Eugene Huber stated he will meet with Albert tomorrow morning and check this out.

Jody Link-Jody was here representing the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) about the ballfield currently owned by the VFW. Christopher Gibbons asked when the VFW acquired the property. Melanie Zearfoss stated she needs to research the deed. Christopher Gibbons said he would go with her to the court house. Jody said the property was either given to the VFW or purchased. It was only to be used for a ballfield. Jody stated the VFW wants to either give the ballfield to the borough or Hastings Area Youth Association. The VFW would rather see it go to an organization. He believes the ballfield is 150 feet by 400.

Amber Novella-Amber stated she has been having a problem with the owner of a rental property next to her. Amber stated he has trees that are leaning onto her property. She didn't know if the borough had an ordinance. Amber wants to put up a fence on her property but the trees are in the way. Amber stated she explained to the owner, Matt Urban, if the trees fall they would hit her pool and fence. Amber stated Matt calls her every name under the sun. Amber said Matt told her to cut his trees down, burn them, and throw it in the creek. Melanie

Zearfoss told Amber you cannot do that. Christopher Gibbons told Amber that this is a civil matter that must go to Zungali's office. Amber told Council that her homeowners sent her a letter about chemicals coming from his railroad ties that are not on her property.

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to give Hastings Volunteer Fire Company permission to close the roads of 5th Avenue from Maple Street to Coleman Street & Coleman Street from Cardinal Street to 5th Avenue beginning August 3, 2018 and ending August 6, 2018 for the 2018 Gun Bash.

Motion Carried.

- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Eugene Huber, to give permission to Saint Bernard Church to close the road of Miller Street from August 12, 2018 through August 21, 2018 for the Annual Saint Bernard Homecoming Picnic.

Motion Carried.

POLICE COMMITTEE/REPORT:

- Motion made by Alison Link, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to approve the Body-Worn Camera Policy.

Motion Carried.

- KAZA Fire Equipment did an annual inspection on May 3, 2018. Two fire extinguishers were purchased last year for both police cruisers totaling \$126.50. Police Chief Jason Owens cannot find them anywhere.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Alison Link, to purchase two new fire extinguishers for both police cruisers from KAZA Fire Equipment.

Motion Carried.

- Upon the retirement of Ronald Sharkey in January 2018, he never came to get his belongings which include two desks and two filing cabinets. Alison Link will draft a letter to Ronald Sharkey giving him two weeks to get his belongings or they will be donated. This letter will be mailed out certified mail.
- Police Chief Owens talked about Informant when he was at hearings Zungali's office and Creany's. We will pay for traffic and non-traffic violations. We are currently paying Informant \$2,725.00 per year but it would go up to \$2,880.00 PLUS \$350.00 for the hardware bundle.

- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Alison Link, to get the Informant Enterprise Sweet Plan for \$2,880.00 PLUS \$350.00 for the hardware bundle.

Motion Carried.

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT: Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected from April 22, 2018 to May 12, 2018.

Real Estate Tax Collected.....	\$40,122.78
Per Capita Tax Collected.....	\$456.30
Total Collected.....	\$40,579.08

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer’s from April 25, 2018 to May 11, 2018.

Gross Tax Collected.....\$9,209.07

- Motion was made by Eugene Huber, 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 Melanie Zearfoss, second by Eugene Huber, to approve the Financial Report as of April 1, 2018. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Alison Link, to approve a three year contract with Constellation effective December 2019 at a fully fixed rate of 5.35 cents a KWH on all Penelec bills.

Motion Carried.

- Motion made by Alison Link, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to switch from Wex Bank fuel card program to SHEETZ Business Edge fuel card program which is through Wex Bank.

Motion Carried.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Borough Office Manager reported Michelle Baker passed the sewer test.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Melanie Zearfoss opened all grass mowing bids. Only two were submitted. Rogal's Keep-It-Cut Lawn Care submitted a bid of \$13,550.00 for 23 weeks. When broken down to per week would be \$589.00. DW Lawncare submitted a bid of \$720.00 weekly. Council did not accept the bids but made other provisions. Christopher Gibbons told Borough Office Manager to send a Thank you letter stating we are pursuing other options.
- Mayor Drass suggested hiring a college student to mow grass and pay them per hour. Melanie Zearfoss said if they do a bad job, we can get rid of them. Christopher Gibbons suggested making Roger Hollen a full time employee. Melanie Zearfoss said we don't want to pay for benefits. He will have the opportunity to go full time when Walter Thomas retires.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Alison Link, to increase Roger Hollen's hours to 36 hours per week effective May 15, 2018.

Motion Carried.

- Mayor Drass said Hilda Kibler asked if we could put a street light on Baker Street. Eugene Huber will look at this area at night time.
- Borough Office Manager spoke to Nancy Hindmarsh about money received from the Hindmarsh Foundation. Melanie Zearfoss wanted to know if we could use the balance left in the Hindmarsh Foundation to use for a pavilion in the pool area. Upon the Office Manager giving Nancy Hindmarsh a copy of page 4 of this month's Financial report showing the balance of \$5,285.82 and a copy of the letter sent with the last donation in December 2017, Nancy said the borough can use that money for whatever they want. She asked for the documentation to put with her paperwork for the Hindmarsh Foundation.
- Alison Link suggested having Roger Hollen taking care of the pavilion rentals this summer instead of the pool manager. Alison does not want him paid by the pool, just his regular pay.
- Alison Link stated that Walt & Roger will take lunch to the prisoners. They can use a cooler from the Memorial building & get ice from Ruth for their drinks. If they need any paper products, get them from Ruth.

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a permit report for April 2018.
- Borough Office Manager reported gym/cafeteria annual rentals for basketball, dance, etc. for organizations were mailed out on March 12, 2018. They were due in by April 1, 2018. Since they were mailed late this year, I waited until now to bring them to the meeting. As of today, no one submitted any back. Next year rentals will be on a first come first serve basis. Council was fine with this.
- Thomas Kinney was approached by Dave Commons about the borough getting a few loads of slate to fix the alley from his barn down to Tom's house. Council wants Eugene Huber and Thomas Kinney to decide what to do.
- Thomas Kinney told the Borough Office Manager about the house next to his on Spangler Street. The front end of the shed fell off and the roof is caving in. Mayor Drass said he will look at this.
- Borough Office Manager reported Matthew "Butch" Urban was in the office complaining about a ditch needing cleaned out at 290 Maple Street. His renter, Mrs. Waksmunski has had rain water coming into the basement after it rains. Butch said if the borough doesn't do anything about it, he can always do an insurance claim. Butch had a suggestion to have the prisoners clean this out. Mayor Drass and Melanie Zearfoss went over to the property to see what Butch is talking about. Mayor Drass came back and stated to have Roger weed whack it.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Alison Link, to hire Devin Keiser and Kyle Harber to the police department.

Motion Carried.

- Christopher Gibbons talked about a verbal complaint from Cory Blake about a borough employee making a derogatory remark. Christopher Gibbons stated since Cory did not do a written complaint, we cannot go any further. Christopher Gibbons stated he spoke with the police officer and he said nothing derogatory was said.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES: None.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Alison Link, 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 reported Cambria County Youth Fair is scheduled at the Hastings Park on Tuesday, July 10, 2018, from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

ADJOURN: Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Melanie Zearfoss, this meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager