

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Hastings Borough Council**

**June 2, 2020**

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in pavilion #5 at the Park.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Alison Link, Council President

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Sam Patterson, 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:** Gary Easley

Gary complained about the leaves in the park. He suggested having the guys cut the leaves up so they don't blow in other people's yards. The road here is about down to one lane of traffic because its narrow from the sewer project. Can you put some hot patch down? Gary stated he told Melanie they are doing a great job painting in the park. Gary said the town clock doesn't look good. Could we possibly get soft vinyl to put "Welcome to Hastings" signs around the clock? Gary said the clock needs painted black and trimmed in gold. Gary said he can volunteer to paint the Memorial building since the paint on the outside is chipping. The Fire Company have training on Monday nights. You could ask them if they can hose off the tables in the park and then mid-season have them come back again.

**STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:**

- Thomas Kinney, Street Commissioner, stated he will meet with Mike Bowser, PennDOT Representative, on June 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss a road project.
- Alison Link read Michelle Baker's report. Michelle talked about the chain of command for the borough crew. Mitch seems to be confused when several people are giving him things to do. Alison Link said to take anything you need or want done to go through Michelle Baker first. The lawnmower is still not fixed. The chain saw is at McAdoo's being fixed. Mitch would like a Milwaukee brand reciprocating saw. Jeff Semelsberger said he will look at prices. Joe Owens was to cut grass this week. Joe told Mitch he went camping but didn't tell Michelle Baker. He won't take direction from Michelle only to Mitch. Alison Link said she told Michelle to pull Brad to do mowing this week. Michelle Baker reported that Brad is doing a good job. Jim and Mitch are too. Michelle would like to have the borough's purchase order book so that the borough crew does not have to go into the office for them. Rhonda Churella thought this was a good idea.

### **POLICE REPORT/COMMITTEE:**

- Mayor Donald C Drass read the monthly police report for May 2020.
- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve the monthly police report.

#### **Motion Carried.**

- Sam Patterson wanted to talk about the traffic on Beaver Street. He had a complaint from Burkey's stating cars are going too fast on Beaver Street, Spangler Street and Third Avenue. Police Chief Jason Owens stated they will be. We haven't because of COVID-19. Sam Patterson stated a Coke truck was pulled over by Joe Huber. Police Chief Owens stated they can make deliveries. Sam Patterson stated Mike Thomas complains the most to him. Chief Owens stated the only places on Beaver Street they can sit are at Sam's house and Seventh Avenue. Jeff Semelsberger stated everyone needs to be aware. Chief Owens stated it's hard when your just one person.
- Police Chief Jason Owens reported they got the police cruiser back today. First, we got a flat tire and Pellas Automotive came. They said they have

new ones at the shop. It also needed wheel bearings, brakes, and coils. The vehicle has almost 159,000 miles on it.

- Mayor Drass stated ball season will be starting on Monday. We need to put up temporary “No Parking” signs. All others will start two weeks later. Mayor Drass suggested putting two handicapped signs up at lower parking places. Mayor Drass stated he had seen people in wheel chairs or walkers carrying oxygen being left off there last year. Sam Patterson suggested going an extra step and black top every handicap area.

### **FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:**

- Rhonda Churella reported still trying to get quotes. Evergreen Insurance called on May 28, 2020. They said since COVID-19, they need updated Loss Runs. They will get their quote into us for the second meeting in August.

### **WATER COMMITTEE:**

- Tom Kinney asked Melanie Zearfoss to get a hold of flaggers. We will need them on Bridge Street when we do our project. Sam Patterson asked, “How long of a time line for this project?” Tom Kinney replied, “It should be a three-day project.”
- Melanie Zearfoss talked to Judge Krumenacker. He did not approve shut offs. Patrick Fanelli gave options, first being to shut off the water and collect accrue or do the payment plan side. Sam Patterson asked Melanie, “How many people do you have?” Melanie Zearfoss replied, “Twenty-two people.”

### **SEWER COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent the permit report for April 2020.
- Mayor Drass stated we will open up the park on Friday at 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. He will take the closed signs down. We will open the pool on June 13, 2020. Melanie Zearfoss stated on Friday and Saturday will be lifeguard certification at the pool. Melanie said, “We need to get the slide up.”

- John Schettini said he is still working on getting garbage cans.
- Sam Patterson said Chance Cann of the Youth Association got prices on a back stop for \$11,046.00 and fence for \$3,124.00. Sam Patterson asked Chance, "Does the Youth Assn. have money to do this? They want to split the cost." Melanie Zearfoss said back in the day the Youth Assn. did everything. Sam Patterson stated they used to do all the mowing and now the borough does it. Where is that money? Melanie Zearfoss suggested we pay to replace the fence and they should pay for the back stop. They can do fundraisers.
- Sam Patterson talked about changing the name of the Memorial building. Gary Easley talked about how the Memorial building came into play. That building was built to memorialize past veterans. The citizens of the town built that building in their off time. The school (Cambria Heights) needed a building. They paid us for it and that money went to build the pool.
- Melanie Zearfoss asked Patrick Fanelli for example Boring's property, if no one has bought or paid anything at the property tax sale, what can we do next in the Fall? Patrick Fanelli replied, "In September the bid will be for taxes and bid of the sale." John Schettini said if the property owner can come up with some money, then you have to wait for three more years. Patrick Fanelli said, "Depending on the value of property you can either demolish the structure and sell the property. It would be a municipal cost of fixing a problem."
- A complaint form for Hastings Borough was submitted by Randy Pierce on May 28, 2020, about the yard at 256 Fourth Avenue, former Larry Shilling residence. The grass is getting extremely high ranging from ten inches to knee height. Being Larry is now deceased and there has been no movement or activity around since his passing in January, I worry that problems with rats, snakes, bees, etc. will become an issue quickly. Chief Owens reported the grass was cut on June 1, 2020 by the borough crew.
- Rhonda Churella asked if we are going to still have Mel's Car Show in July. Should I submit the PennDOT permit request later this month? Alison Link replied, "Yes."

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

#### **RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:**

- Mayor Drass asked everyone what they thought of the Red Tag Ordinance. Melanie Zearfoss asked what to do if property owners say they can't fix it up because they don't have the money. Patrick Fanelli stated they can give it to the municipality. You can take them to the magistrate's and fine them. Mayor Drass asked about the verbiage "Mayor & Council" throughout the ordinance. Patrick Fanelli said he would do Mayor and not Council. The Mayor can take it to Council to make a decision.

**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:** This session ended.

**ADJOURN:** Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Thomas Kinney. This meeting adjourned approximately 8:15 p.m. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

Rhonda Churella  
Borough Office Manager