

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

**June 4, 2019**

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hastings Borough Office.

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

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

**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:** None

**STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

**POLICE REPORT/COMMITTEE:**

- Mayor Donald C Drass read the monthly police report for May 2019.
- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Jeff Zearfoss, to approve the monthly police report.

**Motion Carried.**

- Eugene Huber reported Chris Conner's front porch is full of junk.
- Kristen Bollinger reported on Third Avenue and Baker Street, there is a Comcast truck blocking at least half of the road.

- Alison Link reported the Joey Bearer tournament went okay. Eugene Huber said the people were parked and it was bad. People couldn't get back to Laurel Drive. People were sitting on the road watching the game. Cars were parked on the curve. Mayor Drass stated, "There was nothing there when I went down." Alison Link stated we can put signs up next year in April. The police will patrol at 6:30pm during the ball season.
- Thomas Kinney came into the office today to have Rhonda report two cars sitting on Fourth Avenue and Mitchell Street between Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue. One has no plates on it and the other one is full of junk you couldn't get in it.

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

- Rhonda Churella told Council a postcard from PA Department of Community & Economic Development (D.C.E.D.) came on May 22, 2019 stating effective July 1, 2019, Uniform Construction Code (UCC) quarterly filings we only be accepted online by credit card only. Rhonda researched back and we have had two quarters that were over her borough credit card limit. One being the first quarter of this year.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to increase Rhonda Churella's borough credit card limit from \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00.

**Motion Carried.**

### **WATER COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

### **SEWER COMMITTEE:**

- Borough Office Secretary reported about the sewer project meeting on May 29, 2019. Ernie said Maple Street is done. Cole & Maple are to get done. Todd said we need to cold patch on Third. A revised plan for supplement to approve it on short term. Ernie said ADA ramps on Third & Beaver. Got a check for Blaze McCombie. Jim Burkey talked about a new development on Laurel. Some is smoothed out and some is not. Ernie said they are trying to smooth it out the best they can. They are trying to fluff

up the topsoil. Patrick stated they are doing driveways on Laurel Drive. Steve said they got a contractor for lateral line for Dollar General for the sewer line. Doesn't have our test or vacuum. Ernie said on Second & Spangler are plugged up drains. Steve said they are filling in trenches. Todd said the issue is still pending on Beaver Street. Ernie said there are six days of concrete work left and ADA ramps to get done. Patrick is going to get laterals for Beaver Street today or tomorrow. The next meeting is scheduled June 11, 2019 at 10:00am.

- Eugene Huber said, "Bill Thomas lives behind me. Bill said the storm drain was not cleaned out. All the water comes out of the woods. Kevin Galinis had put a drain in there years ago. A low spot deterred and went into his house." He asked Eugene if we can put a storm drain in by or in his property and connect to the storm drain. The exception is becoming the normal. Mayor Drass said the ditch needs cleaned out by Hilda Kibler. Melanie Zearfoss said maybe we should go around and look for clogged drains and clean them out since the storms. Eugene Huber said we need to see if Liquid Fuels money can be used. Troy Feighner can do this for us.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a permit report for May 2019.
- Jeff Semesberger said Spory's Locksmith is coming on Monday at 10:00am. What doors do you want done? Alison Link said all the outside doors. Melanie Zearfoss said, "If you get me a core key, I can do it myself."
- Alison Link said Rick Serafin from Hastings Area Youth Association stated we turned down purchasing the Vets Field for a \$1.00. Jim Rogal told him we said no. Melanie Zearfoss said the Park & Rec. was interested in taking this property. Patrick Fanelli said if the Park & Rec. took it over, they would need a separate insurance policy. Mayor Donald C Drass said HAYA cannot afford the insurance but the borough can with their bundled insurance package. HAYA does the field work, but the borough mows the grass. Eugene Huber said Jody Link came to a meeting and we did not turn them down. Patrick Fanelli asked if the VFW has an attorney. Alison Link said she will ask Jody Link.
- Melanie Zearfoss talked about the newspaper article in the Altoona Mirror. It pertains to stream maintenance guidelines. Mayor Drass said a backhoe cannot go into the creeks.

- Melanie Zearfoss took a picture of the creek caving in by the walking trails behind Coleman Street. Mayor Drass said he saw that too behind Leah Anico's house.
- Kristen Bollinger asked if the lot by the school building was ever mowed? Police Chief Jason Owens replied, "Yes."
- Melanie Zearfoss said Amy Sunseri wants to purchase Blake's house. Amy asked Melanie if they could purchase the property from the borough behind Blake's house or at least use and maintain the property. Patrick Fanelli said you cannot take property from the borough by adverse possession. As far as any liability if they would be on the borough property and someone got hurt, our insurance will cover it.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Rhonda had asked Council a few questions about the leave sheets & letter. Why was Rich Banik excluded? I know he will find out when these forms are out and come in and ask why he didn't receive them. Alison Link said it is because Rich is paid by water & sewer only. Rhonda then asked if part time can have comp time. Council said yes after 40 hours. Rhonda asked if the office girls can have comp time? Council said yes but you need to justify why you would be over 40 hours.
- Rhonda asked Patrick Fanelli what we do if Walter Thomas does not retire, resign, or show up to work on June 24, 2019. Patrick Fanelli stated we can call him after his next doctors' appointment on June 10, 2019 and ask him what he is doing. Kristen Bollinger would like to meet with Walter Thomas so that he does understand what his options are. Kristen said we can schedule this after his doctors' appointment. Patrick Fanelli said you can vote on your decision at the July 2, 2019 Council meeting. Melanie Zearfoss asked since arthritis was listed on his paperwork, isn't that considered pre-existing? Patrick Fanelli said anything aggravated or irritated is considered pre-existing. Rhonda asked about health insurance paperwork since Walter has no more time off. What will I do toward the end of June when we pay for July's insurance? Patrick Fanelli said we will have to pay his portion of the premium 100% by the borough. Once we determine what Walter decides to do, you may be able to get a credit towards the next bill or Walter can qualify for COBRA insurance if he so desires.

- Kristen Bollinger talked about an email Michelle Baker sent on Julia Rodgers regarding her progress on the billing side. Julia has issues with customer complaints, deposits are incorrect, problems with credit card transfers, etc. Kristen would like to set up a meeting with Julia, Michelle, Rhonda, and Alison to discuss this with her. She is halfway through her probationary period.

**RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Nothing to report.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Nothing to report.

**ADJOURN:** Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Kristen Bollinger. This meeting adjourned approximately 8:30 p.m. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

Rhonda Churella  
Borough Office Manager