

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

**August 4, 2020**

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Office.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Thomas Kinney, 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:** Ron Verdavoir, Pat McAndrews, and Rob Pierce Sr.

**Pat McAndrews** wants something done with the amount of traffic because of Dollar General and Cross Cut Church. He is concerned that a child is going to get hit by a vehicle someday. He suggested a possible traffic light put somewhere. Pat said there is twenty to thirty cars going 35 to 40 miles per hour. The speed limit is 15 miles per hour. Police Chief Jason Owens said they could run traffic speed. Pat said about doing two speed bumps like Carrolltown has done. Sam Patterson stated he has the same exact problem with another street. Jeff Semelsberger said, "I sympathize with you, but we can look into it." Sam Patterson said Council years ago changed Second Avenue from not being a one-way street. This street is a borough street. Thomas Kinney agreed. Sam Patterson said, "How did we do this? We passed an ordinance without a traffic study. Why can't we put a stop sign at both places? I didn't buy my house to live on 219." Patrick Fanelli said PennDOT requires a traffic study. Sam Patterson said he liked the idea of two speed bumps but how do we plow snow. Jay Schettini

said you can take those down during the winter months. Sam Patterson stated Kirkpatrick Street had a sign up and then it was taken down. Jeff Zearfoss stated, "It probably was never put through as an ordinance." Jeff Semelsberger asked Pat McAndrews, "If we do a one-way street on Kirkpatrick Street, which way would you like?" Rob Pierce said, "If you make it a one-way street, I won't be able to get my camper in my yard." Melanie Zearfoss stated snow plowing in the winter is narrow through there. Sam Patterson said, "We can't have the police run speed all the time since we also cover two other townships." Jeff Zearfoss said, "We can talk to Stiffler McGraw and have Chief Owens put white lines up for now." Patrick Fanelli said, "You need to talk to Stiffler McGraw." Jeff Semelsberger stated, "We will definitely look into it."

**Ron Verdavoire** stated he is also backing Pat McAndrews about the speeding problem. Ron said, "I am here because of the trailers by my house. I have cat piss smell. Tom Yeager has junk cars, boats and two big dogs, etc. I live around a shit hole." Melanie Zearfoss stated Cross Cut Church bought the trailer court from Hastings Area Industrial Development Association. Ron asked, "What was the purpose of that cul-de-sac?" Thomas Kinney said you need to ask H.A.I.D.A. Sam Patterson said they have hopes to develop the land for more business. Ron also complained about the sewer project leaving his yard full of stones. Ron said the trailers are bad. Melanie Zearfoss stated that Cross Cut Church has bought Vonda Fulton's trailer. Alison Link stated, "We can site the owner of Cross Cut Church which is Laura McCombie." Jeff Zearfoss said, "Let's give Laura McCombie a heads up to address this sooner than later."

**Rob Pierce Sr** talked about the alley next to his garage. Rob stated, "Cory Blake parks his cars and now he has a camper parked there. People on Mitchell Street may need to use this alley to get out of Mitchell Street since it is a dead-end street. Back in the 1990's I recall there was a fire on Mitchell Street and people couldn't get through to go to work." Jeff Semelsberger stated, "We'll look into it."

**Pat McAndrews** asked, "Why do I need to pay two sewer bills?" Melanie Zearfoss replied, "You had an apartment that was occupied." Pat McAndrews replied, "It was family." Patrick Fanelli said, "Water and sewer decide a separate service. Each house has one Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU). Then if you needed a second EDU, you would need to pay a tap in fee." Jay Schettini stated, "My Uncle owned a building in Northern Cambria and they made him disconnect. He had to dig it out, then the borough came down to inspect it and cap it off."

## **STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:**

- Thomas Kinney, Street Commissioner, stated the paving project is done. We have a couple of manholes that we need to get more risers for.
- Marc Beach was in the office on July 15, 2020, asking about the poles uptown. Marc wants to know if we are replacing them before Christmas this year. Marc stated the one by Joe Hartzell Insurance is really bad. Alison Link said when we get a borough crew this will be the second job on the list for them to do. Council asked if Marc ever gave us an estimate on the electric box by the library. Rhonda Churella will ask him about that for the next meeting.
- Don Drass keeps getting asked by Hilda Kibler about fixing the alley between her and Tony Kline, which is Wren Road. Thomas Kinney said, "There is no alley ever used there. The alley has never been open." Jeff Semelsberger said, "That was an open ditch for many years. They filled the ditch in for a safety issue." Melanie Zearfoss said that it is not a liquid fuels road. Thomas Kinney said her garage is on this alley.
- Kara Kollar came into the office on July 29, 2020, wanting the road project people to fix an 8x8 hole on Baker Street. Kara said they are only paving a small area of that road and thought since the equipment was already there that they could fix this hole. Rhonda Churella explained that they cannot do this since that was not a part of the road project bid. We will check to see who takes care of that section of the road. According to the GIS map that is a part of Susquehanna Township. Rhonda asked Rich Banik about this and Rich said we have always maintained that road since our reservoir is up there. We had the borough crew take some dirt and slate to fill the holes in on Baker Street.
- Don Drass said there is a pot hole by the concession stand that could use some cold patch.
- Melanie Zearfoss reported Brad Lieb's last day is Thursday, August 6, 2020.
- John Schettini said Barb and Dale Kline have complained about the road on Edgewood Drive. Thomas Kinney said, "After we get someone, we will have lots to do with cold patch. I wanted to ask Kevin Galinis if he would do it." Jeff Semelsberger said he is looking for work. Jeff Zearfoss said we need to

make a list. Sam Patterson said Kevin is very reasonable. Alison Link said, "I wonder if he would like to plow snow for us."

- John Schettini said, "Joe Rogal cannot have his wedding reception at the Fire Hall in Carrolltown because of COVID. Joe Rogal helped with having the Vets field transferred to the borough. Joe would like to use the Vets field for his wedding." Alison Link said Joe needs to let us know the date. Jeff Semelsberger said it is either September 5<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Zearfoss said he needs to sign a waiver.
- Melanie Zearfoss said, "The Youth Association needs to clean the bathroom. Brad said how filthy they are." Alison Link stated, "We need to do a written agreement."

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

- Police Chief Jason Owens read the monthly police report for June and July 2020.
- Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve the monthly police report.

#### **Motion Carried.**

- Chief Owens would like to make an amendment to the animal ordinance for cats. Cats are destroying property, using as a restroom, etc. We don't have anything under the Nuisance ordinance on cats either.

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

- Rhonda Churella told Council that she usually invoices for the Machine Tax July 1<sup>st</sup>. I have collected from two bars for 2020. However, on July 15, 2020, with COVID-19 Governor Wolf shut down all bars until further notice. Can I roll over this money for 2021? I will send a letter to the ones that have paid in 2020 letting them know we will use this for 2021. Jeff Semelsberger asked how much money are we talking. Rhonda replied, "All together it would total \$250.00. Council approved to send a letter to the ones that paid and use this for 2021."

### **WATER COMMITTEE:**

- Tom Kinney said the Bridge Street project is done but the sidewalks must be ADA compliant.

### **SEWER COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- Joe Rogal came to the meeting. Joe stated his wedding is in four weeks. With COVID, you can only have a gathering of twenty-five people and our reception got cancelled. Our wedding date is September 5, 2020. The wedding will be at 1:00pm, then pictures afterwards, and the meal will be around 4:30pm. We have approximately 150 people coming. If the ball park is available, we will need a one-day drinking permit. Patrick Fanelli said, "The open container ordinance can be lifted for that day." Joe said we will put up tents. Jeff Semelsberger said, "You must abide by COVID-19 and use porta potties." Jeff Zearfoss said, "You must sign an agreement about the liability."
- A motion was made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Jeff Zearfoss, to lift the open container and curfew ordinance on August 15, 2020 for Hastings Woodstock, September 5, 2020 for Joe Rogal wedding, and October 10, 2020 for Wine Fest.

#### **Motion Carried.**

- Renee Daly, Executive Director of Cambria County Redevelopment Authority, sent an email on July 29, 2020 on behalf of the Redevelopment Authority of Cambria County (RACC). The Cambria County Commissioners and JARI, would like to invite you to consider placing acreage in the Pennsylvania Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) program. Jeff Semelsberger said, "We currently don't have any property in the borough to give them."
- A letter came from Cambria County Tax Claim Bureau in regards to Sale Conditions for the September 14, 2020 Upset Sale.
- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by John Schettini, to let Melanie Zearfoss purchase property on Beaver Street at the Upset Sale on September 14, 2020.

#### **Motion Carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Council President called an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and matters of possible litigation.

**END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:** This session ended.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Motion made by John Schettini, second by Sam Patterson, to hire Joe Wentz full time at \$16.75 per hour and Brian Maul part time for three or four days a week at \$12.00 per hour pending acceptance to take the jobs.

**Motion Carried.**

- Michelle Baker send an email about Jim Warner's raise. She wrote up his evaluation in May 2020. Will he get a pay increase? Alison Link said, "Raises will be looked at budget time for Council. Michelle Baker can do his evaluation since she is his supervisor. I will put it back into her mailbox."

**RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:**

- None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Nothing to report.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Tim McDonald from Higher Information Group called the office and sent an email wanting to digitize our meeting minutes to a flash drive. He is coming to the office on Friday, August 7, 2020 at 10:00am since he is in the area visiting other local boroughs. Rhonda Churella told Council she could always scan the meeting minutes into her computer in a file that is backed up. I did this with the borough ordinances. Council said to meet with him but they are not interested.
- Jeff Zearfoss asked if Patrick Fanelli or anyone else on Council looked over the handbook. A lot have started. It will be reviewed for the next meeting.

**ADJOURN:** Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by John Schettini. This meeting adjourned approximately 9:46 p.m. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

Rhonda Churella  
Borough Office Manager