

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

**August 6, 2019**

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 6, 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 Zearfoss, Mayor Donald C Drass, Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, Kristen Bollinger, Thomas Kinney, Melanie Zearfoss, and Rhonda Churella. Absent was Jeff Semelsberger.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Kristen Bollinger, 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:** Richard Elder, Renee Schreyer, Bill & Mary Lou Shortencarrier  
**Richard Elder-** Rich asked Council for their decision on Cardinal Road between Baker Street and Spruce Street. Eugene Huber stated this is no road, it's just woods. We went to look and there will never be a road there. Rich Elder asked Council if he could get a quick claim deed. A tiny corner of my garage is on this particular piece of property. My attorney will not do this without a letter. Patrick Fanelli said if a municipality will not open as a road, a quick claim deed can be done from the property owner to himself and then clear title it. Quiet title you need to advertise in the paper and then it becomes yours. Rich Elder asked Patrick Fanelli if he would contact Attorney Previte about this. Patrick Fanelli said, "Yes, I will call him." Patrick Fanelli told Council if a road or alley is not opened in twenty-one years it is subject to other rights. The public owns some rights to it.  
**Renee Schreyer, Bill & Mary Lou Shortencarrier-** Renee stated they had a pavilion rental #3 on July 5, 2019. I want to give you a quote from Robert Baden-Powell: "Leave this world a better place than when you found it." My family left Hastings

Park better than when we found it. Me and my kids found a piece of cardboard. We picked it up and disposed it. That is what I have been taught and what I have taught my children. The rent of the pavilion was \$125.00. The safety and cleanliness were bad. You could not eat on the tables. You could not sit on the benches. You could not walk on the floor. I don't mind cleaning. We spent hours to clean it. It was disgraceful. The spouting was so full of dirt and weeds were three feet tall. I lived in this town and don't mind making it a better place. I don't feel it was worth \$125.00. I would like to get some of my money back. I did get the security deposit back. If you rented a hotel room and it was filthy, wouldn't you request your money back or another room? Thomas Kinney said he has left when that has happened. Melanie Zearfoss said this rental was outside not inside. You guys used the fire station to clean the floor. You brought them onto our property. Bill Shortencarrier said, "I pay taxes. That is our property." Melanie Zearfoss said, "We fixed the spouting." Renee said it was never cleaned. Alison Link said it was cleaned at the beginning of the season. Renee said, "That dirt was there for a while." Mary Lou Shortencarrier said, "I cleaned underneath the table for spiders." Melanie Zearfoss said, "Don't rent it anymore." Renee replied, "We won't. Thank you very much." Renee also said that her daughter is having a free concert at the pool. The proceeds are for the pool. Your welcome.

### **STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:**

- A borough complaint form was handed into the office from Kristy Pierce of 252 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hastings, PA. Kristy was complaining about a vehicle parking on Mitchell Street. Police Chief Jason Owens stated the road is narrow to begin with. Brandan Howie has been talked to about this. He is not obstructing traffic and is not blocking the road.
- Rhonda Churella read the General Labor Management report dated 8/6/2019 to Council.
- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve Keystone Response Services LLC to conduct safety training classes to our crews and operators.

**Motion Carried.**

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

- Mayor Donald C Drass read the monthly police report for July 2019. Mayor Drass said they have been doing an excellent job!
- Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Kristen Bollinger, to approve the monthly police report.

**Motion Carried.**

- Mayor Drass said today he was directing traffic for the Fire Company on the utility call. Mayor Drass said that four women didn't stop. He said the next time he is going to get license numbers and will turn this into the police.

**FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

**WATER COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

**SEWER COMMITTEE:**

- Borough Office Secretary reported about the sewer project meeting on July 23, 2019. Todd said paving limits for a few weeks with overlay on Third Avenue. The ADA ramp should be submitted today or tomorrow. Ernie said there is about four weeks for asphalt. They are going to do lawns until they are completed. Pat said Laurel was done but they are going back to finish. Ray received a complaint from Rose Keefe. She cannot open her coal bin door. Todd said Third & Spangler there is a water source on Edgewood. Ernie had the guys go up and look at this. The ground is soft. Nothing was missed when they looked at it. Roger checked for chlorine and said there was none. Underground water could possibly be coming up. Pat said they might put a bleeder pipe & catch basin in to separate the stones & water. Ernie said there are not many bleeder pipes in town. They will start underground inspections tomorrow. Pat will call Michelle about where the catch basins are in town. Todd stated Quaker Sales is getting nervous about milling overlay on August 5, 2019. Jim asked how far are they on restoration? Ernie said they have the front & back yards in Slickport. They will do the dry lands before the wetlands. Jim has gotten restoration complaints on Spangler & Kirkpatrick Streets over to Third Ave. Ernie said

they are getting to it and it will all be done. They will not be paving on Friday and focus on restoration instead. Pat stated he got eight complaints from Roxanne Pitts about her driveway. Jim stated the authority is not taking ownership of the lateral for Dollar General. A concerned resident called him about the main halfway down the manhole. Pat said they cut a "Y" that comes down into main at Dollar General. The steepest flow is at the top of the building. Todd suggested them tapping into the main line to Huber Street. They are going to pressure test the line. We must put ball down the main at the "Y" and inflate it for air testing. They are not familiar with pressure testing. Pat said the contractor they hired did a good job. He knew what he was doing. Jim wants a final report on who did not sign an easement and doesn't have new lines to their house so they can start sending out letters. Todd asked how the substantial testing is going? Ernie said testing should be completed this week. We are going to do driveway work first and then overlays. Sometime next week we are doing the underground walk through and get everything else done. The next meeting is scheduled August 13, 2019 at 9:00am.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a permit report for July 2019.
- The borough office received a complaint in the mail on August 1, 2019 from a concerned resident about an issue with an individual's pet ducks left running free all day long. They are crapping on everyone's property and walking path. The Soil Conservation office made us aware they need a manure nutrient and a manure management plan. The ducks are annoying.
- Mayor Drass talked about the Chesapeake Bay stating you must provide a special place for people to put the removal of waste for any type of farm animals. They will go to the State. Mayor Drass said we need to rescind this Ordinance.
- Patrick Fanelli read the current Animals Ordinance. Patrick Fanelli said someone could challenge this by saying okay I attack this because it is too vague. On the defense they can't have until they get special permission that shows no source of annoyance or health hazard. You must have a general consistency. For example, someone who lives on the outline of town and not in town. Don't use the word "grandfathered". You can say

something like based on a long track record and not having an annoyance we will approve. If the property is too small you can deny.

- A letter was sent to the borough office on August 5, 2019, from Kendell & Ashley Rogal of 183 Harvey Street for approval of 4-8 hens.
- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Thomas Kinney to deny Kendell & Ashley Rogal's request because they may cause an annoyance.

**Motion Carried.**

- James & Diana McAnulty of 195 High Street mailed in an Animal Ordinance form on August 6, 2019. They are asking for the following that they currently have: 5 horses, 2 mini horses, 2 dwarf goats, 15 chickens, 1 peacock, 1 iguana, 18 turkeys, and 3 ducks.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Kristen Bollinger, to approve James & Diana McAnulty's current animals listed on the Animal Ordinance form.

**Motion Carried.**

- A complaint letter was put in the night deposit and received on August 6, 2019 but no one signed the letter. The complaint was for dogs running loose with no collar, license, or leash.
- A letter was sent from Cambria County Tax Claim on properties being offered for sale at the annual Cambria County Upset Tax Sale on September 9, 2019.
- Patrick Fanelli talked to Council about blighted properties. Power of Eminent Domain is when you pay the owner of property fair value. You need to get a ballpark estimate from a demo company; and get an appraisal on the value of the property. Now the property owner can contest taking it and the cost.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

**RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Nothing to report.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Karen Bearer, daughter of Elizabeth Overberger, told Rhonda on July 19, 2019, that Elizabeth has two pine trees in her front yard that the borough is

welcome to have and use as the town Christmas tree. Council discussed this but feel they will be too large to use, and we have no place to put a large tree anymore. Council told Rhonda to send her a letter thanking her for her generosity, but we have no use at this time.

- A thank you card from Jim, Sandy, Julia & Sydney Rodgers for flowers sent to James Sodmont.
- Thomas Kinney talked about the tan borough truck. Jeff Semelsberger is looking for another one so that we can replace it. The white truck has a bad motor for the auger. We need to get a new motor. Eugene Huber said this could be paid from Liquid Fuels money.
- Thomas Kinney said he agrees with Michelle that the guys should get a raise. They are doing a great job. Eugene Huber agrees.
- Patrick Fanelli kept Council up to date with how the police contract with Susquehanna Township is going. Patrick will continue to follow up with them. When the contract is complete, it will be retroactive effective July 1, 2019. We will need to do a new ordinance also.
- Melanie Zearfoss asked Patrick Fanelli about an update on the Vets property. Melanie Zearfoss said the deeds go up to 1920 that the VFW had given her. The VFW wants to keep their building on Beaver Street and the monument area. Everything else they want to give to the borough.

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

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

Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Eugene Huber, to approve giving a raise increase on the general fund side for the following employees: Brandan Terry \$12.00 per hour; Jim Warner \$12.00 per hour; Rhonda Churella \$16.00; and Jason Owens \$18.00 effective August 12, 2019.

**Motion Carried.**

**ADJOURN:** Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Eugene Huber. This meeting adjourned approximately 9:05 p.m. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

Rhonda Churella  
Borough Office Manager