

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

September 1, 2020

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 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, Mayor Donald C Drass, and Rhonda Churella. All were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Jeff 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: Rodney Ropp & Don Mulraney of Cambria Heights Kidskins, Inc. Nicholas Gueguen & Cody Weakland.

Rodney Ropp was here about using our fields for Kidskins, Inc. We will use CDC guidelines. We have added Hastings Borough onto our insurance policy. Rodney gave this copy to Patrick Fanelli. We have a log of temperature checks, etc. Rodney said, “Drew Thomas will set up the field. He will mark the grass with paint.” **Don Mulraney** stated they have over one hundred kids to practice and play. The garbage will be picked up. Rodney Ropp said this will be a five-week season with the last game being played on either October 10th or 11th. Flag will end on October 29, 2020. We will practice on the fields also. We have groups set up per ages, such as ages 5-6; ages 3-4; Pre-K to 2nd grade, and Flag.

Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by John Schettini, to accept Kidskins, Inc. to play on our fields.

Motion Carried.

Nicholas Gueguen wants to use the Memorial Building for basketball. **Cory Weakland** said, “We want to do something the parents can afford.” Nicholas Gueguen said they would need two Saturdays per month. We want to launch in

Spring 2021. We will get small business insurance. We want to do year-round once we launch. We want to set it up like AAU Travel Program. Alison Link asked, "Did you want to rent it like the Dance Den?" Nicholas replied, "Yes." Jeff Semelsberger asked, "How about supervision? How many adults to children ratio will you have?" Nicholas Gueguen replied, "We will only have up to ten kids per session." Jeff Semelsberger stated we need to discuss the liability and will talk to Patrick Fanelli about this. We understand there is not a lot in the area and you don't have to travel.

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- Street Commissioner, Thomas Kinney, reported the plant at Quaker Sales in Northern Cambria has been shut down until after Labor Day. We will not be able to get cold patch to fix a lot of pot holes until they are opened. Mayor Donald C Drass said a 15 or 16-year-old hit that pot hole near the park the other day. He was trying to get off the road so that a car could get past him. This hole needs to be fixed before someone gets hurt.
- Joe Wentz stated there are water holes on Coleman Street (2 areas) and Seventh Avenue. Thomas Kinney stated on Third & Fourth Avenues too. Joe Wentz said you usually have up to one year after the road project to have them come back and fix it. Jeff Semelsberger suggested the office calling Granna Brothers or mailing out a letter, and to let Mike Bowser, PennDOT representative know this too.
- Melanie Zearfoss talked about the walking trail past the sewer plant. Hoot took his stuff off of the walking trail. Before his house there is a hole that needs filled. An abandoned trailer is further down the trail. Jeff Semelsberger asked, "Is it mobile?" Melanie Zearfoss replied, "Yes." Police Chief Jason Owens stated it will be pulled out tomorrow. Melanie Zearfoss stated a backhoe needs to back drag it.
- Jeff Semelsberger welcomed Joe Wentz to the meeting. This is his first time to attend a meeting since he has been hired. Jeff Semelsberger asked, "Is there anything we can do for you? If you ever need anything, don't hesitate to ask us."
- Joe Wentz reported salt was left in the auger since last winter in the new truck. The plows do not have skids on it. Thomas Kinney replied, "They break off." Joe Wentz talked about painting lines on the crosswalks. Jeff Semelsberger stated they have talked about getting a line painter. We will have to talk about this over the winter and paint in the spring of 2021.

- Melanie Zearfoss talked about an estimate she got from John Mertens on the Christmas poles. The price for 4 X 21' is \$10.15 per foot; Blk is \$213.15 per stick; galvanized \$12.20 per foot; \$256.20 per stick; Caps: Blk \$20.75 & galvanized \$74.75.
- Melanie Zearfoss suggested having Ed clear the creek banks out. Ed told her he would do it if the borough bought him snake boots. Jeff Semelsberger said Troy Feighner can do it quicker and thorough. Thomas Kinney said he would reach out to Troy about doing this.
- Rhonda Churella reported setting up an appointment with LTAP (Pennsylvania Local Technical Assistance Program) on September 14, 2020 at 9:00am. This program is free. They will come out and give us suggestions only. They are currently doing research of the roads for speeding and accidents, etc.

POLICE REPORT/COMMITTEE:

- Mayor Donald C Drass read the monthly police report for August 2020.
- Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to approve the monthly police report.

Motion Carried.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Rhonda Churella talked to Council about our commercial package proposals received from Pallone Insurance Company and Ebensburg Insurance Agency. Pallone Insurance Company gave a premium of \$44,074.00. Our workers compensation will cover the borough and fire company. We will not have a separate policy through SWIF (State Workers Insurance Fund). The fire company will need to get their own insurance for the fire club. Our deductibles will go from \$500.00 to \$250.00 and we will have the same amount of coverage. Ebensburg Insurance Agency gave a premium of \$62,335.00.
- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to switch to Pallone Insurance Company effective September 20, 2020.

Motion Carried.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Thomas Kinney said they finally got the valve replaced at the nursing home. We did it at 5:00pm.
- Thomas Kinney talked about fixing the sidewalks on Bridge Street. There is no way they can be ADA sidewalks. We will not be replacing the curbs.
- Melanie Zearfoss stated the Water Authority & Sewer Authority are going to give Council a copy of their meeting minutes going forward.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a permit report for July 2020.
- Melanie Zearfoss reported Mara Taranto and Laura McCombie being in the office about Vonda Mae Fulton trailer bid through the Tax Claim Bureau. Sakiynah Hyton of Sacramento, California bid \$500.00. Mara Taranto went over to him to let him know that Cross Cut Church owns the property. He thought that came with the trailer. Sakiynak apparently told Mara then he doesn't want the trailer. He has not let the Tax Claim Bureau know this nor is he returning phone calls. Patrick Fanelli stated they have remedies to take care of this. Cross Cut Church can evict since they own the property. This is a civil liability. Patrick Fanelli advised Council, "I would not get involved."
- Melanie Zearfoss told Police Chief Jason Owens about Kelsey Yeager at 111 High Street having a silver SUV that is registered to Ashley Pierce. Cross Cut Church would like this towed away.
- Melanie Zearfoss got a bid from Beach Electric Services to split the electrical boxes at the library. The cost is between \$2,800.00 and \$3,000.00. Mayor Drass stated Kathy O'Rourke told him it will be okay to leave it as it is. Alison Link said, "This is fishy now that they are changing their plans. We are going to proceed with having the box split." Jeff Zearfoss stated Verizon owns that right of way by the electrical box.
- Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to have Beach Electric Services separate the electrical box at the library.

Motion Carried.

- Melanie Zearfoss stated she did research at the court house on some properties in the borough. I think these would be good options for Red Tags: Matt Urban owns a trailer on High Street and Pauline Shoop owns a house on High Street. Other properties looked at were Raymond Rusnak of 163 Railroad Street, Charlie's Barber Shop on Beaver Street-they owe Northern Cambria Water Authority \$20,000.00. Borings on Kirkpatrick Street-State of PA. Melanie Zearfoss asked if this was state taxes and if so, would boroughs be exempt from the taxes? Patrick Fanelli looked at the information and stated this is not taxes but restitution paid in a criminal matter. Melanie Zearfoss asked what route to go next. Mayor Drass asked, "What do we need to do to red tag?" Patrick Fanelli replied, "You have to send a written notice in a letter to the property owner first. You can give them thirty days to become compliant. If not, you must have a hearing next and make a determination." Melanie asked how much should she bid on Charlie the Barber and Boring's property at the Upset Sale on September 14, 2020. Council said they need to think about this pending information. They will let Melanie know an amount when they come to a decision.
- Rhonda Churella asked Council if Melanie and her could attend an Act 152 and Tax Sale seminar on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, offered by the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority and Tax Claim Bureau.
- Motion made by John Schettini, second by Jeff Semelsberger, for both Rhonda and Melanie to attend the Act 152 and Tax Sale seminar on September 16, 2020.

Motion Carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Thomas Kinney, to adopt Ordinance #2020-2, Amendment to Chapter III Animals, adding section 6-Cats.

Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mayor Donald C Drass talked about the Halloween parade with COVID-19. He suggested ages 12 and under dress up in costume. He said quite a few residents would like to donate money for the children in our Fire Company area to maybe go to the fire hall afterwards for a hotdog and candy. Alison Link stated Kristen Bollinger is in charge of the Holiday Events. Kristen wants to do a car parade and floats. Residents can participate by decorating their cars and doing floats. Alison suggested anyone who wants to give out candy can go to the park or along the walking trail. Patrick Fanelli advised Council to stay with a traditional Halloween because of CDC guidelines. Alison Link said we could possibly do door to door trick or treat from 6-8pm. People who want to participate can put their outside light on.
- Alison Link said, "Jeff Zearfoss and I were discussing only having one meeting per month. We will have the budget meeting in place of the second meeting on October 20 and November 17, 2020 at 6:00pm." Jeff Zearfoss said, "We can look at this in December about changing to one meeting in 2021."
- Melanie Zearfoss stated Archives Social contacted her about backup social media on the borough and police department Facebook pages. They told her with the Open Records Law or Right to Know Law, if anyone would delete a post, this archive could be retrieved. The cost is \$2,388.00 per year. Council discussed with Patrick Fanelli and decided since we are a small borough, we will not proceed with this.
- The borough received an application to renew for participation in the Federal Surplus Property Program from the PA Department for General Services. Our expiration is October 10, 2020. We will renew with a new expiration date of October 10, 2023. Rhonda Churella kept herself as an email contact. All Council members will be able to do the purchases.

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 Sam Patterson, second by Jeff Zearfoss. This meeting adjourned approximately 9:16 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager