

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

September 3, 2019

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 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, Jeff Semelsberger, and Rhonda Churella. All were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Melanie Zearfoss, 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: Marc Beach, Sam Patterson

Marc Beach- Marc asked Council about getting a pipe put in a house on Hunter Street. He said an open ditch is between Hunter Street and Tom Endler's house. Eugene Huber stated, "Tom Kinney & I can go up and look at it." Jeff Semelsberger asked Marc if a corrugated pipe would work. Marc thought it would.

Sam Patterson- Sam said he knows everyone in town is happy about the new Dollar General in town. However, it has created more traffic, pedestrians, baby strollers, and bikes on the roadway. Sam asked, "How can we get speed down?" I watched traffic and in a half hour more vehicles were going over 25 miles per hour on Beaver Street. Sam also asked, "What is the difference between Spangler Street and Beaver Street?" Police Chief Jason Owens explained only in specific spots can we run speed. Beaver Street only has two spots by law. They are Seventh Avenue and by your house. Our device cannot do it. We can only sit in

certain spots. It has been hard to do with the sewer project too. We need to repaint our lines. We can give up to ten miles. Sam Patterson said but not thirty. Chief Owens said we can watch it and get the stats. Sam Patterson asked if stop signs are an option on Beaver Street. Chief Owens replied, "No." Sam Patterson said, "I don't expect the borough to put a lot of money out to stop the traffic. Patrick Fanelli stated you would need to do an engineering study, get State permission since it is a state road. Sam Patterson asked about a speed bump. Patrick Fanelli replied, "Speed bumps are even harder." Chief Owens stated, "We'll repaint the lines and sit there for a month. We can see what numbers we get."

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- Kristen Bollinger said a streetlight is out on Third Avenue and Baker Street. Steve Hnatkovich told Kristen the alley from Wren to Harvey Street is washed out. Eugene Huber said it washes out because of the steady flow of water coming off the hillside all the time. Kristen Bollinger said that Walt must of went up each year and fixed it. Kristen Bollinger also said if maybe this gets fixed then a Comcast truck can park back there and not on the road like it currently does.
- Rhonda Churella stated Jim Burkey was in the office and said he talked to Don Drass about doing roads from the sewer project from Maple Street to Coleman Street on Third Avenue & Maple Street to Coleman Street on Fourth Avenue. Jim Burkey said the sewer has the money to do it, but DEP may not allow this. He feels we may need to get the borough involved. He also wanted to know if the borough wanted to put money towards this other than liquid fuels money. Jim Burkey said to ask Patrick Fanelli about the legal part of this. Eugene Huber stated they (Glenn Johnson) did damage to the road with their equipment/machinery. Patrick Fanelli said we can issue a change order. The authority certainly can do this. They are not obligated. They can submit this to Pennvest.

POLICE REPORT/COMMITTEE:

- Mayor Donald C Drass read the monthly police report for August 2019.

- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Eugene Huber, to approve the monthly police report.

Motion Carried.

- Patrick Fanelli talked about the police contract. Susquehanna Township's solicitor is sending a revised version of the contract. He said the township ordinances are still in there, but we can keep the fine money. Police Chief Jason Owens wants to look it over first. Alison Link said we will do the parking enforcement only. They have and currently use Code Enforcement to cover all their ordinances. Chief Owens stated we only do parking enforcement in the winter months.
- Rhonda Churella read a letter handed in from Marion Burkey regarding an incident that happened on Beaver Street on the first day of school. She said the driving on Beaver Street is bad in several areas. She is afraid that someone is going to get killed.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Melanie Zearfoss talked about the pool project. The bids for the pool project went out. Tom Kinney said the lowest bid was approximately \$477,000.00. Melanie Zearfoss said the grant is a good thing, but we are limited with paying for prevailing wages. If we (Water Authority) did it ourselves, would we still have to bid it out at a large scale? This is only a small project. Patrick Fanelli said you must bid it and the prevailing wage is a must. Melanie Zearfoss asked if the Park & Rec. could build a new pump house/pump station. Patrick Fanelli said the Water Authority can lease the pool to another entity. That entity would need to maintain it and when the lease is done it goes back to the owner (Water Authority). Patrick Fanelli suggested asking Stiffler McGraw what part of the bid was on prevailing wages so that we can determine which way you want to go with this project. Melanie Zearfoss said we need to get Brandan to work with Rich. We need to get Brandan certified as a public pesticide applicator. Alison Link said we better do that soon because her certification runs out soon.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Jeff Zearfoss stated they are finishing up the project.
- Eugene Huber said they are currently doing walk arounds through town and making a list.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a permit report for August 2019.
- Gilbert D Whited of 228 Church Street completed an Animal Ordinance form. He is asking for 24 chickens that he currently has.
- Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to approve Gilbert D Whited current animals listed on the Animal Ordinance form.

Motion Carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Unemployment Compensation Plan 2020 UC rate is 0.0285. This a reduction from the 2019 year.
- Mayor Donald C Drass said he has been in touch with Rutter's about putting a gas station on Route 36. He got PennDOT traffic statistics on Route 36. He has someone interested in selling property to them. Don stated, "Rutter's haven't said no yet."

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

END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: The session ended.

ADJOURN: Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Eugene Huber. This meeting adjourned approximately 8:40 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager