

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

September 4, 2018

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hastings Borough Office.

CALL TO ORDER: Christopher Gibbons, Council President

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Alison Link, 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: Barb Holtz, Ellen Lann, and Lance Kruse

Barb Holtz-Around 5-7pm on Friday night, I was washing clothes. When I opened the basement door, I noticed water was up to the first step. Mayor Donald C Drass told her to call the Fire Company. The water was clear coming into her foundation. We were flooded in the 80's. Then a sewer smell began. The water had 2-3 foot wide paths. I had 6-8 inches of water in my basement. Allen Kline of the Fire Company told me the water was going down, but to keep an eye on it. I called the insurance company today. I have a number for Restore Corps from Cherry Tree, PA. I don't know what else to do. Eugene Huber told Barb, "A lot of people got water in their basement." Mayor Drass told Barb, "The storm drains are draining from your basement to the creek." This is an easy fix. I can't answer why. The ground is too saturated. Eugene Huber stated this is an act of nature. Christopher Gibbons said, "I don't think there is anything we can do." Mayor Drass asked Barb, "Won't your insurance cover this?" Barb replied, "I don't know until I call the insurance company with the outcome from this meeting. It has down poured many times before. I don't want me or my son getting E.coli over

this.” Eugene Huber said, “I don’t think it will because the creek is down now.” Barb said, “I had two rats come up through the sewer drain.” Mr. Roger’s has them and I heard at church there was some down by Gunther’s. My suggestion would be get an exterminator. Christopher Gibbons told Barb, “We are going to discuss this later on tonight. I understand how you feel but we can’t give this advice.”

Ellen Lann-I have a problem related to her story too. Up by Jim Farabaugh’s there is a drainage pipe exposed in the alley. Christopher Gibbons told Ellen he would get Walt up there to temporary fix it. Ellen said the stone used to fix the alleys is mostly dust. The first rain storm washes it away. Ellen asked Council if they ever heard the saying, a penny wise and a pound foolish. Ellen said to buy good stuff so it lasts.

Lance Kruse-I just want to know when on Huber Street are they going to do the sewer at the St. Vincent DePaul building for St. Bernard’s. Eugene Huber told Lance they have a meeting every other Tuesday. Normally Jim Burkey attends this meeting but he buried his sister today. He can take this question to the next meeting. Christopher Gibbons told Lance the borough office has a complaint form for him to complete. Lance said he will have Father Thad do that then.

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- Borough Office Manager reported getting some prices on slow/stop paddle. Roger said we need two of these. Safety Sign.com \$54.95; US Municipal \$86.60; and Econo Signs LLC \$44.40-\$83.04 with 18” paddle or 24” paddle. Christopher Gibbons stated to get 24” paddle.
- Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Kristen Bollinger, to purchase two 24” slow/stop paddles from Econo Signs LLC.

Motion Carried.

- Borough Office Manager reported an estimated 2019 Liquid Fuels Allocation for Hastings Borough is \$50,976.05. Eugene Huber said we will need this to do the roads after the sewer project is completed.

POLICE REPORT/COMMITTEE:

- Mayor Donald C Drass read the monthly police report for August 2018.

- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Alison Link, to approve the monthly police report.

Motion Carried.

- Police Chief Jason Owens got prices on a brand new car: 2019 SUV is \$29,475.00; 2019 Ford Taurus is \$25,400.00. The cage, lights, radio, graphics, etc. is \$9,177.35. To get these prices it must be ordered by September 19, 2018.
- Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Eugene Huber, to purchase a new 2019 Ford Taurus and package.

Motion Carried.

- Borough Office Manager gave an update on the Drug Task Force Agreement. On August 1, 2018, solicitor emailed he had spoken to the Chief Deputy Attorney General & the documents are being processed & we should receive a signed copy in the near future. On August 30, 2018, upon not receiving anything I checked with the solicitor and was told he hasn't heard anything yet.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- PSAB Unemployment Compensation Plan for 2019 will be .0500 of base taxable payroll (base taxable payroll remains at \$10,000.00 per employee per year). Note: this is an increase in your rate.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Thomas Kinney reported a water break by the school by Gordy's today.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Eugene Huber reported they paid \$4,000.00 for a door built for the drying beds at the sewer plant. Eugene stated it leaks like a sieve.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Mayor Drass said by the walking bridge there are two 10 or 12 inch black pipes. Mayor Drass said the storm drains need cleaned out. A lot is washed out for example, Baker Street. They need filled in. Christopher

Gibbons told Mayor Drass to make a list and give it to him. Christopher said he will give the list to the borough crew to take care of it.

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a permit report for August 2018.
- Christopher Gibbons brought up the rat situation. Everything we heard is hear say. Alison Link stated she has told several residents to come to this meeting. Christopher Gibbons said Gallitzin had this problem when they did their project. Ebensburg is currently dealing with this issue too.
- Alison Link talked about Penn Line doing the tree cutting through the borough. Christopher Gibbons asked the Borough Office Manager to contact them for a schedule so that we can post it for our residents.
- Alison Link talked about a skimmer date at the pool. Christopher Gibbons said September 17th through the 21st. Mayor Drass said to call him when someone wants to go down with him to get started.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Kristen Bollinger reported Michael Byrne was interviewed for a full time position. He can learn hands on and shows promise. Christopher Gibbons said if he doesn't work out at the water & sewer plants that he could be a replacement for Walt when he retires.
- Motion made by Alison Link, second by Kristen Bollinger, to hire Michael Byrne full time at \$10.00 per hour. He will have a 90 day probationary period. Michelle Baker is his supervisor.

Motion Carried.

- Borough Office Manager asked about a clothing allowance for Roger Hollen. Roger was hired part time 4/9/18 and went full time 7/21/18. Checks were disbursed on 3/23/18 before he was hired. Council approved Roger getting the full amount of a clothing allowance for 2018.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- P.R.I.D.E. sent a letter stating Hastings Borough is eligible to receive up to \$1,200.00 to be used for contractor costs (labor) in completing their proposed project. Municipality must match the award amount by purchasing materials. All work must be completed, and all documentation must be submitted to NCCDC no later than August 31, 2019.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The 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 8:25 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager