

**Watson town Borough  
Council Meeting  
August 3, 2015**

**OPENING:** The August 3, 2015 Watson town Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church, 401 Main Street. Brendi Brooke gave the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Harriet Miller, Vice President Ralph Young, Janet Rump, Dan Folk, Jack Marshall, Harry Hefty, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Mayor David Hontz was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jacqueline Sheatler, Earl Sheatler, Donna Biddle, Judy Marshall, Vera Young, Christine M. Wolfe, Mary Phillips, Janice Lease, Marlene Mincemoyer, Harold Keefer, Polly Keefer, Maggie Bortz, Sherry L. Dyer, Connie Criswell, Penny Confer, Albertina Foote, Ryan Foote, Aaron Salvatori, Angela Salvatori, Buzz Reynolds, Gloria Buhl, Terry Kirchner, Amy Pitou, Paul Errickson, Lisa Davis, Linda Klinger, Bob Frey, Ronald Miller, Dave Powell, Viola Ranck, Ken Hollenbach, Hal Crozier, Dick Pursell, Rob Raup, Virginia Wirth, Brent A. Frey, Robert Brown, Carol Packard-Allis, Bucky Allis, Cindy Crozier and Liz Folk. Others were present but had unreadable signatures.

**CONDUCT:** Dennis Confer spoke on behalf of Rob Brown, Rick Wolfe and himself as representatives of the church to set the rules of conduct for tonight's meeting

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve the July 6, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Miller	- abstain
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

Motion carried by majority vote.

A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve the July 27, 2015 Committee Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BILLS &  
TRANSFERS:**

A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the bills and transfers for the month of July 2015 in the amount of \$331,290.21. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**VISITORS:**

Robert Brown spoke regarding the crowd's love for Watson town. He encouraged people to agree to disagree and unite Watson town. He described the attributes of a "good leader" and said with some thought, the community would come to the same conclusion.

Christine Wolfe spoke regarding her ancestry and its tie with Watson town for over 159 years. She said she is a part of a group of concerned citizens currently circulating a petition requesting the resignation of Mayor Hontz. She spoke of a community divided; the suspension of then Chief of Police Dennis Derr and a federal lawsuit won by him for the wrongful suspension. She also said it's time for the town to unite. Her speech was followed by a round of applause.

Dennis Confer spoke regarding his letter to the editors of the Standard Journal and the Daily Item. He said social media is destroying the town; we need to get over grievances and move forward. He asked that starting tonight we begin a new chapter in Borough proceedings with professionalism and put egos on the back burner. He spoke about the upcoming centennial and the need for a committee to start planning. He spoke of Edie and said she should be a testament to everyone elected to public position. His speech was also followed by a round of applause.

Bucky Allis spoke regarding the community divided; at odds; some things don't make sense and other things make sense. He said unfortunately, most of this is based on miscommunication; our community is often misinformed by baseless tales. He spoke of great things in Watson town including our government, employees, the police department, churches, clubs and organizations, small businesses and the volunteer fire department. He said we must respect ourselves before we can respect others; we need to do what's right; dig in and help each other and a part of the solution not a part of the problem. He asked the Mayor to reflect on

his past behavior, which hasn't led the community in harmony and voluntarily resign for the good of the community that we all love so we can get back to the harmony we all deserve. He too was followed by a round of applause.

Cindy Crozier said she doesn't have an ax to grind; she has lived here for 26 years and only wants to make the town more attractive, more welcoming and more productive. She and Sandy Hendricks have been coming to two meetings per month for the last two years. Dave Hontz got them involved in the Greenway project. The two took on the garden area at Buck's Plumbing for the Watsontown Guild; they put their own time, energy and money into the area to beautify it. They also were involved in the planters being placed around town; the Borough Council bought them from Bush's. They have had many compliments regarding the planters; they have had welcoming and progressive support. They are currently working on a plan to completely landscape the area in front of Family Dollar; it's a big project, they think they can do it. Ralph Young and Janet Rump are working on the project with them; the employees at Lingle's and Family Dollar will help as well. In closing Cindy said she wants to beautify Watsontown so people will notice.

Sandy Hendricks spoke in further detail about the proposed landscaping in front of Family Dollar. The plan will be approved by the owner of Family Dollar, Mrs. Garrido; the committee will abide by her wishes as well as Council's wishes. Sandy said they proposed going around to the businesses in town to see if they would want a pot in front of their business. If they did and there was enough money left from the project she and Cindy would plant the pots and the business owners would have to water them. She reminded the crowd that "this is Watsontown, not Salem"; "it is not only Dave but Council too". Cindy concluded with speaking further about the corner at Buck's Plumbing.

**THANK YOU:** Brendi read a thank you from Montgomery House Library for the Borough's \$7,500.00 donation.

**INT'L PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE:** Solicitor Tira said he is still working on the International Maintenance Property Code.

**SALT STORAGE SHED:** Dan Folk is still working on information for the salt storage shed.

**GENERATOR:** President Miller said Council has received information from Jim Harvilla about generators. Council is still reviewing the information.

**LYNN WATSON – ALLEY REPAIR:** Dan Folk said he spoke with Lynn Watson last week and he was to be in town this week for the alley repair.

**MIKE FORESMAN - SUB-DIVISION:** President Miller said Mike Foresman’s sub-division was approved by Northumberland County and our Planning Commission. Mike spoke briefly regarding why he was sub-dividing his property. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to approve the sub-division. A roll call was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**1st NATIONAL BANK:** President Miller spoke briefly about a banking proposal presented by 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank to the Finance Committee at a recent meeting. Harry Hefty made a motion to name 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank as the Borough’s depository and shift all funds to 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank. Harry mentioned some of the benefits the Borough and our residents will now have with 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank including the ability to pay with credit cards, etc. A second was made by Janet Rump. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Rump	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PEACH FESTIVAL:** Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk approving the Annual Peach Festival held by the Trinity United Church of Christ on August 29, 2015. It includes closing 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Main to the alley from approx. 3 to 10 PM. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Rump	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**EDIE MOSER – MEMORIAL GARDEN:** President Miller said she has appointed a committee to find a fitting area for a memorial garden in memory of Edie. Viola Ranck, Dale Chomas, Pastor Ritter and Brendi have agreed to serve on this committee.

**GUTTERS TO GO - PARK PAVILIONS:**

Janet Rump briefly explained the quote received from Rick Buck from Gutters to Go and the replacement of pavilion gutters at the park. Solicitor Tira asked for clarification on the breakout of the quote; Janet said the total of all 3 pavilions is \$3,069.10. A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Ralph Young to approved the quote from Gutters to Go. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**CLEANING SERVICE:**

President Miller said Council received quotes from 2 cleaning services to clean both the office side and the police side of the Borough Building. The building is to be cleaned every other week. The quotes in summary were as follows:

- Home Sweet Home – Leslie Hauck - \$116.60 per cleaning
- McCormick’s Home & Office Maintenance - \$130.00 per month

**McCORMICK’S AWARDED:**

A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Harry Hefty to award McCormick’s with the cleaning job. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**MRSA BOARD APPOINTMENT:**

President Miller said Lisa Davis volunteered to represent the Borough on the MRSA Board until we have a Borough Manager in place. Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall, to appoint Lisa Davis to the MRSA Board. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**NORTH’D COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE:**

Harry Hefty volunteered to be the primary delegate and Janet Rump volunteered to be the alternate delegate for the Northumberland County Tax Collection Committee. Jack Marshall made the motion, seconded by Ralph Young to accept the new delegate appointments. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**WABA:** President Miller said Brendi and Lisa have agreed to alternate the representation of the Borough for WABA.

**DRUG TESTING:** President Miller said Council was presented with tonight with information from Susquehanna Health and Mid-State on occupation health services. These companies are available to provide random drug testing services of employees. The decision was tabled for the Committee Meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> allowing Council more time to review the information.

**150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY:** Janet Rump spoke regarding Watsonstown's upcoming sesquicentennial celebration. She asked people to volunteer for the committee; she hopes to have the first official meeting in September.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** written

**RESOLUTION:** Chief Witherite submitted a resolution adopting guidelines for Watsonstown Police Officers when making authorized warrantless summary arrests to be signed.

**PURCHASE:** Chief Witherite also requested permission to spend \$2,745.00 to purchase ENRAD (a wireless speed timing device).

**CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY LIST:** Chief Witherite said they need to start the process again for the Civil Service eligibility list. He asked that the letter for the Civil Service be signed.

**BICYCLES:** Chief Witherite said Montgomery Police Department asked Watsonstown to donate one of our police bicycles to their department. He said they are not currently being used by our department. Janet Rump asked why they are not being used; as they are equipped and quite expensive. The matter was briefly discussed and will be talked about at a later time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Chief Witherite asked for an Executive Session for personnel.  
The recording became extremely inaudible.

**APPROVAL of  
RESOLUTION:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall to approve the resolution for the Watsontown Borough Police Department. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Rump	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**FIRE &  
AMBULANCE:**

none

**EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT:**

none

**CODE  
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

**BOROUGH  
SOLICITOR:**

Solicitor Tira said he had personnel matters for Executive Session.

**BOROUGH  
SECRETARY:**

nothing additional

Cindy Crozier, Hal Crozier, Albertina Foote, Dave Powell, Gladys Klapp, Brent Frey, Linda Klinger had comments and questions regarding the qualifications, advertising and hiring of a new Borough Manager. President Miller, Jack Marshall, Harry Hefty and Solicitor Tira spoke to their questions and comments. One question was regarding the Borough's ordinance on where the Borough Manager must live. Council was encouraged to listen to input from residents and to be open to suggestions. Dave Powell said Catawissa is comparative to Watsontown; he said we should contact them. A suggestion was made for residents to contact Dan, Harry and Janet; they represent the "hiring committee". Lastly, Harry Hefty reminded the public that there are no candidates in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward running for Council.

**ADJOURN TO  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer