

Watsonstown Borough Council  
Special Meeting  
May 20, 2015

**OPENING:** The Watsonstown Borough Council Special Meeting was called to order by Council President Harriet Miller at 7:00 PM on May 20, 2015 in the Council Chambers.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Members present: Harriet Miller, Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Dan Folk, Harry Hefty, Janet Rump, Mayor David Hontz (arrived at 7:05 PM), Solicitor Ben Landon, Borough Manager Edie Moser and Sergeant Richard Faux

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kevin Mertz and Mary Phillips

**ELECTRIC CONTRACT:** Edie explained to Council that Jim Havrilla had the wrong date for the possible extension of the electric contract. This will be on the agenda for the Committee Meeting on May 26, 2015.

**3<sup>rd</sup> STREET PAVING:** A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Harry Hefty as follows: the Street Committee recommends to Borough Council by Memorandum dated April 30, 2015, that the Borough take no further action to require Pennsylvania American Water Company to do any additional work related to the recent street openings on Third Street. The Street Committee is acceptable in light of the total circumstances of this matter.

Mayor Hontz apologized for being late and asked for a review of the issue.

Harry stated he spoke with John Pick today after receiving an email from Mayor Hontz today. Mr. Pick estimates the Water Company conservatively has saved the Borough approximately \$20,000. With the extension of the water line at the new sewer pump station and other things they have done for the Borough and not charged them for. Mr. Pick explained to Harry the cost of an overlay was not budgeted for.

Mayor Hontz said it was stated in the permitting process. He also stated the ordinance has specifics about the amount of disturbances. He said they have disturbed so much of the surface that the ordinance states it should be overlaid. Mayor Hontz also said in Mr. Pick's or the Water Company's reply they mentioned the Liberty Street project as one of the reasons why they are not about to give this. Mayor Hontz said he is assuming the Street Committee has

done an estimate on what it is going to cost to overlay Third Street to the borough line? Dan and Ralph stated they have not because it does not need it. Mayor Hontz said according to the ordinance it should be done. Mayor Hontz said so in other words “you two people are saying our ordinance is invalid? You are invalidating every ordinance from now on when it comes to the utility company?” Dan said they are not saying that, it should have been handled three years ago. Mayor Hontz told Dan he wasn’t here three years ago, maybe Ralph should do the speaking.

Harry stated everyone is supposed to address the chair according to Roberts Rules of Order. Mayor Hontz thanked Mr. Hefty.

Mayor Hontz stated he feels services due the Borough are being given away. Unfortunately he said Mr. Tira is not here, but has told the Council this. Harry said Mayor Hontz has complained about all the money we spend on the lawyers. Mr. Tira may work on this for a few thousand dollars more and Harry does not want to pay the lawyer any more money. Mayor Hontz said so you would rather pay \$30,000 to pave the street. Many Council members stated they are not planning on paving the street. Mayor Hontz asked why it would not be paved. Several members responded because it does not need paved, it has not settled. Mayor Hontz said it was not about settling, it was about having a nice, clean street. Right now it is a patchwork quilt.

Ralph stated 3<sup>rd</sup> Street does not have the amount of traffic that Liberty Street has. Furthermore, Liberty Street had settling in it. Mayor Hontz said he was told that part of the paving problem on Liberty Street was because a certain Council member interfered with the street supervisor and insisted that the planning be continued. Ralph asked who this was. Mayor Hontz responded it was someone working for the contractor and a former borough employee. Ralph asked for names, Mayor Hontz stated he could give names however he was not going to. When asked why by Ralph, Mayor Hontz stated because this could end up in court.

Solicitor Landon stated it is Council’s decision whether to pave any given street at any given time. President Miller stated the Water Company has given the Borough services in excess of \$20,000 at no charge. Solicitor Landon said it is a business decision for Council to make. Council is the body that makes the business decision. It is perfectly fair to trade services between entities.

Mayor Hontz stated he agrees but before any decision is made a cost analysis should be done as to the cost to overlay the street from Canal Street to the borough line. Ralph stated if it is done. Mayor Hontz said it is so obvious that the Council is in opposition to anything he suggests. Council is elected to execute their jobs with fidelity and look after the taxpayers. Council just plays cat and mouse.

Ralph asked if Council needed to give Mayor Hontz a cost. Mayor Hontz stated they do not need to give him anything other than notice of every committee meeting.

Solicitor Landon said if Council decides they would like to continue to work with the Water Company then that is their decision.

President Miller stated there is a motion on the floor. She asked for a roll call vote:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**DALE STAHL:**  
(resignation)

A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Janet Rump to accept the resignation of Dale Stahl effective May 22, 2015. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**LEVI WATSON:**

A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Dan Folk to hire Levi Watson as a street laborer at 13.50 per hour effective as soon as he can start. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

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Mayor Hontz asked why he was not informed of the interviews. He reminded everyone he wants to know when committee's have a meeting, "just like Mrs. Moser". Edie responded that would be a question for Solicitor Tira.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Janet Rump, seconded by Jack Marshall to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edie Moser, Borough Manager