

**Watsonstown Borough  
Council Meeting  
December 11, 2017**

**OPENING:** The December 11, 2017 Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Janet Rump at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at the Borough Building, 318 Main Street. The opening prayer was given by Mayor David Hontz, followed by the Pledge to the American Flag.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Members present were President Janet Rump, Vice President Harry Hefty, Ken Hollenbach, Greg Miller, Dan Folk, Todd Moyer, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor John DeWalt, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kevin Mertz, Buzz Reynolds, Crystal Moyer, Virginia Wirth, Brent Frey, Scott Powell, Dave Powell.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** A motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the November 13, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes and the November 28, 2017 Committee Workshop Minutes. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BILLS & TRANSFERS:** A motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve December's bills and transfers in the amount of \$253,980.18. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**SNAP NATION – Scott Powell:** Scott Powell, Community Director of SNAP Nation gave a presentation to Council. SNAP Nation is video advertising, including testimonials and a 3D map on our website using Google, Facebook, Twitter, etc. and would be free of charge to the Borough. The Borough would also be linked to Northumberland County. After further

discussion, including Council members logging into SNAP Nation, the matter will be discussed further at Committee Workshop.

**DONATION:** Brendi said the Borough was in receipt of a letter from Northumberland County stating a donation on behalf of the Borough had been made by Uni-Tec to the Home Delivered Meals Program.

**COMMITTEES:**

**FINANCE:** nothing

**CEMETERY:** nothing

**ELECTRIC:** Harry spoke briefly about PPL bills versus the Borough electric bills; Jay spoke regarding demand meter charges; the Mayor asked various questions regarding the demand meters. The conversation continued with various comments; Jay is to check into various things. There was mention of a recent power outage.

**INSURANCE:** nothing

**PARKS & RECREATION:** After a brief discussion, Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty to replace the tube slide and (2) crawl slides at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Park in the amount of \$6971.00. The damage is possibly due to vandalism. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried. Virginia Wirth asked if Play World was contacted about making a donation to the Borough; Jay answered. Greg Miller asked if the park could be locked at night; the Chief said they will continue to check the park.

**PERSONNEL:** Greg Miller said Jay is working on the employee evaluations.

**PROTECTION To PERSONS & PROPERTY:** The Mayor asked about repositioning poles instead of replacing poles. Jay asked Light Heigel to give us a bid on surveying the Borough; Jay also spoke regarding the replacement of the river gauges. The Mayor mentioned checking with Vassallo Engineering and Surveying Company.

**STREETS & HIGHWAYS:** Jay said we were expecting weather issues tonight; trucks are ready.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT:** nothing

**EMAIL ADDRESSES:** Jay said email addresses for Council will be ready by 1/1/2018.

**CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS:** After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Dan Folk for the following Civil Service appointments:

**Bucky Allis - 6 year term**  
**Dave Powell - 4 year term**  
**Harry Hefty - 2 year term**

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- no	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes

Motion carried by majority vote.

**CIVIL SERVICE ALTERNATE:** Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to advertise the Civil Service alternate position on the Borough's website, Facebook and the newsletter. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**CASINO RESOLUTION 2017-05** Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to **opt out of allowing** a category 4 casino in the Borough; a change of mind in the future could rescind the resolution. After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- no	Moyer	- yes
Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- no
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- no

The vote was tied; Mayor Hontz broke the tie with a **yes** vote.

**SALARY INCREASES:** Greg Miller made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve a .35 cent/hour salary increase for those employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement. This group includes Brendi, Lisa and the part-time public works employees. Jay clarified that our part-time

employees are working on an as needed basis. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**SALARY  
INCREASE –  
CHIEF:**

Greg Miller made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve a 2.5% salary increase for Chief of Police Rodney Witherite. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

It was noted that Jay needs reappointed before his salary increase can be approved.

**GIFT CARDS:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve \$25 gift cards for employees. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT  
To FIRE BOARD:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty to re-appoint Greg Miller to the Fire Board. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- abstain	Moyer	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**2018 MEETING  
SCHEDULE:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the 2018 Meeting Schedule. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes

Rump - yes Hollenbach - yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

President Rump noted the Re-Organization/Council Meeting will be held on January 2, 2018 and the Committee Workshop will be held on January 22, 2018.

**APPROVAL of 2018 BUDGET:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the 2018 Budget. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**TAX ORDINANCE 2017-05:**

Greg Miller made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve tax ordinance 2017-05 establishing the Borough’s tax rate at 18.25 mills. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**KELSEY’S DREAM 5K:**

Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve Cassidy Hoffman’s request to hold Kelsey’s Dream 5K in the Borough on March 17, 2018 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. The course will be the same as the course used for the JesVic 5K. After a brief discussion, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**

Harry Hefty asked if Jay could represent the Borough at pursuing the Warrior Run administration regarding the Watsontown Elementary School . Jay agreed.

**PLAQUES:**

Mayor Hontz said the plaques for the Algert fountain are on order but doubts they’ll be here before the end of the year. He will see that they are applied once they are received.

**REPORTS:**

**POLICE:** written  
**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** Chief Witherite said the Christmas Program is very busy; Brendi said wrapping will begin on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Chief Witherite said his department will be out purchasing and delivering gifts in the days and weeks to come.

Chief Witherite said they have an officer out on medical leave possibly until February.

**FIRE & AMBULANCE:** written

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** nothing

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** written

**SOLICITOR:** nothing to add

President Rump said tonight's solicitor was John DeWalt.

**BOROUGH MANAGER:** written

**WORKSHOP CANCELLED:** Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to cancel the Committee Workshop on Monday, December 27, 2017. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** written

President Rump said a lot of employees were off due to hunting season but a lot of work was done.

**BOROUGH SECRETARY:** nothing

- WEBINARS FOR 2018:** President Rump spoke of recent free webinars that Council has participated in; Wednesday, December 20, 2017 will be Parliamentary Procedures.
- MAYOR'S CLOSING STATEMENT:** The Mayor offered a closing statement and thanked everyone for their support. A round of applause followed.
- FINANCIAL STATUS:** Todd Moyer said he looked over the financials and we are under budget in a lot of areas. He thanked Jay, Brendi, the Chief and Public Works for keeping an eye on the town's money.
- JANET RUMP:** Harry Hefty thanked President Janet Rump for the job she has done as Council President. A round of applause followed.
- FYI's:** President Rump read over the FYI's listed on tonight's agenda.
- ELECTRIC:** Buzz Reynolds spoke about various electric issues including demand meters and surge protectors for demand meters (15 minute time lapse for power outages). He also asked if new businesses are informed that they will have demand meters. Jay spoke to the questions. He said it would be a \$200,000.00 investment if the Borough changes all meters to smart meters. The conversation continued. Jay said Jim Havrilla and Norm Baron are working on some things for the Borough; they are the experts and these questions need asked of them.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer