

**Watsonstown Borough
Council Meeting
January 5, 2015**

OPENING: The January 5, 2015 Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting was called to order by Vice President Ralph Young at 7:30 PM. Jack Marshall gave the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. The meeting was held in Council Chambers.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice President Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Janet Rump and Dan Folk, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Mayor David Hontz, Borough Manager Edie Moser, Acting Chief Richard Faux and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. President Harriet Miller and Harry Hefty were absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Phillips, Angela Salvatori, Aaron Salvatori, Buzz Reynolds, Pat Yeager, Becky Hontz, Kevin Mertz, David Plotts, Barb Pick, Sandy Hendricks, Brent Frey, Virginia Wirth, Gary Harmon and Cindy Crozier.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk, to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2014 Council Meeting and the minutes from December 15, 2014 Committee Meeting. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS & TRANSFERS: Edie mentioned a correction on Page 2 of the bills & transfers; the memo for Old Dominion Brush lists a clutch and pressure plates for the street sweeper and it should have been for the leaf picker. A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Jack Marshall, to approve the bills & transfers in the amount of \$325,145.16. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

THANK YOU – WABA: Edie read a thank you from WABA for the Borough’s assistance with various activities surrounding the Christmas season, including the deer pen and Santa House.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ralph Young announced an Executive Session following tonight’s meeting for personnel and litigation matters.

**INT'L
PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE
CODE:**

Edie said Marty Sauers from Light-Heigel has offered to meet with Council to discuss the International Property Maintenance Code. Edie is going to get back with Council regarding times and dates for a meeting in the evening.

**RENTAL
ORDINANCE:**

Edie provided Council with a copy of the Borough's current rental property ordinance which was passed in 2010. Jack Marshall asked if landlords present wanted to see any changes in Rental Ordinance 2010-05. Copies of the ordinance were offered to landlords in the audience. The rental ordinance was discussed at length by the Solicitor, Council and members in the audience. The discussion included how to rid tenants with criminal and drug offenses. There was also a discussion regarding condemned properties and evictions once electric, water and sewer service is shut off and the responsibility of Code Enforcement.

**GARRIDO
AGREEMENT:**

After a lengthy discussion, the Garrido Agreement (Greenway landscaping in front of the Family Dollar) was tabled.

**MEETING
WITH
LANDLORDS:**

Jack Marshall invited Borough landlords to take part in a meeting to discuss the International Property Maintenance Code and changes to the current rental ordinance. Brent Frey, Gary Harmon and Aaron and Angela Salvatori want to be included with Council members. The meeting will be advertised in the newspaper and it will be listed on the website.

**SPAY/
NEUTER
PROGRAM:**

Cindy Crozier spoke regarding Harry Hefty's mention of a Borough sponsored spay/neuter program. She said before she would take it to the board of either organization that she's involved in; she would want something firm from Council; a plan, a committee, a meeting, etc. The program was moved to old business on the agenda to allow Harry Hefty time to gather more information.

**8th STREET
RED LIGHT:**

Edie spoke regarding the accident involving the 8th Street red light in 2011. This was something Brent Frey inquired about at the last meeting. She asked for more time to gather information and asked that it be put on the agenda for the next Committee Meeting.

**CAMERAS
IN OFFICES:**

Janet asked if a decision was made as to whether cameras would be installed in Edie or Brendi's offices. Ralph Young said he was against it. Dan Folk said the money for additional cameras was not included in the budget.

**WEST MILTON
STATE BANK:**

Edie said she will schedule a meeting of the Finance Committee to allow Kim Printzenhoff from West Milton State Bank to come and explain the bank's proposal of banking services for our electric customers.

NEW ORDINANCES: Council confirmed Ordinances 2014-03R and 2014-02 were passed at the last meeting in 2014 and will take effect in 2015. These ordinances increase real estate taxes to 18.25 mills and reduce business electric rates by 3.23%

WATSONTOWN MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER: The meeting of the Watsontown Memorial Community Center will be held on January 26, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. at the Watson Inn. Janet Rump said the meeting is the same night as the next Committee Meeting. David Plotts talked in more detail regarding the community center and his failed attempts to do business with the Lions Club. Janet suggested David attend the meeting on January 26th and talk with Allen Neyhard, Secretary for the center.

MAYOR: The Mayor said he performed one wedding in December.

POLICE REPORT: written

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Acting Chief Rick Faux said approx. 40 families, representing 86 children were served this year by the police Christmas program. He thanked everyone who gave of their money, time or talents. He also thanked those in surrounding communities who gave to the program as well.

FIRE & AMBULANCE: none

EMA: none

EMA MEETINGS: Janet Rump said she will be attending two free emergency management meetings in Columbia County this month.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: written

THIRD STREET REPAIRS: Solicitor Tira spoke regarding a letter received from Pennsylvania American Water Company regarding Third Street. Council was provided a copy of the letter. He feels it appropriate for the Street Committee to meet to discuss the situation. The water company feels they have no further obligation; it would be beneficial for the Street Committee to meet with them.

BOROUGH MANAGER: written

**POLICE
CHIEF
INTERVIEWS:**

Edie said Mr. Blackburn has set police chief interviews for Thursday, January 15, 2015. The Council and the Mayor are included in the interviews of five candidates, along with Mr. Blackburn and two Chiefs of Police from other areas. The interviews will start at 9:00 am. Edie spoke further regarding the interviewing process including the use of Council Chambers and First Lutheran Church for the interviews. It was decided that Acting Chief Rick Faux would take candidates for a tour of the town. Edie will send everyone a reminder.

**MRSA/
RED ZONE
ROBOTICS:**

Vic Derr of Milton Regional Sewer Authority contacted Edie regarding manholes that can't be found by Red Zone Robotics. Vic asked if the crew would be able to lift and cold patch manholes in the street. At that time, depending on the condition of the manhole, Watsontown Borough money could be used to make needed repairs. Council has no completion date from Red Zone Robotics but they will provide a report when finished.

**BOROUGH
SECRETARY:**

none

**SEWER
LINES:**

There was further discussion regarding the condition of sewer lines within the Borough, potential wash-outs and locations of manholes.

**FULL TIME
POLICE
OFFICER:**

When asked, Jack Marshall confirmed the possible hiring of a full time police officer tonight. He said the meeting may reopen to the public following the Executive Session.

**ADJOURN TO
EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

There being no further business to come before Council, Dan Folk made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:13 p.m. All were in favor.

RE-CONVENE:

The meeting was re-convened at 8:30 PM.

**THOMAS
PROBST:**

A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Dan Folk to offer Thomas Probst a conditional offer of employment as a full time police officer. It is conditional upon his completion of all the necessary tests. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**ELIGIBILITY
LIST:**

A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Jack Marshall to charge the Civil Service Commission with establishing an eligibility list. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Young	- yes
Rump	- yes	Marshall	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Dan Folk, seconded by Jack Marshall to adjourn back to Executive Session at 8:35 PM. No action will be taken.

Respectfully submitted

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer