

**Watson town Borough
Council Meeting
February 2, 2015**

OPENING: The February 2, 2015 Watson town Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held in Council Chambers.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Angela Salvatori, Aaron Salvatori, Mary Phillips, Becky Hontz, Pat Yeager, Kevin Mertz, Liz Folk, Sandy Hendricks, Bob Frey, Jeff Rachau, Ken Hollenbach, Cindy Crozier and Dane Hanford.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Miller announced that Council had an Executive Session before tonight's meeting for personnel matters and possible litigation.

PRAYER & PLEDGE: Brendi Brooke gave the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

THOMAS PROBST – SWORN IN: Thomas Probst of Williamsport was sworn in as a Watson town Police Officer by Mayor David Hontz.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young, to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2015 Council Meeting. 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.

BILLS & TRANSFERS: President Miller questioned \$700.00 paid to West Milton State Bank on the bills & transfers. Edie said it was the bank fee of \$100/month; it was for July through December of 2014 and January of 2015. Edie also added Bob Frey Disposal in the amount of \$9,725.00 to the report for a new bills & transfer total of \$290,504.37. A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Dan Folk, to approve the bills & transfers in the amount of \$290,504.37. 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.

**APPOINTMENT
of DEPUTY
TAX
COLLECTOR:**

Pat Yeager, Tax Collector, selected a person to act on her behalf if she became incapacitated or unable to perform her duties, as per House Bill #1590. Pat asked Council to approve the appointment of Rebecca Hontz as Deputy Tax Collector. As a part of House Bill #1590. Solicitor Tira said there is required training for Pat Yeager. A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Janet Rump to approve the appointment of Rebecca Hontz as Deputy Tax Collector. 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.

**INT'L
PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE
CODE:**

Edie said when Council met with Marty Sauers, she was instructed to compare ordinances on our books with the International Property Maintenance Code. At that time, she will again meet with Council and they will decide whether to keep what's on our books or adopt the International Property Code. Jack Marshall had nothing to add.

**THIRD STREET
PAVING:**

Ralph Young and Dan Folk met with the water company and said the paving issue on Third Street with the water company has been resolved. They concluded it was not the water company's responsibility to overlay the street. Dan Folk said the issue fell under the old ordinance and they cannot be forced to conform to the new ordinance. After some confusion and discussion regarding the components of the old and new street opening ordinances, Council decided to take another look at the Third Street paving issue with the water company.

**RENTAL
ORDINANCE:**

Edie said the rental ordinance is something that is being worked on with the International Property Maintenance Code.

**GERRIDO
AGREEMENT:**

There is nothing new regarding the Gerrido agreement.

**SPAY/NEUTER
PROGRAM:**

Council is not pursuing anything further at this time regarding a spay/neuter program.

**8th STREET
RED LIGHT:**

Edie said she has been in contact and working with Penn Dot and Linda Culver's office. There is nothing to new to report at this time.

**MEETING
CHANGED:**

The annual meeting of the Watsontown Memorial Community Center has been rescheduled for Monday, May 11, 2015 at the Youth Center. Council was in receipt of a letter regarding the changed meeting from Allen Neyhard.

**CABLE T.V.
AGREEMENT:**

Solicitor Tira said there is room for modification to the cable television agreement if Council so desires. He said the law allows up to a 5% franchise fee, but an increase of the current 3% to 5% would be passed onto Watsontown residents. Council could also expand on the premium services offered by the cable company and get a percentage of revenue on those services offered but once again the cost would be passed onto those who receive the services (residents); it is not without a cost to someone. The agreement also allows for additional rights for audit requests. Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall, to approve the cable television agreement as presented. 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.

**BOB FREY
REQUEST:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall, to approve a request by Bob Frey to attend the NCAA wrestling championships in St. Louis, Missouri on Thursday, March 19, 2015 and Friday, March 20, 2015. There would be NO collection of garbage on these two days. 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.

**JES/VIC
5K RACE:**

Jack Marshall made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to approve Suzie Watts' request to hold the 9th Annual Jes/Vic 5K Race at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2015. 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.

**HOT SHOTZ –
FIREWORKS
AGREEMENT:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the Hot Shotz Pyrotechnics agreement for fireworks at a cost of \$7,000.00. 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.

**PENN DOT
RESOLUTION
2015-01R:**

Edie presented Council with Penn Dot Resolution 2015-01R authorizing President Miller to sign the Penn Dot modification of the municipal winter traffic agreement. Edie said the Borough receives approx. \$1,500.00 each year from Penn Dot for plowing Main Street. Jack Marshall made a motion to approve President Miller signing of the agreement. Dan Folk gave a second.

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**STATEWIDE
MUNICIPAL
POLICE
PENSION:**

Edie presented Council with an email from Linda Culver's office regarding a statewide municipal police pension program. Solicitor Tira said it is a proposal to create a statewide pension plan for municipal police, thus making a stronger more unified system in helping both employees and employers. Jack Marshall voiced his concern regarding the proposal. Upon Solicitor Tira's suggestion, Jack Marshall said he would call Linda Culver's office; President Miller said a letter should be sent to Linda Culver from the Borough voicing our concerns.

**FIRE
DEPARTMENT
CARNIVAL:**

Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty to authorize the Warrior Run Fire Company's use of Memorial Park for the carnival including set up and tear down, June 2nd through June 16th. The carnival will be held June 8th through June 13th. 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.

**4th of JULY
COMMITTEE
MEETING:**

The 4th of July Committee sent a letter stating its plan to reorganize at a meeting on February 12, 2015. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. They are also asking the Borough to pay for the evening entertainment (the fireworks were already approved) which in the past it was approx. \$1,000.00. They were approved prior for start-up funds of \$2,000.00 and though they have the majority of it left, the committee would like to have additional start-up funds in the event it's needed. After a brief discussion, Barb Diehl was told the money was in the budget should the committee need additional funds. The meeting announcement was included with this month's electric bill and will be posted on the Borough's website.

**MAYOR'S
REPORT:**

nothing

**POLICE
REPORT:**

written

**ELIGIBILITY
LIST - POLICE
OFFICERS:**

Acting Chief Faux said the Civil Service Commission met and approved an ad to be put in the newspaper for another eligibility list for the hiring of police officers. The application deadline is February 17, 2015 and will be advertised in the Daily Item, Danville News, Standard Journal, Sun-Gazette and the Press Enterprise. It is posted on the police website, to be posted on the Borough's website and they are also working with the Chamber of Commerce to have it posted there as well. Faux said the next meeting for the Civil Service Commission will be Thursday, February 19th to review the applications.

**CAMERA
UPGRADE -
8th STREET
PLAYGROUND**

Acting Chief Faux said the cameras that are used to monitor the 8th Street Playground are in need of updating. He has been working with MePush and they gave a quote of \$1,068.57 for a hardware update and a new camera server system. MePush also said there may be some work that needs to be done on the link between the playground and the police station; it was not quoted in this price. Acting Chief Faux said it is not the Cadillac version but will take care of what's needed for the park; he feels it's the Borough's best option. Jack Marshall made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump authorizing Acting Chief Faux to purchase hardware upgrades from MePush for the cameras at 8th Street Park at a cost of \$1,068.57. 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.

**FIRE &
AMBULANCE:**

none

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:**

nothing

**STORM
CLEAN-UP:**

The Mayor said he was pleased with the progress we are making with the latest storm. President Miller agreed the guys did a great job. The Mayor said he talked with Acting Chief Faux relative to 4th and 8th Streets and suggested they be cleared due to the narrowness of the streets. Edie said they will be cleared tomorrow. The Mayor and President Miller again commended the guys.

**SALT/CINDER
STORAGE
FACILITY:**

Jack Marshall said Council needs to look into a storage building to store salt and cinders in; thus getting the salt out of the garage. Edie said she has the specs to be able to use liquid fuels money for a storage facility.

**SNOW
PLOWING IN
THE ALLEYS:**

There was a lengthy discussion about plowing the alleys at 6 inches of snow. Edie said she would do as Council instructs. Per the Mayor, the Borough has the equipment, the manpower and time; it is a safety issue. Numerous conversations took place at the same time. Edie said the crew plowed alleys and salted intersections today. The Mayor again complimented the crew.

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

SOLICITOR:

nothing

**RENEWABLE
ENERGY
CREDITS:**

Edie said the Borough received their renewable energy credits from AMP-Ohio in the amount of \$7,976.63. It was deposited into the electric fund.

**BOROUGH
MANAGER'S
REPORT:**

written

**MIKE
MESSINGER -
AMP
TRAINING:**

Edie requested permission to send Mike Messinger for advanced training with AMP-Ohio. Mike has already completed AMP's Basic I, Basic II and Intermediate training. The training will be held October 5th through October 9th at a cost \$1,000.00 and AMP will get us a break on the hotel. Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to send Mike Messinger for the additional AMP training. 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.

STREET SWEEPER REPAIRS:

Edie said the street sweeper is in need of additional parts. Dale has requested permission to purchase new fabricated elevator sides of hot rolled steel from Penn American in Turbotville for \$950. Council agreed.

GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Edie said she'd like to set up a Greenway Committee Meeting to move the grant writing forward; she's been to 3 grant writing seminars. She confirmed that Janet Rump, Ralph Young, Cindy Crozier and Sandy Hendricks are still a part of the Greenway Committee. The Mayor stated he is no longer a part of the committee and Edie wasn't sure about Amy Pitou.

STREET CONDITIONS:

Edie said she received a call from Todd Moyer regarding the street conditions in Watsontown. He travels through a lot of areas and finds our streets to be in great condition compared to other areas. He too complimented the road crew. Dan Folk agreed.

OLD AIR COMPRESSOR:

Edie said there is an old air compressor at the Borough garage. It is no longer used. She said an employee is interested in buying it. Per Dan Folk, it is only worth scrap metal. There was further discussion regarding advertising it. Council decided to advertise the old air compressor on Muncibid as is.

RESOLUTION 2015-02R - ELECTRIC RATES:

Harry Hefty asked Council to reduce the current 10% late charge to 2% late charge; he compared the Borough's late fees to PPL's late fees. Janet Rump said 2% is too low and reducing it will encourage people to pay late; she thinks it should be left where it is. Ralph Young made a motion to approve the resolution with the amendment that the late fee be 10%. A second was given by Dan Folk. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- no	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

Majority in favor. Motion carried.

There was confusion, Harry Hefty misunderstood the motion; he asked to change his vote to yes. He thought the vote was regarding the late fee only.

Hefty	- yes
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POLICE CHIEF: Jack Marshall made a motion recommending Charles Manning as Police Chief at a salary of \$60,000.00 per year contingent upon his background check and any test or evaluation he may have. Dan Folk gave a second. 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.

QUAID RICHART – SWIMMING POOL - RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: Quaid Richart asked if Council had any plans to re-open the pool. President Miller said the repairs and upgrades to the former pool would have cost over \$1,000,000.00. Quaid offered benefits of having something recreational in Watsontown. There was further discussion by numerous people regarding the issue and additional ideas for opportunities in Watsontown. Quaid said he would leave his contact information with the tax collector, per the Mayor’s request. Edie also asked Quaid to leave his contact information with the Borough Secretary.

RE-APPOINTMENTS: Edie said it’s time for the re-appointments of those on the Planning, Zoning and Civil Service Boards. She has contacted all involved and still willing to serve. She will have the information ready for the Committee Meeting on February 23rd.

SEWER RATES: Pat Yeager said residents received notice of increased sewer rates; she asked if the sewer has been turned over to MRSA yet. Edie said no, the system has not been turned over to MRSA yet. They currently get the flow and the revenue from the flow. She said when the plan was originally presented, rate increases were put into place to cover operation and maintenance costs as different parts of the plant are completed. Edie said the rate increase affected the entire MRSA system, not just Watsontown. Edie is the Borough’s MRSA representative and attends MRSA monthly meetings. President Miller asked Edie to provide Council a written report from her attendance at MRSA meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer