

**Watsonstown Borough
Council Meeting
December 7, 2015**

- OPENING:** The December 7, 2015 Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held at the First Lutheran Church, 400 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, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Harry Hefty and Jack Marshall were absent.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Becky Hontz, Mary Phillips, Connie Criswell, Sherry Dyer, Gary Harmon, Earl Sheatler, Jackie Sheatler, Dennis Confer, Larry Wilcox, Shelly Delp, Mike Hontz, Kevin Mertz, Sandy Hendricks, Shane Erb, Kelly Erb, Erica Keim, Stephanie Kilgus, Gene Kilgus, E. Terry Baldwin, Ken Hollenbach, Bob Frey, Hal Crozier, Brent Frey, Erica Frey, Virginia Wirth, Cindy Crozier, Mary Ann Everetts, Joe Sylvester and Liz Folk. There were other names but they were not legible.
- CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD:** Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Mayor David Hontz presented Gary Lee Verdinelli with a Civilian Service Award.
- RICHARD FAUX:** Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Mayor David Hontz presented Officer Richard Faux with his promotion to Lieutenant and an Award of Gallantry.
- GREG DROLLINGER:** Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Mayor David Hontz presented Officer Gregory Drollinger with his promotion to Sergeant and an Award of Honorable Service.
- ERNIE DELP:** Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Mayor David Hontz presented Officer Ernie Delp with an Award of Honorable Service.
- WATSON THEATRE, LLC- LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER:** Attorney E. Terry Baldwin spoke on behalf of Shane and Kelly Erb and their business, the Watson Theatre, LLC. They were here tonight for a public hearing on the transfer of a restaurant liquor license to be used for their business at the Watson Theatre. Attorney Baldwin spoke further regarding the transfer and a period of public questions and comments followed, all of which Shane Erb addressed. Janet Rump made a motion,

seconded by Ralph Young to approve the liquor license transfer. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Miller	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL
OF MINUTES:**

Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the following minutes:

- November 2, 2015 – Council Meeting
- November 10, 2015 – Budget Workshop
- November 19, 2015 – Budget Workshop
- November 23, 2015 – Committee Meeting

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BILLS &
TRANSFERS:**

The Mayor questioned the 2 invoices payable to “Summit Risk Services” each in the amount of \$2,500.00 – for the Winters’ deductible. Brendi clarified they represent the Borough with Selective Insurance; there are 2 pending lawsuits against the Borough and expenses have reached the point where the deductibles need to be paid. A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Dan Folk to approve November’s bills and transfers in the amount of \$491, 766.86. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes
Young	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**WILLIAM
FISHER:**

Bill Fisher spoke in support of Council; he thinks they deserve a vote of thanks; he thanked them for their many years of volunteer service. It was clarified that Harriet has had 20 years of support. He encouraged the public to give the Mayor and Council their support.

**INT’L
MAINTENANCE
PROPERTY
CODE:**

The Mayor expressed concerns regarding the enforcement of the International Maintenance Property Code; (chipped/loose paint in violation of the code). He has serious concerns of the “stringent” requirements; Solicitor Tira said the code could be modified; Council is setting standards. The discussion continued. The issue was tabled for the new Council.

**PAYMENT of
FIREWORKS:**

Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the payment of half the 2016 fireworks as a deposit - \$4,000.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Miller	- yes
Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**WALK/RUN
5K RACE:**

Erica Keim asked for permission to hold a 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, March 26, 2016, starting at 9:00 to 10:30 AM. Saturday, April 2, 2016 will be set as a "rain date". It is for her National Honor Society Project and her advisors Brian Shaffer and Amy Swartz. The route would be similar to that of the Jess/Vic Race and will benefit Kelsey's Dream. Erica spoke extensively regarding the non-profit organization and the plan she has to take care of everything at the race. Solicitor Tira said Erica will need to provide a certificate listing the Borough as an additional insured. A motion was made by Ralph Young, seconded by Janet Rump approving the 5K Walk/Run. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Miller	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PURCHASING
POLICY:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young approving the purchasing policy as presented to Council by Chuck Beck. It was reviewed by Solicitor Tira. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**FRAUD
POLICY:**

Solicitor Tira revised the Fraud Policy that was presented to Council by Chuck Beck. Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the revised fraud policy. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Miller	- yes
Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**SESQUI-
CENTENNIAL
WEEKEND:**

A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the Sesquicentennial Weekend for August 4th, 5th and 6th of 2017. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Miller	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**JIM SANDERS –
SEWAGE
ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER:**

After a brief discussion regarding the need for a Sewage Enforcement Officer, Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approving Jim Sanders as the Borough’s Sewage Enforcement Officer. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**POLICE
BATHROOM:**

Council decided the renovation to the bathroom in the police department would be tabled until 2016.

**POLICE
DEPARTMENT
DAMAGE:**

After a brief discussion, Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump stating the payment of \$1800 for the damage in the police department would be paid from the General Fund and the restitution would be paid back into the General Fund. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes
Young	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL:

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the following bids on Municipal:

- 1999 Ford F250 XL Super Duty 4x4 Pickup Truck - \$9,101.00
- Aeroil – 2 Wheel Propane Fired Tar Buggy - \$410.00
- Onan 3 Phase Generator - \$340.00

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Miller	- yes
Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**2016
BUDGET:**

Brendi read over the proposed 2016 Budget President Miller had her read over the total of expense of each fund. A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Janet Rump, to approve the Proposed 2016 as advertised and

displayed. The budget includes no tax increase and no increase in electric rates. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Miller	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor Tira said he would prepare the ordinance stating no tax increase and no electric rate increase. Brendi is to advertise it and Council can pass the resolution at the December 21, 2015 Committee Meeting.

WEBINAR: Brendi reminded Council of a webinar on Parliamentary Procedures on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor read over things he did during the past month. He also references comments made by Rob Brown regarding what the Mayor has cost the Borough in Solicitor fees. He provided a spreadsheet of various services and charges associated with the Borough Solicitor. He offered a copy to anyone wishing to have one.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: written

FIRE & AMBULANCE: written

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: The Mayor said he acquired an upgraded style of poly sand bags for EMA.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: written

Janet Rump also called attention to Jeff's report. She asked Council to drive by properties listed on his report and see if they want Marty Sowers to take another look at them.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR: nothing to add

BOROUGH SECRETARY: nothing to add

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Miller announced a short Executive Session for personnel to follow tonight's meeting, not to return to Public Session.

BUDGET: Ralph Young asked how many residents came into the office to look at the budget and how many looked at the budget on line.

DECORATING: The Mayor thanked Cindy Crozier, Sandy Hendricks and Hal Crozier for decorating at the corner of Main Street and Brimmer Avenue. In turn, Sandy Hendricks thanked the Mayor and Becky for their help too.

314 MAIN ST.: The Mayor thanked Brent Frey for the job well done at his property at 314 Main Street as it had been an eyesore for a lot of years.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:32 PM

Sincerely,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer