

**Watsonstown Borough
Council Meeting
June 27, 2016**

OPENING: The June 27, 2016 Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Janet Rump at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at the Borough Building at 318 Main Street. The opening prayer was given by Mayor David Hontz and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Sephanie Kilgus, Gladys Klapp, Pat Yeager, Judy Bergman, Buzz Reynolds, Robert Brown, David Plotts, Staci Adam, Lori Waltz, Todd Moyer, Dennis Confer, Virginia Wirth, Bob Frey, David Ferguson and Cindy Crozier.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: A motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2016 Council Meeting and the June 13, 2016 Committee Workshop. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Fogelman	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS & TRANSFERS: After a brief discussion regarding police bicycles, a motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the bills and transfers for June 2016 in the amount of \$262,935.08. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Fogelman	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

DAVE FERGUSON: Dave Ferguson, American Legion Commander, said the Public Works Department did a fabulous job with their work in the cemetery for the Memorial Day Service. He also thanked the Police Department for giving them a safe trip from the cemetery to the bridge. He spoke further regarding donations that the American Legion has made to the community

and to graduates at Warrior Run School; he thanked Staci Keefer for posting recent pictures of members of the club. He spoke regarding the American Flag and those who fought for our freedom. He went on to say that his life has been threatened because of his friendship with fellow club member Dave Hontz and he wanted to make people aware of the point the chaos has come to. He concluded the Legion has given \$35,000.00 this year to the community, the school and local sports/teams.

COMMITTEES –

FINANCE: Harry Hefty made a motion to pay the yearly donation of \$7,500.00 to the Montgomery House Library as budgeted. A second was given by Greg Miller. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Fogelman	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

CEMETERY: Joshua Fogelman said they are working on getting quotes to restore the cemetery fence. Borough Manager Jay Jarrett said they are getting pictures to Custom Metal Coatings for a quote.

ELECTRIC: Harry Hefty said the Borough's PPA is down because the cost of producing electricity is down 11% due to the natural gas industry. This savings is passed onto Borough residents.

INSURANCE: nothing to report

PARKS & RECREATION: Ken Hollenbach & Jay spoke about the new seesaw; it is due to be shipped to the vendor the last week of June.

Ken also said he, Janet, Josh and the Mayor met at the Canal Boat Pavilion to talk about the possibility of a memorial sidewalk to connect both parking lots which would meet in the center near 1st Street with some type of memorial. He mentioned people could purchase "buy" bricks in memory of others; the Mayor spoke further to the idea. President Rump stressed this idea is in the "planning" stage.

SWINGS/ SEESAWS: The swings and seesaw will be put back by the Public Works Department after the 4th of July.

President Rump said the parks and the cemetery look good.

PERSONNEL: nothing to report

**PROTECTION
TO PERSONS &
PROPERTY:**

The Mayor said he met with Jay regarding two issues; the Canal Boat and a dead tree. He also spoke of a recent swarm of bees on Elm Street which were removed by Preston Boop.

President Rump also spoke of Jay's handling of bees at the 8th Street Park.

**TREE
REMOVALS:**

Jay said he is working on getting prices to remove various dead trees in the Borough.

**STREETS &
HIGHWAYS:**

Dan Folk spoke about a section of street restoration on Liberty Street.

Jay said an inventory was taken by Public Works of street signs and poles that are in the street; 22 signs and 8 poles.

**WASTE
MANAGEMENT:**

Josh said they are working on the Elm Street storm water problem.

President Rump encouraged the public to attend Committee Workshops.

**5th STREET
PAVING:**

Jay said we are on Mid-State Paving's schedule for the 3rd week in July, weather permitting; the work is expected to take less than a week.

**FLOOD PLAIN
ORDINANCE:**

Jay said we received notice from FEMA that the Borough's new flood ordinance met all requirements and was accepted.

**GRANT
APPLICATION:**

Jay said our application for a Greenways, Trails & Recreation Grant is complete, a resolution needs passed and then the application can be submitted.

MEMORIAL:

Joshua Fogelman spoke again regarding a possible memorial; the location, preparation of the area and exactly "what" are still in the planning stage.

**CRONRATH
MEMORIAL:**

Mayor Hontz spoke regarding the purchase of a plaque to thank the Cronrath's for their donation of the memorial stone at the cemetery.

**PLAQUE TO BE
PURCHASED:**

After much discussion, Greg Miller made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty to purchase a plaque to be placed in the planter in the back of the Borough office, with it facing 4th Street. The plaque will be 4" x 10" cast & precision tooled, with raised letters finished with brushed bronze letters stating:

*In honor of those who faithfully served
the Borough of Watsontown.*

*A living reminder of all the hands that helped
build & strengthen our beautiful community.*

Pat Yeager of 214 Liberty Street expressed her concern for the plaque's location. Once clarified, the Mayor said it was a lovely statement and an appropriate position. Per Greg, it will be in honor of all past and present employees, officials and volunteers. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Fogelman	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**JUNIOR
COUNCIL
PERSON
PROGRAM:**

Jay said he reached out to the high school principal today regarding a possible "junior council person"; he left a message. This is something Joshua Fogelman has mentioned. Jay is hoping the principal can make some recommendations. Ken Hollenbach mentioned checking PSAB's website for criteria/regulations regarding the junior council person program; Solicitor Tira recommended Council refine PSAB's requirements.

**YARD SALE
APPROVED:**

President Rump read a request from Castan Kiersch for the approval of the annual Watsonstown Yard Sale on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the request. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Fogelman	- yes
Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

BRUSH PICK-UP: President Rump mentioned brush pick-up on Tuesday, July 5, 2016.

**GREENWAY
GRANT
APPLICATION/
RESOLUTION:**

Jay spoke in detail about the \$209,900.00 Greenway grant application, which includes the paving of the road to the boat dock, a pavilion and a walking trail. The Borough's cost will be \$37,700.00, which includes Borough labor. The application is due by Thursday, June 30, 2016. Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Joshua Fogelman approving the grant application and resolution. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Fogelman	- yes
Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

FOUNTAIN RESTORATION:

President Rump said the Borough was in receipt of 2 bids for the Algert fountain restoration:

1. Custom Metal Coating - \$525.00
2. Horizon Powder Coating LLC - \$850.00

Jay recommended Custom Metal Coating based on recently seeing a project completed by them. Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to accept the bid from Custom Metal Coating in the amount of \$525.00 for the restoration of the Algert Fountain. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Fogelman	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

UNI-TEC ENGINEERING AGREEMENT:

Following a discussion, a motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Greg Miller to approve an agreement in the amount of \$6,500.00 to \$8,000.00 for professional engineering services with Uni-Tec regarding Elm Street storm water improvements. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Fogelman	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

ADVERTISE PROJECT:

Jay asked Council for permission to advertise the Elm Street storm water project. The conversation continued.

CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT:

Jay asked Council for permission to establish a capital reserve account at First National Bank; the difference between what we receive in interest now (.15%) versus after the new account is established (.45%). It will combine 8 or 9 small accounts into 1 large account. Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to establish a capital reserve account at First National Bank. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Fogelman	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

ADVERTISE TABLED: The meeting returned to further discussion about advertising the Elm Street storm water project. Council decided to table the advertising on the advice of Solicitor Tira until Uni-Tec advises the scope of the project.

TREES NEAR SEWER PLANT: Pat Yeager asked if anyone remembered whether tree “screening” was to be done by MRSA so you couldn’t see the sewer plant. She asked Council to check into it further.

REPORTS -

MAYOR: nothing to report

The Mayor spoke referenced a Tibetan wedding he recently officiated.

POLICE: written

PAINTING: Chief Witherite spoke with Jim Robison regarding a painting hanging in Council Chambers that could be worth a lot of money. Jim asked if the painting could possibly be cleaned, restored and possibly insured. President Rump said Council would look further into the cost.

FIRE & AMBULANCE: written

EXPLORER POST FORMING: Harry Hefty said Paul Hoffman is forming an EMS/Paramedic/Emergency Services Explorer Post at the Watsontown United Methodist Church. He suggested people contact Paul for more information. He also gave information to be put into the newsletter.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: The Mayor said he has reviewed the Borough’s Emergency Management Plan and updated it per Northumberland County’s request. He noted and spoke regarding changes made and gave copies of the plan changes to Council. Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty, to approve the revisions made to the Borough’s Emergency Management Plan. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Fogelman	- yes
Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

FORWARD FILES: The Mayor asked for possible access to files retained on Scott Winters’ laptop; it would make revising the plan easier than typing it over. Solicitor Tira/President Rump advised Brendi to forward those applicable files to the Mayor through email. Jay encouraged the Mayor to stop by the

Borough Office as the laptop was found but the battery is dead; a power chord for the laptop was not found yet.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: written

BOROUGH SOLICITOR: nothing

BOROUGH MANAGER: written

ELECTRIC BILLS: Jay wanted to make sure Council was aware that approx. 40 residents did not receive this month's electric bill. The post office is investigating and a complaint has been filed. The vast majority were in the same area. He said today was the due date and time will tell just how many customers were affected. Chief Witherite said other businesses have complained to him regarding their mail service as well. President Rump reminded the audience that mail now goes to Harrisburg first. Joshua Fogelman suggested the Borough pay attention to those customer's that continuously pay late versus those who didn't get a bill this month.

PUBLIC WORKS: written

BOROUGH SECRETARY: nothing

FYI: Planning Commission Meeting –7/18/16 @ 7:30 pm in Council Chambers
Committee Workshop – 7/11/16 in Council Chambers
Council Meeting – 7/25/16
Sesquicentennial Meeting – 7/12/16 in Council Chambers
4th of July Celebration – 7/4/16

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Rump said there would be no Executive Session this evening.

SETTLEMENT: Someone asked about a newspaper article in today's paper regarding a settlement. Solicitor Tira said he nor Council had any information. The matter is being handled by independent counsel of the insurance company. Solicitor Tira said he could not speak to the matter; President Rump said she received nothing to sign.

CEMETERY: Dennis Confer, 115 Murray Street, said he was in the cemetery on Thursday and from the statue to the mausoleum to Liberty Street there are 32 tomb stones in that area of the cemetery that have been moved at least 2 inches off their base. He said it comes from riding mowers hitting

the bases of the tomb stones; these issues need to be addressed; tomb stones are being damaged and moved. President Rump said it was noted and Jay will address it.

GLADYS KLAPP: Gladys Klapp said she was told that there are still artificial flowers in the cemetery, which is not allowed. President Rump said artificial flowers are **not** allowed in the cemetery from March through October; she said there is a sign stating such in the cemetery.

Gladys Klapp questioned the bill paid to BJ's Garden Supply in the amount of \$1,113.60. It was clarified that the amount represented the invoice for the planters around the Borough Building and the planters in front of Lingle's, the Mansion House, CVS and the Family Dollar store.

She went onto to say that she was glad people met regarding a memorial garden and buying bricks for that in memory of loved ones is a great idea. She is glad they have scrapped the gazebo and planting around it in memory of others idea.

She continued by thanking those responsible for putting Chief Reed's picture in the foyer.

She is concerned with the Borough using the same auditors for so many years; in her opinion, they should be changed every few years.

**DOG
WALKING
ORDINANCE:**

Pat Yeager asked if anything has been established regarding the dog walking ordinance. President Rump stated the Planning Commission is working on it. Chief Witherite said they asked that the Police Department be able to weigh in on animal ordinances. Cindy Crozier said she attended the Planning Commission Meeting and they are very receptive; they understand the current ordinance is very outdated and it will be dealt with first; though it may take months. She said this issue should concern everyone in Watsontown that walks a dog in town; they could be cited. Cindy said the Planning Commission said they would advise; President Rump said any changes to the current ordinance would come to Borough Council for approval. Solicitor Tira said though they do not have the authority to change the ordinance; they will make their recommendations to the Council.

**506 LIBERTY
STREET:**

David Plotts of 114 East Third Street said 506 Liberty Street continues to get worse; he said things are about 2 foot tall. He said if that property can be left to grow that tall than others can let theirs continue to grow. Jay said the Borough went to court with "that homeowner" and the magistrate gave her a continuance until July 5th; Solicitor Tira said there was more to the continuance – he gave her time to get the property cleaned up. Jay said he was by the property last Friday, nothing has been done.

**OTHER
PROPERTIES:**

Someone mentioned Badman's property on Liberty Street as well. President Rump encouraged the public to report such properties to the Borough so Code Enforcement can follow up. The Borough has been in contact with a lawn maintenance company for some properties.

Chief Witherite said the Borough lost a poorly prepared case years ago; that does not mean that Code Enforcement shouldn't take "it" back to court. He has had conversations with Code Enforcement; a ruling on a poorly prepared case shouldn't prevent the Borough from moving forward on a new case.

**THANKS to
PUBLIC
WORKS:**

Gladys Klapp and Dennis Confer thanked the Public Works Department for taking care of the weeds in town; Jay said weeds on sidewalks are the homeowner's responsibility; weeds along the street and curb are the Borough's responsibility.

**TELEPHONE
POLES:**

Dennis also asked about the removal of the telephone poles along the railroad tracks. He said Norfolk Southern gave the Borough permission to remove them. Jay is to check into it.

VEHICLES:

Bob Frey of 51 Main Street asked about vehicles without license and registration; he said they look worse than weeds look. Chief Witherite advised Bob to report them to Code Enforcement through the Borough Office.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer