

**Watson town Borough  
Council Meeting  
October 24, 2016**

**OPENING:** The October 24, 2016 Watson town 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, 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, 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:** Connie Criswell, Sherry Dyer, Russ McClintock, Erica Keim, Holly Cloner, Rob Brown, Karen Houser, Virginia Wirth, Brent Frey, Erica Frey and Crystal Moyer.

**GRANT APPROVED:** President Rump announced the Borough was approved for a grant in the amount of \$198,550.00.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the 9/26/2016 Council Meeting minutes and the 10/10/2016 Committee Workshop minutes. 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:** A motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve bills and transfers in the amount of \$928,634.00. 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.

**WALK/RUN:** A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the request of Erica Keim of the Warrior Run High School to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Kelsey's Dream 5K. The walk/run race will be held on March 25, 2017 from 9 am to noon in the Borough. 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.

**KAREN HOUSER:** Karen Houser of 44 Pennsylvania Avenue spoke regarding her electric and meter issues.

**ROB BROWN:** Rob Brown of 11 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street spoke regarding electric bills/kwh used.

Further discussion took place amongst Council, Jay Jarrett and the audience.

**COMMITTEES:**

**FINANCE:** Harry Hefty said nothing new to report except possibly having the budget completed by Wednesday's budget meeting.

**CEMETERY:** nothing

**ELECTRIC:** nothing

**INSURANCE:** nothing

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Ken Hollenbach said nothing except the grant approval. President Rump also said dugouts are finished.

**PERSONNEL:** nothing

**PROTECTION To PERSONS & PROPERTY:** Mayor Hontz said they didn't meet but he spent the weekend keeping a close eye on the river.

**STREETS & HIGHWAYS:** Dan Folk said they are working on the storm drains back on Elm Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Streets.

**WASTE MGMT.:** Joshua Fogelman and Jay Jarrett agreed to keep the Waste Management Committee in place until the Borough has completed the sewer turn-over to MRSA.

**WORK RULES  
RESOLUTION:**

A motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Greg Miller approving the resolution to amend the Employee Handbook to include levels of work rules. 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.

**JOB  
DESCRIPTIONS:**

A motion was made by Greg Miller, seconded by Dan Folk to approve job descriptions for Borough employees. 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.

**MUNICIPAL  
RETIREMENT  
TRUST:**

A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Greg Miller to approve Municipal Retirement Trust as the Borough's uniform and Non-Uniform Pension manager. 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.

**MRSA  
PENNVEST  
LOAN  
APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to approve MRSA's Penn Vest loan for Northern Neighbors as presented. 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.

**4 WAY STOP:**

Jay asked for approval to begin the process to make the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Streets and Liberty a 4 way stop. Ginny Wirth of 408 High Street spoke against the 4 way stop; Russ McClintock of 117 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street is concerned about current parking on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street at the intersection. The Chief said this request has come from numerous residents; Council members spoke of special care of the intersection during snow and rain conditions. Further discussion took place by the Chief, residents and

Council. Solicitor Tira said he would email warrants for the Borough (the Chief and Jay) to review/evaluate to decide whether to proceed. Harry Hefty made a motion to contact Penn Dot and evaluate whether to proceed with the process. The motion was seconded by Joshua Fogelman. Brent Frey of 314 Main Street commented regarding Dan Folk’s concern for the expense.

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

Motion carried by majority vote.

**SNOW  
BRUSH –  
VENTRAC**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the purchase of the snow/leaf brush for the Ventrac tractor at a cost of \$3,733.14. Jay said the Ventrac is to be delivered the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November. Joshua Fogelman asked about leasing/renting the attachment; Jay and Dan Folk answered various questions regarding the attachment/equipment; Connie Criswell of 101 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street didn’t understand the need for additional equipment. The conversation continued.

**PURCHASE  
TABLED:**

Joshua Fogelman made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty to table the purchase of the snow brush for the Ventrac. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Motion carried by majority vote. Solicitor Tira said the purchase of the brush for the Ventrac has been tabled at this time.

**SALE OF  
TRACTOR:**

Council decided the sale of the tractor that the Ventrac was replacing will be discussed at Committee Workshop.

**KINGDOM  
KIDZ:**

President Rump said Council received a request from Kingdom Kidz to close the block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from the corner of their building to the alley by the railroad. They will be having a “Light the Night” event on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Joshua Fogelman made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the request. 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.

The Borough's Halloween hours and festivities were discussed.

**POLICE  
BATHROOM:**

Chief Witherite presented (3) estimates for police bathroom renovations.

**NEW POLICE  
VEHICLE:**

Chief Witherite referenced the paperwork given to Council at the workshop regarding the lease of the new police vehicle. The Chief and President Rump referenced the use of "fines collected" towards the purchase of Police/Public Works vehicles; fines aren't currently allocated towards vehicle purchases. Jay confirmed money is in the preliminary budget for a police and a public works vehicle. Further discussion took place; after various comments and clarification, Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the purchase of a new police vehicle through a bank lease. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion approved.

**REPORTS:**

**MAYOR:** nothing

**POLICE:** written

**FIRE &  
AMBULANCE:** written

Jay spoke regarding an ordinance changing the per capita rate paid to the fire company. It will be included in November's business.

**EMERGENCY  
MGMT.:** nothing

**CODE  
ENFORCEMENT:** written

Greg Miller asked about 706 Main Street – code enforcement. There was a brief discussion about the collection of fines/citations. Jay said the list of "properties" is getting shorter; these properties are works in progress.

Joshua Fogelman asked regarding other properties, the conversation continued about code enforcement/Borough procedures with Jay, Council members and a member of the audience.

**SOLICITOR:** Solicitor Tira said an easement and bill of sale were prepared for the light pole on First Street as discussed; Jay said it was mailed.

**BOROUGH  
MANAGER:** written

Jay said the price quoted for the Ventrac and accessories last month was for a straight plow and should have been for a "V" plow, thus the price was higher. Ken Hollenbach wanted to know if the motion needed changed; Jay said he was able to make purchases up to \$2,000.00 and took care of it. Further conversation took place.

Harry Hefty asked for the plowing alley policy; Jay said he researched the minutes and as time allows once streets are taken care of, they will plow the alleys. A common sense approach will be used with no overtime to plow alleys; the discussion continued.

**DPW:** written

**BOROUGH  
SECRETARY:** nothing

**FYI's:** President Rump mentioned the FYI's on the back of the agenda.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer