

**Watson Borough
Council Meeting
December 2, 2014**

OPENING: The December 2, 2014 Watson Borough Council Meeting was called to order by Council President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers. The opening prayer was given by Brendi Brooke followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Phillips, Bucky Allis, Ken Hollenbach, Pat Yeager, Vera Young, Judy Marshall, Amy Pitou, Terry Kirchner, Liz Folk, Sandy Hendricks, Cindy Crozier, Bob Frey, Viola Ranck and Buzz Reynolds.

MINUTES: The minutes were presented from the following meetings: November 3, 2014 Council Meeting, November 6, 2014 Budget Workshop, November 10, 2014 Budget Workshop, November 19, 2014 Budget Workshop and November 24, 2014 Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Jack Marshall to approve the minutes of November 3, 6, 10, 19 and 24. 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.

MAYOR HONTZ: (minutes) Mayor Hontz said back on January 6 in the Council meeting there was a rather lengthy discussion about the rules for using verbatim materials in the minutes as they became 12, 13 or 14 pages long. Both sets of minutes for November Council and committee meetings are 11 pages long and a lot of it is verbatim dialogue that isn't really part of any official action. President Miller said she and Council only wanted the official business in the minutes. She asked Council their opinion. Harry Hefty stated he felt according to Robert's Rules of Order they state the official action taken and matters discussed should be in the minutes. Solicitor Landon stated just the actions that were taken by Council and if something is discussed and no action is taken the minutes could state "subject "A" was discussed"; no detail about it needs to be provided. President Miller asked Council if any of them had any objection to only putting official dialogue in the minutes and only the subject of the matter discussed. All of Council agreed to the minutes being this way.

BILL & TRANSFERS: Bills and Transfers were presented in the amount of \$247,446.90. A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the Bills and Transfers in the amount of \$247,446.90. 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.

**BUCKY
ALLIS:**

Mr. Allis was here as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission. They have met often. At the direction of the Borough Council the Civil Service Commission went forward to establish an eligibility list. Originally there were nine qualified candidates. On October 24th the physical agility test was conducted at the Warrior Run High School, on November 15th the written test was administered at the Trinity United Church of Christ and on November 21st the oral examination. The commission reviewed the results and certified the list this evening before the Council meeting. Out of the nine candidates, one failed the physical agility, six failed because of no-shows for the test and two names were certified this evening for the police officer list. The list is good for one year from today's date. If need be, the list can then be re-certified for twelve more months. Mr. Allis stated this is his first time through the process. He is requesting the Borough Council authorize letters be sent to the 15 people who participated in the process. He acknowledged Ralph Young and David Powell who are members of the Commission, Sargeant Faux who coordinated the whole process and Mayor Hontz who participated. There were 12 other people involved in interviewing, testing, talking to people, etc. Mr. Allis asked Council to certify the list. President Miller said if Mr. Allis would get the names to Mrs. Moser the letters will be sent. She also thanked the Commission and everyone involved for all their hard work during this process. Mr. Allis also stated the Commission has updated the procedures according to the Rules and Regulations passed by Council. They are very current and Ryan Tira was very helpful in that process.

**AMY
PITOU:**

Ms. Pitou read a prepared statement to the Council. She thanked the Council for all their hard work on the budget this year. She stated there were two items over budget for 2014: the real estate transfer tax and the Borough Solicitor fees.

**SOLICITOR
LANDON:**

Solicitor Landon stated if you go back multiple years, the bills do vary from year to year depending on what is going on. This year there was a lot going on in the Borough of Watsontown. Solicitor Landon said Ryan wanted him to emphasize that this has been an exceptionally busy year in Watsontown, many issues have been raised, a lot of strife.

**BUZZ
REYNOLDS:**

Mr. Reynolds spoke about electric rates for the businesses of Watsontown. He feels it is not a good idea increasing taxes to offset business electric rate reduction; he spoke of demand meters. He would like Council to consider putting businesses on a straight commercial rate with no demand meters. He would like to see no increase in real estate taxes.

**MAYOR
HONTZ:**

Mayor Hontz accepted an apology recently received from Harry Hefty.

**INTERNATIONAL
PROPERTY
CODE:**

Edie asked Council if they would like her to get some available dates from Light-Heigel to meet and discuss the International Property Code. They would like her to do so.

**RENTAL
SAMPLE
ORDINANCE:**

President Miller asked Council to review the rental ordinance that was provided to Council. This will be on the agenda under old business.

**3rd STREET
PAVING:**

Edie has called UGI concerning any work they may be doing on 3rd Street. The supervisor does not know of any work they are planning but will get back to her. Mayor Hontz asked if the ordinance did cover re-covering it and the matter of thickness. Solicitor Landon said he believes it also has to do with whether UGI is going to be tearing up the street. If so, this may involve some type of cost sharing. We would not want to cover it and then have UGI rip it up right away.

**JANET
RUMP:**

Janet Rump asked if Ryan was going to be looking into the rental ordinance. Solicitor Landon said what Ryan had said to him was that his understanding of the situation right now was that Council would come to a consensus as to what they may want to do. After deciding, Council would then let Ryan know what they would like him to look into. Solicitor Landon said with some rental ordinances the Council needs to be a little bit careful about the contents. There are some cases pending as to the legality of these ordinances. Solicitor Landon suggested Council put wording in the ordinance stating who the tenant is and notifying the office every time tenants change.

**CAMERAS:
(Borough Building)**

Acting Chief Faux provided Council with an estimate to purchase/move cameras in the Borough Building. The estimate is from MePush at a cost is \$2,558.75. This estimate includes the following: the cameras that currently show the outside of the building will be upgraded to a better quality, redeploying the current cameras someplace else in the building, it will put a "fish eye" camera in the lobby so whoever is at the police station door is visible, (a 360 degree view), in the Council room there will be one camera placed on the north wall and one camera on the south wall which would record the Council room, a camera in the basement where the police files are kept and one at the entrance to the evidence room.

A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Jack Marshall to purchase cameras and redeploy the existing cameras in the Borough Building. The estimate is \$2,558.75 from MePush. 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.

MAYOR:

written

Mayor Hontz publically thanked Mr. Allis for doing an outstanding job with moving the Civil Service process along. He instituted many new things that helped to cut time. Mayor Hontz also thanked Sargeant Faux for all of his help.

POLICE:

written

Acting Chief Faux also thanked the Civil Service Commission for their hard work.

**POLICE
POSITION:**

Acting Chief Faux asked the Council to take action and fill the position left vacant by Officer Dreisbach. There are two names on the eligibility list. Acting Chief Faux would like the Council to offer the vacant position to the number one candidate pending successful completion of all the requirements. If number one would turn it down, then number two would be offered the position. If Council approves this hiring, it will probably be March until this officer would be trained and on his own. He also said with the potential of retirement of one of the officers in April or May, it puts the department in a bind. President Miller stated she believes Council interviewed the last time anyone was hired. She would like the whole Council to be involved. Jack stated he also feels it needs to be decided if there should be this many officers. He feels it is very expensive. Acting Chief Faux stated that he included information in the Council packets. After much discussion concerning the increase in real estate millage and reduction in electric and the number of officers on the force, it was decided it would be discussed in more detail later.

**FIRE &
AMBULANCE:**

none

EMA:

none

CODE

ENFORCEMENT: written

**BOROUGH
SOLICITOR:**

none

**BOROUGH
MANAGER:**

written

**BOROUGH
SECRETARY:**

none

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Ralph Young, seconded by Dan Folk to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer