

**Watsontown Borough
Council Meeting
April 10, 2017**

OPENING: The April 10, 2017 Watsontown Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Janet Rump at 7:00pm. 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 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 Ben Landon, Chief of Police, Rodney Witherite, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

OTHERS PRESENT: John Steppie, Mr. & Mrs. Thornton Moser, Kevin Mertz, Russ McClintock, Michele Aukerman of UniTec, Virginia Wirth, David Plotts, Dennis Confer, Crystal Moyer and Kent Kilgus.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: A motion was made by Joshua Fogelman, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2017 Council Meeting and the March 27, 2017 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: A motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to approve bills and transfers for the month of April in the amount of \$309,434.37. 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.

MICHELE AUKERMAN Michele Aukerman of Uni-Tec spoke regarding the plan/design of the DCED Grant Boat Launch Project. Drawings of the boat launch /parking area and the walking trail/pavilion were presented and explained in detail to Council. Michele said DEP would like a "pre-

application” meeting with Uni-Tec and the Borough to decide on the type of permit they will require for the project. Jay confirmed the boat launch itself will be the responsibility of the PA Fish Commission; this was used as “leverage” for our grant; the Borough’s part is approx. \$32,000 and the full grant is approx. \$202,000. Further discussion took place. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to allow the engineer to proceed to the next step in the process. 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.

The Mayor mentioned the use of “Park Street” on the design map.

The Mayor gave correspondence he received from the Department of Census to Jay.

COMMITTEES –

FINANCE: nothing

**CEMETERY:
(Public Works)** Joshua Fogelman gave details regarding a salt storage shed. The Committee will meet to discuss further.

ELECTRIC: nothing

INSURANCE: nothing

**PARKS &
RECREATION:** nothing

There was no information on the Boy Scouts cleaning up the parks;

Jay and John Slother continue to work on the farmer’s market; they have nothing firm or official yet.

There was a brief discussion regarding the small “pavilion” near the pool house.

PERSONNEL: nothing

**PROTECTION
TO PERSONS
& PROPERTY:** Jay is to talk with Greg about extending brush pick- up to include May.

**LEWIS
TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING
CO-OP:**

Solicitor Landon spoke of Watsonstown joining Lewis Township’s Recycling Co-op at a cost to the Borough of \$2,000 - \$2500/year. Harry talked of the benefit of working with our neighbors and other municipalities, Lewis Township, Delaware Township, Turbotville and possibly McEwensville. A resident spoke of using the facility and it’s convenience and functionality. Solicitor Landon talked of the change at Lycoming County Landfill and the recycling program which had been free. Lewis Township figures it will now cost up to \$12,000 a year to keep the recycling program open; this is too much money for the township to continue. After further discussion including questions from Brent Frey of 314 Main Street, Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to join the Lewis Township Recycling Co-op for one year and pay up to \$2,500. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Tie vote; Mayor Hontz voted yes. Motion carried by majority.

**HANDICAP
PARKING:**

President Rump said Council was in receipt of a request from Dan Zettlemoyer for a handicap parking sign in front of 9 West 1st Street. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the sign. 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.

**CHILD AT
PLAY SIGNS:**

President Rump said Jay had received a verbal request for the placement of (2) “child at play” signs in the 600 block of Spruce Alley. After a lengthy conversation about cost, responsibility, etc. between many, the request was tabled for the Committee Workshop for further discussion.

RESOLUTION:

The Borough received a resolution in in defense of municipal electric systems; Harry Hefty requested Council to pass the resolution; there are 35 Boroughs in Pennsylvania involved with the purchase and resale of electric. Harry said the resolution is basically requesting Senator Gordner and Representative Lynda Schlegel-Culver to act on behalf of the Borough of Watsonstown. Jay said if Council passes the resolution, we’ve been asked to inform PMEA, Senator Gordner and Representative Lynda Schlegel-Culver of its passage. Harry Hefty

made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to pass the resolution. 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.

FACEBOOK: Joshua Fogelman asked if the Borough's Facebook page was ready yet; Jay said it is ready and asked permission to take it "live". He said it will be used as a vehicle for communication and information.

REPORTS:

MAYOR: The Mayor talked of the recent snow event; he and Jay will meet to come up with a plan in the future, including snow removal, especially in the business district. He said they did well in a fair fashion though the plan can be made more efficient.

President Rump said she received a lot of positive comments regarding Public Works and the Police Department; Dan Folk agreed. Jay said the Borough didn't qualify for snow assistance costs; though they've estimated the snow storm cost Watsontown approx. 4 days = \$16,000.00. There is still a chance of reimbursement.

POLICE: written

SAMPSON: President Rump asked the Chief to be careful in using the working for Sampson as "our mounted unit"; as he is the Chief's horse and not a member of the Watsontown Police Department. The Chief said when Sampson is working, he is on the Borough's insurance and also covered by the law if Sampson is assaulted or punched, etc. there are upper gradings; the same as police dogs, etc. Solicitor Landon said when Sampson is on official duty, he gets qualified immunity which is to the Borough's benefit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chief Witherite requested an Executive Session for personnel following tonight's meeting, not to return to Public Session.

EMERGENCY MGMT: nothing to add

CODE ENFORCEMENT: written

**BOROUGH SOLICITOR:
Cell Tower Ordinance:**

Solicitor Landon said the Borough has no current cell tower ordinance. He is working with Jay to draft a cell tower ordinance and feels it's in the Borough's best interest to adopt one. Council will need to authorize the preparation and have it sent to the Planning Commission to proceed. He said if put into motion now, the Borough could have the ordinance in place by summer. He went further in detail to explain as this is a land use zoning ordinance. After further discussion, Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to submit a draft ordinance to the Planning Commission and schedule a hearing and authorize all necessary advertisements. 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.

BOROUGH MANAGER:

written

OPEN CONTAINER RULE:

President Rump said the variance to the open container rule requested by Brent Frey will be discussed further at the Committee Workshop on April 24, 2017. This will allow Brent to have more information for Council's review and consideration. A brief conversation followed.

PUBLIC WORKS:

written

BANNERS:

Public Works was thanked for putting up the Sesquicentennial banners. There has been a lot of positive feedback regarding the banners.

TREE:

The railroad will be removing the tree that was cut down; it was their tree and it is lying in their parking lot.

BOROUGH SECRETARY:

nothing

MEAL ON WHEELS:

Ken Hollenbach mentioned the Meals on Wheels program is now available for Watsontown residents.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

The Mayor spoke of participation in a Legislative Report for WVIA with Lynda Schlegel- Culver and others.

KEN HOLLENBACH: Ken Hollenbach said he will not be able to attend the May 8, 2017 Council Meeting as he is receiving an award at the PSAB Conference in Hershey. He is the first council person in Watsontown to become a Certified Borough Official.

A round of applause followed.

CLEAN-UP WEEK: President Rump mentioned Borough Clean-Up the week of April 24th.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer