

**Watson town Borough
Council Meeting
April 6, 2015**

OPENING: The April 6, 2015 Watson town Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held in Council Chambers.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Harriet Miller, Vice President Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Janet Rump, Dan Folk, Harry Hefty, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Borough Manager Edie Moser, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Confer, Buzz Reynolds, Becky Hontz, Pat Yeager, Mary Phillips, Ken Hollenbach, Bucky Allis, Kevin Mertz, Sandy Hendricks, David Plotts, Virginia Wirth and Cindy Crozier.

PRAYER & PLEDGE: Brendi Brooke gave the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the minutes from March 2, 2015. A roll call was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Miller	- abstain
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

Motion carried by majority vote. President Miller abstained because she was not at the March 2, 2015 meeting.

Jack Marshall made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to approve the minutes from March 23, 2015 and March 30, 2015 meetings. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- abstain	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes

Motion carried by majority vote. Harry Hefty abstained because he was not at the March 23, 2015 or the March 30, 2015 meetings.

BILLS & TRANSFERS: Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the bills and transfers in the amount of \$205,771.62. 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.

**DENNIS
CONFER:**

Dennis Confer said because the Borough’s electric bills are not forwarded, he was assessed an \$18.00 late charge while he was in Florida. He said it was a misunderstanding and asked Council to refund it back to him.

He also was forced to pay a \$3,500.00 sewer hook-up fee in 2011 that he is requesting back. He was willed his current home, which was built in 1953, and the sewer service ran through his aunt’s property to Pennsylvania Avenue. In 2011, his aunt, Rozella Ulrich requested his sewer no longer run through her property. They (Dennis and Rozella) feel he was unjustly charged the \$3,500.00. Dennis is currently working with Edie and Harriet on this matter.

After a brief discussion regarding mail forwarding, a motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Jack Marshall to refund Dennis Confer’s late fee on his electric bill. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

Harry Hefty spoke briefly about a proposal for customers to pay through electronic transfer in the near future.

**BUCKY
ALLIS – CIVIL
SERVICE
RULES &
REGULATION
CHANGES:**

Bucky Allis spoke on behalf of the Civil Service. They are requesting the amendment of their rules and regulations as follows:

Article VI. Examinations, Evaluations and Interviews

602. Oral Examinations – The examination board shall be comprised of the following three persons:

- 1. The Chief of Police the Watsontown Police Department*
- 2. A ranking officer of the Watsontown Police Department*
- 3. A designee having a background in law enforcement chosen by the Chief of Police.*

The Borough Council shall appoint at least one (1) Borough resident to sit as an observer to this board. He said they’d like Council to approve the amendment tonight; they will be reviewing police officer applications tomorrow, as the deadline for applications was 4:00 p.m. today.

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump, approving the amendment of Article VI, 602. Oral Examinations. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Rump	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**INT'L
PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE
CODE:**

Edie said Marty Sauers is available to meet with Council regarding the International Property Maintenance Code. Edie will check with Marty about meeting on either April 20th or April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. She will advise Council.

**THIRD STREET
PAVING:**

Dan Folk said he is still working on the Third Street paving issue.

**SALT STORAGE
SHED:**

Dan Folk said the salt storage shed is still a work in progress. He is still getting estimates and specs.

ILLNESS:

President Miller mentioned Dan Folk's recent illness.

**GENERATOR -
BOROUGH
BUILDING:**

The Mayor asked if Jim Harvilla could advise on a possible generator upgrade to run the entire Borough building. This was preceded by a brief discussion on the size and age of the current generator and its use to run the building in its entirety (Borough side and Police side) during an emergency.

GENERATOR:

Dan Folk said he is still working on getting information about the garage generator

**POLICE
MILEAGE
RADIUS
ADJUSTMENT:**

Solicitor Tira spoke regarding the possible amendment of the police radius mileage requirements. The radius is currently 12 miles, to be changed to 30 air miles. This change will require the amendment of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations and the police contract. Per Sargeant Faux, the police union sees the change as favorable. Solicitor Tira said he would revise the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, have the police association review the changes and then bring them back to Council for approval. After a brief discussion, Solicitor Tira was advised to move forward with the changes.

**POLICE
DEPARTMENT
RENOVATIONS**

Chief Witherite said the contractor is coming tomorrow; he will prepare quotes for the job in its entirety as well as in parts. Chief Witherite will submit them to Council when they all come in. The Mayor said we now have a scale layout for the entire facility.

**POSTAGE
METER:**

Janet Rump asked regarding the new postage meter. Edie said it was installed and the office is now using it.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

President Miller announced there would be an Executive Session following tonight's meeting for personnel and Council may return to Public Meeting.

**ORDINANCE
2015-01:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to approve Ordinance 2015-01 which designates one (1) spot on each side of Fourth Street for parking limited to ten (10) minutes during Borough office hours. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Rump	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**HANDICAP
PARKING:**

A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Jack Marshall to move the location of the handicap parking space to the end of the Borough Building parking lot, next to the alley. 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.

**PANIC
BUTTONS:**

On the recommendation of Chief Witherite, Jack Marshall made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to approve panic buttons in the Borough offices and in Council Chambers. The cost and installation is not to exceed \$1500.00 and there is a monthly fee of \$29.99 charged by an alarm company. Ken Hollenbach reminded Council that the 911 Call Center does not monitor this system. 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.

**MAYOR'S
REPORT:**

written

DRAWINGS:

The Mayor presented President Miller with a drawing of the existing building plan. The Mayor asked for permission to access to the Borough side of the building with police presence to complete his drawings of the

entire building. President Miller said if no one was opposed, the Mayor could have access to the Borough side of the building with accompaniment.

**POLICE
LOGO:**

The Mayor said the Chief is working with Sargeant Faux on an updated police logo more appropriate to Watsonstown. He presented an example to Council and said it would be within budget.

**POLICE
REPORT:**

written

Chief Witherite spoke briefly regarding current police department personnel and overtime issues. He asked Council to move quickly in their work with the Civil Service Commission; this will greatly aid the police department. The Chief said he too had personnel matters for Executive Session.

**FIRE &
AMBULANCE:**

nothing

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:**

nothing

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

**BOROUGH
SOLICITOR:**

nothing

Solicitor Tira thanked Council and others on behalf of his family for their condolences regarding the loss of his father-in-law and the birth of their son.

**BOROUGH
MANAGER:**

written

**LEGISLATIVE
BREAKFAST:**

Edie announced the next Legislative Breakfast on April 17, 2015 at 7:30 am. Tom Marino is supposed to be there. Anyone looking to attend is asked to let Edie know.

Bucky Allis encouraged Council to attend Chamber events as well as the Legislative Breakfasts to help stay informed.

BOAT RAMP:

Edie said it will be July or August until the people for the boat ramp will be here. We will be given notice when they are coming so we can be represented.

WIRES DOWN:

Edie said Jeff Kanezo is still working with the railroad on the wires that are down on South Main Street.

BOROUGH SECRETARY: nothing

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Ralph Young, seconded by Dan Folk to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session with the possibility of returning to Public Session at 8:11 pm.

RE-CONVENE: The meeting was re-convened at 8:55 pm.

OTHERS: PRESENT: Ken Hollenbach, Pat Yeager, Becky Hontz, David Plotts and Chief Rodney Witherite.

BURROWS & MILLER: A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Dan Folk to hire Zachary Burrows and Zachary Miller as seasonal, part time help. Their hourly rate will be \$8.65/hr. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes
Young	- yes	Miller	- abstain

Motion carried by majority vote.

MINIUM: (full time) A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Janet Rump to offer Randy Minium full time employment on the street crew with the Borough. His hourly rate will be the same rate as the last employee we hired for the street crew. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes
Young	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Marshall	- no

Motion carried by majority vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED: There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Harry Hefty, seconded by Ralph Young to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer