

**Watsonstown Borough
Council Meeting
May 8, 2017**

OPENING: The May 8, 2017 Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Janet Rump at 7:00 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 of Allegiance to the American Flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Members present were President Janet Rump, Vice President Harry Hefty, Dan Folk, Greg Miller, Joshua Fogelman, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ben Landon, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Ken Hollenbach was attending the Annual PSAB Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

OTHERS PRESENT: Russ McClintock, Angela Salvatori, Aaron Salvatori, Kevin Mertz, David Plotts, Brandon Sperl, Thomas Hetherington, David Powell, JJ Steppie, Robina and Gary Cronrath, Crystal Moyer, Robert Brown, Roberta Ravert, Ann Reeves and Ellen Cook.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2017 Council Meeting and the April 24, 2017 Committee Workshop. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS & TRANSFERS: A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve bills and transfers for the month of May in the amount of \$224,176.16. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**WATSONTOWN
GUILD:**

Ellen Cook, Ann Reeves and Roberta Ravert came representing the Watsonstown Guild. Roberta Ravert of 9 Meadowvale Drive spoke on behalf of the group. The Guild wanted to update the Borough on the Welcome to Watsonstown sign. At this point, they want to put the sign across from the Sunoco gas station. They are waiting on word from Penn Dot to be sure the sign can be placed there. They are working with Norfolk Southern to see if they can get the lease of the property lower than \$600 a year. They are hoping to get a power supply so they can have some LED lighting on the sign welcoming people to Watsonstown. This will further be discussed at Committee Workshop.

**CIVIL SERVICE
COMMISSION -
WITHERITE:**

Dave Powell was in attendance and Bucky Allis via phone on behalf of the Civil Service Commission. Bucky said the Commission unanimously recommends the granting of Civil Service status to Chief Rodney Witherite. Chief Witherite was interviewed by the Commission and meets all qualifications within the Commission's rules and regulations. President Rump said the matter would be discussed later in the meeting.

**CRONRATH
MEMORIAL:**

Mayor Hontz presented Mr. and Mrs. Gary Cronrath a framed photo of the Cronrath Memorial (a three piece granite stone) that was placed at 4th Street coming into the cemetery in memory of Gary's parents. Gary spoke of his father's love for Watsonstown.

A round of applause followed.

**CHILD AT
PLAY SIGNS:**

Correspondence was given to Council concerning "child at play" signs from Anna Johnson of 607 Ash Street; it contained 31 signatures of residents requesting more signs. There are currently seven signs in the Borough. After further conversation about children playing in streets and alleys, the matter was tabled to Committee Workshop for further discussion.

COMMITTEES –

FINANCE:

Harry Hefty spoke of Liquid Fuels money being used for streets and highways.

CEMETERY:

Joshua Fogelman spoke of a contractor that may be able to redo the fence at the cemetery. This was tabled for later in the meeting.

ELECTRIC:

nothing

INSURANCE:

nothing

PARKS & RECREATION:

Joshua Fogelman talked of issues with some of the swings and the sliding board at the Park. Any issues brought to their attention are being addressed.

A resident spoke of dragging the ball field. A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to allow the dragging of the ball field at the Park. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL:

nothing

PROTECTION TO PERSONS & PROPERTY:

Mayor Hontz spoke of Tannery Run and the last rain storm. After looking at it the following day, it appears that brush should be cleared from the waterway. He spoke of contacting the county to take a look at the area.

STREETS & HIGHWAYS:

Dan Folk spoke of voting to get the paving bids out for advertising.

Joshua Fogelman spoke of the parking stops for the new lighting at the Canal Boat Pavilion. Joshua sent pictures to Jay showing there will be damage if anyone would back up to the curb. Five parking stops (rubber curbs) would be needed. A motion was made by Harry Hefty to purchase five parking stops, seconded by Greg Miller. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Joshua Fogelman noticed on each street corner, in the business district, there is stenciling of "no bicycles, scooters, skateboards." Ordinances will be revisited at Committee Workshop to see if these are necessary.

WASTE MANAGEMENT:

nothing

CIVIL SERVICE STATUS:

A motion was made by Greg Miller to confer Chief Witherite's Civil Service status and take whatever steps are necessary to put that in place, seconded by Joshua Fogelman. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

8TH STREET:

Penn Dot has requested to turn 8th Street back to the Borough. This was discussed at workshop. Nothing will be done to take back 8th Street from Penn Dot.

CEMETERY FENCE:

Jay said he met with a gentleman from Reynolds Iron Works about the cemetery fence; Joshua Fogelman contacted them. Solicitor Landon said if Reynolds Iron Works is interested in bidding, the entire job would need rebid. Jay said we will need to contact the current bidders and let them know we are going out for rebid. After much discussion, Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to cancel the cemetery fence bids and rebid the project. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Motion carried by majority vote.

4th of JULY PARADE:

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to approve the 4th of July Parade. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

GENERATOR ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT:

At the request of the Planning Commission, the following is being added to the Borough's generator ordinance:

Temporary portable generators typically used for limited powering of electrical needs during emergency power outages; this equipment is not hardwired to the buildings electrical system. It is typically connected to a limited number of appliances through a plug or extension cord. The capacity of these generators is limited. No permit is required.

Tom Hetherington of 1001 Main Street spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission; it was stressed this amendment pertains to **temporary** generators; no permit is required.

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the advertising of the generator ordinance amendment. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**ADVERTISE
FOR PAVING**

Jay said the Streets and Highway Committee recently met; a list of 25 projects for 2016/2017 all of which are important and need to be dealt with. He mentioned a suggestion to pave 1/3 – 8 projects – approx. \$82,000.00 from the current paving list. Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to advertise the paving bids. Per Jay, there is a plan in place for utility street openings. After further discussion regarding the street opening ordinance, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**4th of JULY
ACCOUNT -
OWNERSHIP:**

Jay read a statement regarding the 4th of July checking account as discussed with the Borough's auditor and the 4th of July Committee. Solicitor Landon said the risks for the Borough are very minimal; Borough employees are bonded, the Borough is insured and the auditor is suggesting the change. Dave Powell of 506 Main Street, Tom Hetherington, Harry Hefty, Joshua Fogelman, Mayor Hontz, etc. spoke of concerns. After much further discussion, a motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Dan Folk to create a fiduciary fund to record the financial activity of the 4th of July Committee as of January 1, 2017. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**DUAL WHEEL
KITS FOR
VENTRAC
TRACTOR:**

Jay asked Council for permission to purchase dual wheel kits for the Ventrac tractor in the amount of \$1,027.70 (Co-Stars pricing). This was included in this year's budget and will help with clearing the riverbank. A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to buy the set of wheels. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

CELL TOWER:

Mayor Hontz said a few meetings ago, a visitor discussed a cell tower and requested action be taken by Council; Mayor Hontz asked for the status. President Rump said both the animal ordinance and the cell tower ordinance are in the hands of the Solicitor, Jay confirmed. Solicitor Landon said he is working on them and he will probably have something for Council to review at their next Committee Workshop. He said as long as Council is working on it, the matter isn't as dire, Council has the advantage of pending ordinance doctrine.

GRID STUDY:

Joshua Fogelman asked if a grid study was done and if so, what the status was; transformers, inventory, replacements, etc. considering we are in the electric business. Jay said he hasn't yet been able to get his hands on such a study.

REPORTS:

MAYOR: nothing

POLICE: written

Harry Hefty asked for a status update on radar. Chief Witherite said the matter is pending. Joshua Fogelman asked if a speed sign was ever purchased, a speed sign was never purchased. Jay said Penn Dot representatives discouraged the purchase; a sign up all the time doesn't work; we also couldn't get funding for the sign that's supported by a generator on a trailer. After further discussion, the Chief said he would look into pricing for the Borough to purchase a flashing speed sign.

**FIRE &
AMBULANCE:**

written

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:** nothing

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT:** written

Greg Miller asked about 706 Elm Street; Jay to speak with him after the meeting.

**BOROUGH
SOLICITOR:** nothing

**BOROUGH
MANAGER:** written

**THEATRE
MARQUEE:** Jay has recently met with Shane Erb; Jay will confirm with Penn Dot.

PUBLIC WORKS: written

BATHROOMS: Joshua Fogelman mentioned the bathrooms at the park; they were not open for the Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt. Jay said he would make note of it.

THANK YOU: Chief Witherite thanked the Public Works Department for their work at the firing range. It was appreciated.

**BOROUGH
SECRETARY:** nothing

LINE PAINTING: Brent Frey of 314 Main Street asked for a status on the line painting of 8th Street. Jay said it's going to happen as soon as it stops raining and we are caught up on the grass.

THANK YOU: The Mayor thanked the Cronrath's and the Guild for their continued community support.

PSAB NEWS: Joshua Fogelman asked if Brendi could get our Sesquicentennial put into the PSAB News publication.

**EARNED
INCOME TAX
BREAK:** Harry Hefty said the Borough should look into the earned income tax break for active firefighters. Jay is to get information for the Committee Workshop. Solicitor Landon said it needs investigated closely because it uses an extremely complicated mechanism and not nearly as satisfactory as it might sound.

BRUSH PICK-UP: President Rump said brush pick-up is starting tomorrow.

FYI's President Rump read over the following upcoming FYI's:

- Brush Pick-Up – 5/9/17 (newsletter, newspaper & Facebook)
- Planning Commission Mtg - 5/15/17 @ 7:30 pm in Council Chambers
- Election Day – 5/16/17
- Sesquicentennial Meeting – 5/17/17 @ 7:00 pm in Council Chambers
- Algert Fountain Dedication – 5/20/17 @ 11 am
- Committee Workshop – 5/22/17 @ 7:00 pm in Council Chambers
- Sesquecentennial Cemetery Walk on Your Own Tour-5/27/17 @ 10am
- Council Meeting – 6/12/17 @ 7:00 pm in Council Chambers

EMS WEEK PROCLAIMED: The Mayor issued a proclamation designating the week of May 21st through May 27th, 2017 as Emergency Medical Services Week.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before Council, President Rump adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi I. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer