

**Watson town Borough  
Council Meeting  
July 7, 2014**

**OPENING:** The July 7, 2014 Watson town Borough Council Meeting was called to order by Vice President Ralph Young at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held at the First Lutheran Church, 400 Main Street, Watson town. Pastor James Ritter gave the opening prayer and the Pledge to the American Flag.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice President Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Janet Rump, Dan Folk, Harry Hefty, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Mayor Dave Hontz, Chief Dennis Derr, Borough Manager Edie Moser and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. President Harriet Miller was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Buzz Reynolds, Judy Bergman, Diane W. Dawson, Ken Hollenbach, Amy Pitou, Terry Kirchner, Jim Ritter, Judy Marshall, Mary Phillips, Sarah Laubach, Cory Laubach, Vera Young, Jeff Rachau, Kevin Mertz, Bob Frey, Virginia Wirth, William West, Wendy Shoemaker, Kayla Shoemaker, Cody Little, Sandy Hendricks, Rene Toro, Barb Diehl and Cindy Crozier

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from June 2, 2014 and the Committee Meeting Minutes from June 30, 2014. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BILLS & TRANSFERS:** A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Dan Folk to approve bills & transfers in the amount of \$232,964.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**DIANE DAWSON:** Diane Dawson spoke regarding numerous things. She wanted Council to know that she has been praying and will continue to pray for the Borough. She spoke of canal steps of which she cleaned 15 years ago; they are a part of the town's heritage. She thinks they need to be cleaned and

preserved and should become a part of the Canal Boat area. She spoke of the need for preservation of the stone walls around various areas in town. She spoke of her property and \$3,000.00 in damage to her property. She spoke of the tax collector's steps being unsafe. She said the rights of property owners need protected. She said she has directed her daughter and her attorney to donate her property to the Borough at the time of her passing. Her property could possibly be used as park on the east side of town. She complained about a street light being too bright. She also complained about the fireworks with too much noise and smoke and she feels the town could find a more meaningful way to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Lastly she said the electric rates are so high that running a heat pump that's supposed to be efficient isn't.

**THANK YOU:** Edie said a thank you was sent on behalf of the Council to Mr. John Hefty for the fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Edie said she has tried to reach Pat Ward regarding the storm water management plan but he has been on vacation. Jack Marshall spoke about what he thinks the storm water management plan should be like.

**AMY PITOU-KIRCHNER:** Amy Poitou-Kirchner spoke about her contact with Moran Industries regarding the vacant lot on Ash Street. She said Jeff Stroehman passed her message along to their corporate attorney, who told her at this point Moran is exploring their options and they would contact her if they decide a park is something they'd be interested in doing. They didn't tell her about what options they are looking into.

**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:** Ralph asked if everyone on Council had a chance to review the employee handbook. Virginia Wirth questioned the cost of the employee handbook and about the drafting. Solicitor Tira said he drafted it and provided it to Council for review and their input regarding the policies of this Borough. He said he didn't have the cost in front of him. Virginia said using a copy from Milton or Montgomery to start with may have been a way to save dollars. Solicitor Tira said this wasn't the first municipal handbook he has drafted and he already has the experience and formatting therefore he wasn't starting from square one. Jack Marshall said future amendments can be made and it will provide guidelines for future administration of the Borough. Further comments and conversation took place regarding the need for an employee handbook. Janet Rump made a motion to approve the employee handbook, seconded by Harry Hefty. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PAVING LIST:**

Eddie asked if Council had any questions regarding the paving list provided to Council. She said all areas had been marked and numbered. Jack Marshall asked why there was no crack sealing included. Eddie said Dale and Greg met with the Street Committee in the spring to look at the condition of last year's crack sealing. At that time based on the poor condition of the crack sealing and too few employees versus the cost of crack sealing, it was decided crack sealing would be omitted. The Mayor said that it wasn't necessarily the crack sealing but possibly the cracks were not properly sealed because employees were not properly instructed. Dan Folk said he didn't know if it was the product or its application. There was further conversation at the other end of the table that wasn't clearly heard. Jack Marshall asked that we get more information on why the crack sealing didn't work. Eddie said she and Dan would get the Street Committee back together and meet with Penn Dot. Eddie said Council could approve the paving list as is, add or delete items then contact our Penn Dot rep to come down to take a look and give an estimate for the next Committee Meeting. Harry Hefty made a motion to approve getting a cost to repair the problems identified (paving) including crack sealing. A second was made by Janet Rump. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**KAYLA SHOEMAKER – CAR SHOW:**

Eddie said Kayla Shoemaker has provided proof of insurance for the car show she has organized. Eddie said Kayla was present at tonight's meeting if anyone had questions. Harry Hefty made a motion to approve the car show, seconded by Jack Marshall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**LIBRARY DONATION:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall to make a donation of \$7500.00 to the Montgomery House Library as budgeted. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**KRYSTAL  
ROBBINS –  
BLOCK  
PARTY:**

Ralph Young read a request from Krystal Robbins regarding a block party on July 19, 2014 from 11 am to 6 pm. They have requested to block alleys from 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets. They will have live music playing from 12 pm to 4 pm. Everyone is invited. A motion to approve the request was made Dan Folk and seconded by Harry Hefty. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION  
2014-01R  
WRCC  
SIGNAGE  
GRANT:**

Solicitor Tira spoke regarding Resolution 2014-01R from the Warrior Run Community Corporation. The resolution authorizes the Warrior Run Community Corporation to apply for a Greenways Grant for interpretive signage for the pathway with the Borough. Janet Rump made a motion to accept Resolution 2014-01R, seconded by Jack Marshall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**THANK YOU  
TO BARB DIEHL,  
RENE TORO &  
WABA:**

Ralph Young publicly thanked Barb Diehl and Rene Toro for a job well done for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. He also thanked WABA for the parade. This was followed by a round of applause.

**ARM  
WRESTLING  
CHALLENGE:**

Barb Diehl said although the Arm Wrestling Challenge was successful, it didn't do as well as it was expected to do. Funds were needed to finalize the competition and they had metals were left over. At the last minute, they had to pay a gentleman to assist in making the challenge happen. Therefore, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee submitted a request to use a pavilion on July 26, 2014 for a "4<sup>th</sup> of July Follow-up Arm Wrestling Challenge" to help the Committee use the left over metals and recoup some of the funds used.

**WINNERS  
TO BE  
ANNOUNCED:**

Barb spoke about the successful celebration on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The vendors did very well. The Duck Derby and parade winners will be posted on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee's Facebook Page and also in the newspaper.

**4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY  
BUDGETED  
IN 2015:**

Barb said she and Renee wanted to make sure the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration would be included in the budget for 2015. They are not interested in fund raising. Harry Hefty said approx. \$10,000.00 is set aside every year for the celebration. The committee is in need of volunteers as well. Renee said volunteers are needed for the week, the day, the night and the day after the celebration for clean- up.

**COMMITTEE  
TO USE  
PAVILION:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall to allow the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee to use a pavilion for the "Follow-up Arm Wrestling Challenge" depending on availability. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

There was further discussion about the funding of the celebration.

**THANK YOU  
FROM THE  
MAYOR:**

The Mayor complimented Renee Toro and Barb Diehl for the outstanding job the two did with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. He acknowledged how difficult and demanding of a job it was. He also thanked the people who came out and participated in the day's festivities. He thanked everyone.

**POLICE  
DEPARTMENT:**

written

**FIRE &  
AMBULANCE:**

written

**EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT:**

nothing

**CODE  
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

**BOROUGH  
SOLICITOR:**

nothing

**INFANT SWING & SEESAWS:**

Edie spoke regarding an infant swing at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Park. She has provided Council with information from Playworld. She and Janet Rump also talked about installing children's seesaws at both parks. Janet said Edie should proceed with getting quotes from Playworld for the seesaws and infant swing. She also suggested the Borough be put on Playworld's list for donations.

**BOROUGH SECRETARY:**

nothing

At this time, numerous conversations took place about various subjects throughout the room.

**DONATIONS FROM PLAYWORLD:**

Edie said she spoke with Playworld regarding Lewisburg's old equipment that is being replaced at Hufnagle Park. Per Playworld, the equipment was no longer "fit" to be donated and it would be discarded. Playworld asked Edie to put a request in writing so the Borough is put on their list for free donations of equipment.

**INFANT SWING:**

A resident asked if an infant swing could be swapped out from Memorial Park to the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Park. Edie said it was a possibility and she'd check into it.

**WEEDS NEAR CANAL BOAT:**

Cindy Crozier said the shrubbery and trees at the Canal Boat look good but she asked if the weeds behind them on the river bank could be taken down. Edie said it will be taken care of as soon as the crew gets time. Edie reviewed current projects on the crew's schedule.

**ELECTRIC POLE AT CANAL BOAT:**

Cindy asked about the installation of an electric pole at the Canal Boat. Edie said Jim Harvilla, the Borough's electric engineer, has been on vacation for the last 10 days. She reminded the crowd that the Borough is not Jim's only client. We currently have 3 other electric issues that need Jim's attention so Edie is hoping he can come a day this week. She is waiting to hear from him.

**BALANCE OF GREENWAY ACCOUNT:**

Cindy Crozier asked what the balance was in the Greenway Account after the shrubs and trees had been purchased. Edie said she could get that information in the next few days, she didn't have it with her tonight. Cindy said it would be nice to know what was spent so plans for fall planting could be made. Edie said two Concolor trees and three yews are still to be delivered to the Borough. Cindy said what's been done down at the Canal Boat looks nice but the weeds are about 2 feet high. Ralph Young said the entire bank needs trimmed.

**CORY  
LAUBACH –  
SOUTH MAIN  
STREET DRAIN:**

Cory Laubach of South Main Street asked if anyone had followed up on his drain on South Main Street. Dan Folk said there was nothing on the deed regarding a drain being on that property. Cory asked if it doesn't need to be there, then he assumes he can plug it up and fill it in. Dan said he should check with the Borough's code officer regarding filling it in. Edie said Penn Dot had come to the Borough and determined the drain was not installed by us. Cory said if no one wants to take responsibility then he will but he doesn't want to deal with what could possibly happen. Solicitor Tira said not to do anything that affects the water flow off Cory's property and the velocity of water flow downstream. Solicitor Tira said it would be worth Cory's time to talk with our code enforcement officer.

**BARRELS IN  
BUILDING ON  
MORAN LOT:**

Terry Kirchner asked if anyone knew what was stored in the barrels that are housed in the building on the Moran lot at 5<sup>th</sup> and Ash Streets. Edie said our code officer, Jeff Kanezo had been there about a year ago and didn't find anything. She said she will double check with Jeff to be sure. Though Jeff has checked for hazardous materials at the gas companies and the businesses on Matthew Street, she cannot say he is a chemist. Edie said Jeff does check in buildings when he's asked. The Mayor said he knows DEP was there and documented what was there but what the results were, he doesn't know. Solicitor Tira said you can go to Williamsport to DEP and they will give the results of the report.

**MORAN LOT:**

Sandy Hendricks asked some questions regarding variances and possible ordinances that Moran Industries could use for storage on their empty lot on Ash Street. Numerous comments were made but we not audible.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Janet Rump to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer