

**Watson town Borough
Council Meeting
July 10, 2017**

OPENING: The July 10, 2017 Watson town 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, Ken Hollenbach, Joshua Fogelman, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ben Landon, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Greg Miller was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Confer, Kevin Mertz, Brandon Sperl, Karen Houser, Brent Frey Crystal Moyer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Joshua Fogelman, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the June 12, 2017 Council Meeting minutes and the minutes from the June 26, 2017 Committee Workshop. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS & TRANSFERS: A motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve the bills & transfers in the amount of \$304,132.50. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Fogelman	- yes	Rump	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

DENNIS CONFER: Dennis Confer of 115 Murray Street gave a report on the upcoming Sesquicentennial celebration.

FUNDRAISER: President Rump spoke of the Sesquicentennial pizza fundraiser.
KAREN HOUSER: Karen Houser of 44 Pennsylvania Avenue asked “what it would take to make the Park smoke-free?” President Rump said it would be discussed at Committee Workshop.

THANK YOU: Dan Folk praised Barb Diehl and Rene Toro for their work at the Borough’s 4th of July festivities. He said they do a fantastic job year after year and feels the Borough should get the community to help them. Other Council members spoke on the subject.

PARADE: President Rump thanked those that walked in the 4th of July parade representing the Borough.

JesVic 5K: The Police Department was in receipt of a \$100.00 check and a thank you from Kip Hoffman and Paul Hitesman, representing the JesVic 5K.

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE: nothing to report

CEMETERY - Fence Bid: Josh Fogelman asked if we received a bid for the cemetery fence from Reynolds Iron Works; Jay said we did and the bid was \$79,060.00. Solicitor Landon spoke in detail about the fence bids; in summary he said the Borough could award the bid to the “lowest, responsible and responsive bidder”. President Rump asked if all of Council was in agreement to repair and refurbish the cemetery fence; all agreed. She said our lowest, responsible bidder is Architectural Iron Company at \$59,590.00. After much discussion, Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve Architectural Iron Company; followed by Josh Fogelman who made a motion to table awarding the cemetery bid, seconded by Ken Hollenbach.

Many concerns were discussed including having the Public Works Department remove and palletize the fence; Josh asked what account the money will come from (Perpetual Care or Capital Reserve) and the balance of the previous cemetery fence fund. The warranty, insurance coverage, time frame, etc. were all discussed in detail. Josh asked for a roll call to table the fence bid; a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Fogelman	- yes	Rump	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried to table the fence bid.

ELECTRIC: nothing to report

INSURANCE: nothing to report

PARK & RECREATION: Josh Fogelman mentioned (5) seesaws that have been repaired but (1) has a handle that needs repaired and they all continue to need attention.

President Rump talked about the river bank being mowed and how nice it looks.

PERSONNEL: nothing to report

PROTECTION TO PERSON & PROPERTY: Mayor Hontz talked about his concerns at the river bridge. He has noticed over the years during low water there is a lot of debris around the piers. This year we have had some high water and currently there is a sizable tree with a root attached to it. He has been in contact with the Army Corp of Engineers.

Mayor Hontz talked about disturbing activities that went on in the cemetery during the 4th of July fireworks. Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to close the cemetery for the fireworks at the Sesquicentennial on August 6, 2017. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- yes	Folk	- yes
Rump	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Fogelman	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

There was discussion about the design of the wall and crosswalks coming off the bridge at Brimmer Ave and Lingles. Karen Houser of 44 Pennsylvania Avenue mentioned that it is a problem for people walking and also people driving.

STREETS & HIGHWAYS: Mayor Hontz mentioned a storm grate on the West side of Pennsylvania Avenue on the north corner of the underpass that is about a foot deep.

WASTE MANAGEMENT: nothing to report

SALT SHED: No progress was made at the Committee Workshop regarding the salt storage shed. A short discussion took place about moving forward with the shed and its location.

**BRUSH
PICKUP:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Josh Fogelman to move brush pick up from Tuesday, August 8th to Tuesday, August 15th due to Sesquicentennial. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Fogelman	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PSAB
CONFERENCE:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Josh Fogelman approving Ken Hollenbach to attend the PSAB Conference August 9th and 10th at a cost of \$250. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Fogelman	- yes	Hollenbach	- abstain
Folk	- yes		

Motion carried by majority vote.

**HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION:**

The Watsonstown Historical Association has asked to borrow some of the Borough's memorabilia to put at their new location. There will be a written agreement stating that they are borrowing said items from the Borough office along with a list of items borrowed. Josh Fogelman made a motion, seconded by Ken Hollenbach to allow the Historical Association to borrow memorabilia from the Borough office (on loan) as the Borough Manager sees fit. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Fogelman	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL:

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to advertise the Public Works truck on Muncibid. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Fogelman	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Folk	- yes
Rump	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**RENTAL OF
BOOM FLAIL
MOWER:**

Jay requested permission to rent a boom flail mower for Public Works to mow various areas in the Borough. It will be rented from Bradco of Towanda, PA at a cost of approx. \$2,200.00, which includes pick-up and delivery. After further discussion about requesting assistance from Delaware Township, a motion was made by Joshua Fogelman, seconded by Dan Folk to approve spending up to \$2,200.00 to mow various areas in the Borough. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Fogelman	- yes	Rump	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

HEARING:

President Rump encouraged everyone to be in attendance on August 14, 2017 at 6:30 pm for the hearing of the Cell Tower Ordinance. It will be held in Council Chambers prior to the Council Meeting.

1867 FLAG:

Harry Hefty said someone has offered to donate a new 1867 American Flag with 37 stars to be flown over the Borough Building during the Sesquicentennial. Harry said it is a valid U.S. flag, the 1867 version. After a brief discussion, Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Josh Fogelman to accept the anonymous donation of an 1867 American flag to be flown at the Borough Building from the time of receipt until 2 weeks following the Sesquicentennial celebration. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Folk	- yes	Fogelman	- yes
Rump	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**4th of JULY
COMMITTEE:**

At this time, the Mayor asked the 4th of July Committee to give their report. Rene Toro, business address at 143 Main Street asked if a donation of \$200 could be made to the Dewart Community Corporation for the use of their stage. The Council authorized the donation, a check will be sent. Rene asked if the Borough crew can move the stage in future years. Other items were discussed, including garbage and possibly renting another dumpster. Rene will put a list together for next year.

President Rump thanked the committee for their efforts and work on behalf of the Borough. A round of applause followed.

Dennis Confer of 115 Murray Street thanked Barb Diehl for talking with people at the 4th of July parade about the Sesquicentennial parade.

Mayor Hontz spoke of the turnout for the 4th of July Parade; he thanked the committee for “a job well done”. Another round of applause followed.

**PORTABLE
TOILETS:**

There was a discussion regarding portable toilets for the Sesquicentennial celebration and the yard sales.

REPORTS:

**MAYOR -
Windows:**

The Mayor suggested the Sesquicentennial Logo be put on the front window of the Borough Building and lettering on each of the Borough and Police Department doors. Jay presented an example as provided by The Sign Shop in South Williamsport.

**ALGERT
FOUNTAIN:**

Mayor Hontz spoke of (2) brass plaques for the Algert fountain; one regarding the history of the fountain and one in honor of Mrs. Ritter’s son, Ricky, whom died in Vietnam. Harry Hefty talked of a different base for the fountain. Jay spoke of a plaque originally ordered for the fountain in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ritter. President Rump asked Mayor Hontz to prepare something for workshop for Council’s review regarding the plaques.

POLICE:

written

President Rump asked about abandoned and unregistered cars throughout the Borough. Chief Witherite spoke to the issue.

Chief Witherite thanked numerous people for their community service to Watsonstown.

**FIRE &
AMBULANCE:**

written

**EMERGENCY
MGMT:**

nothing

NEW SIGN:

Mayor Hontz spoke of the new Welcome to Watsonstown sign at the south end of town. He thanked the Watsonstown Guild.

PASSING:

Dennis Confer mentioned the passing of Crystal Moyer’s father, Bill Yost.

CODE

ENFORCEMENT: written

BOROUGH SOLICITOR: Solicitor Landon reminded everyone of the hearing on the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to be held at 6:30 pm prior to the Council Meeting on August 14, 2017.

BOROUGH MANAGER - written

Swift 911: Jay spoke of the Borough's launch of the Swift 911 system today. The link is on the Borough's website for the public's use. He encouraged people to contact the Borough office with any questions.

PUBLIC WORKS: written

BOROUGH SECRETARY: nothing to add

EMPLOYEE: Josh Fogelman asked how Tim Ranck was recovering. Jay spoke.

PRICING - Walking path material: Josh Fogelman asked if he could get pricing for cracker dust or crushed brick for the walking track at the lower lot and also for the trail to connect the parking lots at the park. He'd like to get things moving regarding these projects. President Rump stressed the need for handicap accessibility.

BRENT FREY - Code Inspections: Brent Frey of 314 Main Street spoke about rental inspection concerns. Jay said he'd like to get Brent, himself and others to meet with Jeff Kanezo to address concerns regarding rental inspections. Jay said, per Jeff, smoke alarms are required according to the UCC code. Solicitor Landon said the Borough has less authority to regulate private homes than rental properties so for that reason, the Borough has the ability to mandate certain things that it couldn't do for owner occupied properties. The conversation continued. Jay said the meeting with Jeff Kanezo will be held soon.

President Rump mentioned the following FYI's:

Brush Pick-Up - 7/11/17

Planning Commission Meeting - 7/17/17

Sesquicentennial Meeting - 7/18/17

Committee Workshop - 7/24/17

Sesquicentennial Celebration - 8/3/17 thru 8/6/17

Council Meeting - 8/14/17 (hearing at 6:30 pm)

KAREN HOUSER- Norfolk Southern: Karen Houser said she sent a letter to Norfolk Southern asking them to open their lot for the Sesquicentennial celebration; she has heard nothing.

FRANCES TOVAR: Frances Tovar of 129 Main Street spoke of a better facility for the Borough and the Police Department. She finds it an honor and privilege to live in Watsonstown and would be willing to help pursue funding and fund raising.

PICTURE: Jay said Kevin Mertz requested a picture of Council following tonight's meeting.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer