

**Watsonstown Borough
Council Meeting
September 26, 2016**

OPENING: The September 26, 2016 Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Janet Rump at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at the Borough Building, 318 Main Street. The opening prayer was given by president Rump and 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, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Joshua Fogelman and Mayor Hontz were absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Gladys Klapp, Russ McClintock, Connie Criswell, Sherry Dyer, Dennis Confer, Gary Harmon, Kevin Mertz, Buzz Reynolds, Karen Houser, Robert Brown, Rob Smith, Virginia Wirth, Susan Parks and Crystal Moyer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Pending one change regarding the fire department's ladder truck at 107' not 170'; a motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2016 Council Meeting. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2016 Committee Workshop. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk, to approve bills and transfers in the amount of \$347,919.15. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Rump	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BUZZ
REYNOLDS:**

Buzz Reynolds of Buzz's Sub Shop on 8th Street spoke regarding his opinion on "high electric rates and demand meters". He also asked how the Borough will recover the revenue lost with Short Stop, the Legion and the school. President Rump said his comments were so noted and Council will talk about electric in upcoming budget meetings.

**KAREN
HOUSER:**

Karen Houser spoke regarding her concern for her July electric bill. She provided Council with a chart showing electric/solar information since 2009. She believes her meter is going bad; she hopes the Borough will reimburse her for her electric bill. President Rump said information from the electric engineer was included in Council's packet regarding this issue; the meter was tested and the matter is still being worked on. Jay said the Borough has tested Karen's meter but was unable to test it "bi-directional". Karen's meter will be swapped out and her meter will be sent for bi-directional testing. Harry spoke regarding the hot weather as well.

Karen also mentioned her brush wasn't picked up recently.

There was no correspondence.

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE:

Harry mentioned upcoming budget meetings.

CEMETERY:

Jay said a bid hasn't been received yet regarding the cemetery fencing.

ELECTRIC:

Harry spoke of the hot weather and high temperatures.

Jay said he was at a conference last week in State College; AMP has contracted to buy 90,000 smart meters for their customers; we could take advantage of this price break. He mentioned the Borough is not governed by the PUC, therefore not required to upgrade to smart meters; he feels it would be a good decision.

INSURANCE:

nothing to report

**PARKS &
RECREATION:**

Ken Hollenbach said he spoke with Robert Smith of the Boy Scouts; they are volunteering to do the work on the dugouts. Jay said the metal roofing has been ordered and expects delivery this week. Further discussion took place; Mr. Smith had a few questions and demolition can start on Saturday.

PERSONNEL:

nothing to report

**PROTECTION
TO PERSONS:**

the Mayor wasn't present to report

**STREETS &
HIGHWAYS:**

nothing to report

**WASTE
MANAGEMENT:**

Joshua Fogelman wasn't present to report

**JOB
DESCRIPTIONS:**

President Rump said the approval of job descriptions has been tabled.

**PAVILION
RENTAL
POLICY:**

After a brief discussion, Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve the pavilion rental policy. Ken Hollenbach asked what the cost was; Brendi said Pavilion #1 and #2 are \$50.00, the River Pavilion is \$35.00 and the Canal Boat is free but a reservation is required. She also noted that Pavilion #2 has a sink with running water. Connie Criswell of 101 East 11th Street asked a question; there was further clarification; per the Solicitor, reservations will not be accepted without payment. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**TRANSFER TO
CAPITAL
RESERVE
ACCOUNT:**

As discussed at the Committee Workshop, Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to transfer \$500,000.00 from the Electric Fund to the Capital Reserve Account. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Rump	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PSAB
CONFERENCE:**

A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Greg Miller to approve Ken Hollenbach's attendance to the PSAB Conference in Gettysburg on 10/14/16-10/16/16, including his hotel stay. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Rump	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**INCREASE IN
ANNUAL
CENSUS:**

As discussed at the Committee Workshop, Greg Miller made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty to increase the Fire Department's annual census from \$16 to \$18. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- abstain
Rump	- yes		due to position with
Hefty	- yes		fire department
		Folk	- yes

Motion carried by majority.

**CODIFICATION
OF ORDINANCES:**

As discussed at the Committee Workshop, Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the codification of the Borough's ordinances at a cost of \$9,827.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**VENTRAC
TRACTOR:**

As discussed at the Committee Workshop, Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the purchase of the Ventrac Tractor at a cost of \$25,768.15. The purchase is from a Co-Star dealer and bids are not necessary; additional attachments will be included in next year's budget. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

DONATION OF BENCH:

After President Rump’s description, as discussed at the Committee Workshop, a motion was made by Greg Miller, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve the donation of a bench in memory of Kevin Johnson by Tom Weaver and Chuck (produce man). A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

MMO – NON-UNIFORMED:

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the Borough’s Minimum Municipal Obligation for Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for 2017 at \$107,180.26. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

MMO – UNIFORMED:

Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the Borough’s Minimum Municipal Obligation for Uniformed Pension Plan for 2017 at \$85,889.80. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Rump	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

SUB-DIVISION – 402/404 LIBERTY STREET

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller, to approve the sub-division of 402 Liberty Street and 404 Liberty Street, as requested by the Planning Commission. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Rump	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

LINEMAN HIRED:

Greg Miller said the Borough needs a lineman to replace Levi Watson who is leaving on October 7, 2016. After conducting 3 interviews, the Personnel Committee recommends hiring Travis Walters; per Jay, \$15 will be his rate of pay and his effective date will depend on Travis’ current employer. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Hefty	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

WABA HALLOWEEN PARADE:

Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the WABA Halloween Parade to be held on Monday, October 31, 2016 at 6:00 pm. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

BUDGET WORKSHOPS:

President Rump reviewed the following schedule regarding the 2017 budget:

- 10/5/16 – budget prepared*
- 10/10/16 Committee Workshop – 2017 budget reviewed*
- 10/19/16 – Budget Workshop @ 6 pm in Council Chambers*
- 10/26/16 – Budget Workshop @ 6 pm in Council Chambers*
- 11/9/16 – Budget Workshop @ 6 pm in Council Chambers (if deemed necessary)*
- 11/14/16 – Committee Workshop – Council to vote to advertise the 2017 budget*
- 11/29/16 – Council Meeting – Council to approve the 2017 budget*

BUDGET WORKSHOPS ADVERTISED:

A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Greg Miller to advertise the upcoming Budget Workshops. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

RAILROAD PROPERTY:

A resident asked if Council is considering buying the railroad property. President Rump said the matter has not been discussed. A brief conversation took place.

FOUNTAIN:

The same resident asked for an update on the fountain and spoke of her concern for it being placed on private property. President Rump said there is an agreement in writing regarding the placement of the fountain on Bucks property. Jay spoke to the fountain status; it has been sandblasted

and Jay is waiting to hear back from Custom Metal Coating with their schedule.

MEMORIAL: The same resident asked the status of the Memorial – she passed out information to Council; Josh and Janet met and decided the project would be turned over to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

CANAL BOAT PROPERTY: The same resident asked if the Borough owns the property on which the Canal Boat sits; after further discussion, Solicitor Tira said there is no record of the property being owned by Watsontown High School or Warrior Run School District; the Borough owns the land.

REPORTS:

MAYOR: no report
POLICE: written

Chief Witherite said he has worked administratively with the Borough Manager on the budget.

A resident thanked the Police Department for walking the beat at the Watsontown Yard Sales.

FIRE & AMBULANCE: written

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: nothing

CODE ENFORCEMENT: written

BOROUGH SOLICITOR: nothing

BOROUGH MANAGER: written

MRSA: President Rump said MRSA has agreed to pay Mid-State Paving to repair the manholes on Main Street. It is expected to be completed with the Elm Street Storm Water Project, which is to be starting this week.

DPW: written

President Rump highlighted the following:

- Short Stop’s electric has been disconnected – they are not in the Borough.
- The women from Muncy State Prison were down to work for only 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Truck bay was prepared for the Lions Club Sauerkraut – Harry Hefty spoke.
- Watsontown dodged the last storm – Mike Messinger left early. (Muncy’s storm damage)

BOROUGH nothing

SECRETARY:

TCC

MEETING:

Harry Hefty and President Rump are the representatives for the Borough at TCC Meetings. Harry asked that Warrior Run School District, McEwensville and Delaware Township carry the Borough’s vote when our representatives are unavailable.

CITATIONS:

Ken Hollenbach said Ed Wenger needs Council’s approval to continue to issue citations for 706 Elm Street and 1014 Elm Street. Jay said he thought that 1014 Elm Street is resolved; it was concluded that Ed Wenger will follow Council’s will.

PRESENTATION:

Ken Hollenbach presented the Watsontown Borough a community service award from the Warrior Run Fire Department.

ROB BROWN:

Rob Brown of 11 East 10th Street commended Council for their “spirit of cooperation and continued good work”. He is proud of the job they are doing.

GARY HARMON:

Gary Harmon (no address given) spoke regarding a street light at 3 & 5 First Street; his brother Tom owns the property. Tom will sign a paper stating that he has never owned a street light and the street light belongs to the Borough. If the Borough is interested, Solicitor Tira said the Borough should file an easement to take possession and responsibility for the light at the courthouse. Further discussion took place; Jay took down Gary’s phone number as the main contact.

DENNIS

CONFER:

Dennis Confer of 115 Murray Street said someone on Elm Street has offered to donate train rides for kids at the Sesquicentennial Celebration but was concerned who would be responsible for insurance. The Solicitor suggested getting in touch with Gloria at The Insurance Shop as he would be considered an unpaid vendor. Jay is to check into it.

BUZZ

REYNOLDS:

Buzz Reynolds of Buzz’s Sub Shop on 8th Street commended and thanked the Fire Department and Ambulance for their A-1 service during a recent health scare.

Buzz also said Dave Ferguson of the American Legion said the electric bill at the Legion is now less than ½ of what it was while they were billed by the Borough for electric. Buzz feels the demand meters are the problem.

**GLADYS
KLAPP:**

Gladys Klapp of 1037 Elm Street spoke of her demand meter and her electric bill for 1 room.

Gladys also said Rob Brown's comments were un-necessary and cruel.

GARY HARMON:

Gary Harmon (no address given) said he participated in the yard sales and it's something the town needs to continue with; great for the community and thanked WABA for the job they do. He also thanked the police department.

Someone said all of Moran's parking lots were blocked off – no parking.

FYI'S:

President Rump read over the following upcoming events:

- Watsontown Borough Outreach w/ Rep. Lynda Culver's office -
10/3/16- 10 am to noon
- WABA Customer Appreciation Day – 10/3/16
- Committee Workshop – 10/10/16 in Council Chambers
- Warrior Run Homecoming Parade – 10/14/16 @ 5:30 pm
- Planning Commission Meeting – 10/17/16 @ 7:30 pm
- Sesquicentennial Meeting –10/18/16 in Council Chambers @ 7 pm
Council Meeting – 10/24/16 @ 7:30
- WABA Halloween Parade – 10/31/16

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Greg Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer