

**Watsonstown Borough  
Council Meeting  
April 25, 2016**

**OPENING:** The April 25, 2016 Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting was called order by President Janet Rump at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held at Borough Building in Council Chambers at 318 Main Street. The opening prayer was given by Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke 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, Joshua Fogelman, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Gladys Klapp, Becky Hontz, Thomas Hetherington, Robert Brown, Kevin Mertz, Jeff Rachau, David Spotts, Brent Frey, Virginia Wirth and Dale Chomas.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2016 Council Meeting. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BILLS & TRANSFERS:** Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to approve the bills and transfers for April in the amount of \$198,681.72. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Thomas Hetherington spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission. He said the Planning Commission is interested in reviewing the Borough's code enforcement and property maintenance ordinances. He said it was within the Borough's power to assign the task to the commission; to review the recommendations and then to accept or

deny the proposed changes to the ordinances. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Harry Hefty to allow the Planning Commission to review and make recommendations to Council regarding the Borough's code enforcement and property maintenance ordinances. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**CHRISTINE WALTERS:**

President Rump read a letter from Christine Walters regarding a party at her house on July 30, 2016. She has hired a local band to play in her backyard at 217 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street. They will notify their neighbors and the band will play from 6 pm to 9 pm.

**EDIE MOSER - MEMORIAL GARDEN:**

Brendi asked Council's permission for her committee to proceed in getting plans and prices to update the planters around the Borough Building in Edie's honor; the update will include a plaque. Gladys Klapp of 1037 Elm Street recommended the garden be in memory of all deceased Borough employees. A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Greg Miller, giving the committee permission to proceed with plans and pricing for the planters. After a lengthy discussion about another possible project/area being dedicated to all employees of the Borough, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**CONFERENCES:**

Jay requested Council's permission for Ken Hollenbach to attend the PSAB Conference on June 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> and approve Jay to attend Municipal Administrators Training on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Each is better suited for the changes. Ken Hollenbach will be the Borough's voting delegate. A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Josh Fogelman. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**JOHN FAIRCHILD-RESIGNATION:**

President Rump said Council was in receipt of John Fairchild’s resignation from the Planning Commission effective immediately. A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Joshua Fogelman, accepting John’s resignation. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**RE-APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Upon Jeff Rachau of the Planning Commission’s request, a motion was made by Greg Miller, seconded by Dan Folk to reappoint the following members to the Planning Commission, as their terms expired:

**Max Foust, Tom Hetherington, Jeff Rachau & Monika Powell**

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

After a lengthy discussion regarding vacancies on the Planning Commission, Council will look at appointing (2) alternates to the Planning Commission. It will be discussed further at the Committee Workshop.

**2016 PAVING:**

Jay requested Council’s permission to advertise the 2016 paving, which will be due at the May 23, 2016 Council Meeting. The paving is 5<sup>th</sup> Street from Main Street to Pool Street; the estimate was provided by Barry Garverick from Penn Dot and includes some street reconstruction. Jay said there is money in the budget and expects to come back in May with additional paving needs. Jay also addressed a concern posed by Pat Yeager of 214 Liberty Street regarding street openings. After further discussion, a motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Greg Miller to advertise the bid. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**SAFETY  
COMMITTEE  
FORMED:**

Jay said the development of a "Safety Committee" will reduce our Workmen's Compensation insurance premium by 5% in 2017. If approved by Council, they will hold their first meeting in May, having 6 months completed by November and he can apply for the discount in January. Brent Frey of 314 Main Street figured it would be cost effective but said "safety" shouldn't be a concern based on a discount; it should always be a concern. Jay said safety is always a top priority; the discount is just a bonus. The Safety Committee will include 3 employees and 3 employers. A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Dan Folk to form a Safety Committee. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**HANDICAP  
PARKING SIGN  
REMOVED:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the removal of the handicap parking sign in front of 18 East Third Street. The home was sold and the sign is no longer needed. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**REVISED PA  
FLOOD PLAIN  
ORDINANCE:**

Jay requested permission from Council to advertise the flood plain ordinance which has been updated by FEMA based on changes to flood maps and flood insurance. He said advertising and approval of the ordinance needs to be done by September 1, 2016; he is requesting it be done ASAP because DCED needs to review what FEMA has done. Solicitor Tira said there will be some "growing pains" and "cookie cutter" issues but reiterated the importance of Jay's request. President Rump mentioned the PSAB webinar regarding flood insurance and its availability to Council and residents. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to advertise the updated flood plain ordinance. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**WATSONTOWN  
MEMORIAL  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER:**

President Rump read a letter from the Watsontown Memorial Community Center regarding their annual dinner and meeting on Monday, May 23, 2016 at 6:15 pm. She said Harry Hefty and Greg Miller are the Borough's representatives.

The Mayor said the letter stated that Mr. Neyhard recommends the corporation be dissolved and the real estate transferred to the Lions Club. The Mayor asked how that will affect the Borough recreational venue. President Rump said the Borough representatives will discuss this issue at their meeting and bring the information back to Council.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

President Rump said there will be a short Executive Session following tonight's meeting for personal and they will not be returning to a Public Session.

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS:**

President Rump read over the following upcoming events:

- Primary Election - tomorrow - 4/26/16
- 2016 Spring Clean-up - 4/25/16 - 4/28/16
- Committee Workshop - 5/9/16 in Council Chambers
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee Meeting - 5/9/16 at the Watson Inn
- Sesquicentennial Meeting - 5/10/16 in Council Chambers
- Planning Commission Meeting - 5/16/16
- Watsontown Canal Boat Pavilion Sign -  
Dedication & Ribbon Cutting- 6/9/16 at 12 noon

**GLADYS KLAPP:**

Gladys Klapp of 1037 Elm Street had other various concerns she wanted to mention including the Winters' settlement as paid by the insurance company, the condition of the corner of Brimmer and Main Streets, the fountain as donated by Mrs. Ritter, its restoration and relocation, upkeep, etc. President Rump, Jay, Harry Hefty and the Mayor spoke further to her concerns.

**BRENT FREY:**

Brent Frey of 314 Main Street asked that Gladys' request for a memorial for past employees not be overlooked and to include it on the agenda for the Committee Workshop.

**LIGHT-HEIGEL  
INVOICE:**

The Mayor asked if the Light-Heigel bill was typical. Brendi said Ed Wenger is now doing code enforcement and Jeff Kanezo is doing zoning and rental inspections; we now have (2) men working for the Borough from Light-Heigel and the invoice total reflects that.

**MAYOR'S  
REPORT:**

The Mayor's report was written; he spoke of his attendance at the Grand Opening of Gossip Girlz Hair Salon and Owner Kristie Brouse.

**MAYOR -  
QUESTIONED:**

The Mayor said he was recently asked "who did the background check on the Chief of Police?" The Mayor wanted to make it clear he had nothing to do with the hiring of the Chief of Police and went through Council's entire process of interviewing and hiring Rodney Witherite as Watsonstown's Chief of Police and the payment of said process. Chief Witherite spoke to the same with regard to his being hired by the Borough of Watsonstown. He also referenced that he and Jay are not required to be residents of the Borough.

**NEWSPAPER  
STATEMENT/  
ARTICLE -  
JOE SYLVESTER:**

The Mayor said contrary to what was published in today's newspaper, his suspension of then Police Chief Dennis Derr had nothing to do with the loss of the 33 year police veteran. Rob Brown of 11 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street asked "why did Chief Derr retire" to which the Mayor said Chief Derr had planned to. President Rump reminded everyone that everything that's read in the newspaper and on Facebook is not fact. David Spotts of 114 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street said Chief Derr had told him of his plans to retire a few years prior. Brent Frey of 314 Main Street also read the article in today's newspaper and asked the purpose of it. He said we have a new Council and we are going in a "new" direction; to him, it opened up a new can of worms. Brent said he wants us to move in another direction; what happened in the past needs to stay in the past...if it keeps being put in the paper, we will continue reliving it. He said in politics you can't win all the time; sometimes you need to lick your wounds and move on. It was confirmed the phone number listed in the article was Rob Brown's.

**ADJOURN TO  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer