

**Watsonstown Borough  
Council Meeting  
December 13, 2021**

**OPENING:** The Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting began at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 13, 2021 in Council Chambers at 318 Main Street, Watsonstown. Mayor Russell McClintock gave the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Greg Miller, Vice President Dan Folk, Todd Moyer, Ralph Young (by phone), Dennis Confer, Solicitor Jon DeWald, Mayor Russell McClintock, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Fred Merrill was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kevin Mertz of the Standard Journal, Janet Rump, Harry Hefty, Brent Frey, Wanda Walters, Jenadelle Burrows, Debby Bieber, Erica Frey, Larry Bieber, Stacie Adam, Larry Wertman, Kathy Wertman, Julia Erb, Dave Powell and Robert Brown.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Dennis Confer to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting of November 8, 2021 and the Committee Workshop of November 22, 2021. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Confer	- yes	Merrill	- absent

All in favor; motion carried.

**BILLS & TRANSFERS:** A motion was made by Ralph Young, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve the bills and transfers for December 2021 in the amount of \$429,377.19. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**COMMITTEES:**

**FINANCE:** nothing at this time

**EMA:** nothing at this time

**CEMETERY:** nothing at this time

**ELECTRIC:** nothing at this time

**INSURANCE:** Jay said insurance renewals will be signed on December 23rd.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Dennis Confer spoke of the approved grant for the skate park. He also said Holy Spirit has voted to approve Kids Café and Happy Harbor Preschool to relocate to their church. He mentioned other churches in the community that have stepped up to take in many services that were offered by the Methodist Church. The Watsonstown United Methodist Church was a vital part of the area and will be greatly missed.

**PERSONNEL:** nothing at this time

**PROTECTION To PERSONS & PROPERTY:** nothing at this time

**STREET & HIGHWAYS:** Dan Folk said the town really stepped up this year in decorating for Christmas; he thanked DPW for the great job they did with helping to decorate the town. Someone told him the town reminded him of something out of a Hallmark movie. Denny Confer spoke of the Caravan of Lights Parade earlier in the month; he was pleased to see Luzerne County Community College with a float in the parade.

**REFUSE:** nothing at this time

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**REFUSE BID:** The Borough was in receipt of (1) bid for a (1) year refuse contract – Bob Frey Disposal at \$14.50/month – 2x's per week – (1) 33 gallon can; \$1.00 per extra can, Borough Office Dumpster - \$50.00, Garage Dumpster - \$50.00, 8<sup>th</sup> Street Park - \$10.00, Memorial Park - \$100.00 and (1) can at 151 Main Street - \$5.00. Dan Folk made the motion,

seconded by Dennis Confer to award Bob Frey Disposal's refuse proposal for (1) year. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SALE of  
SANTANDER  
BANK:**

Dennis Confer made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve the sale of the Santander Bank to the Watsontown Historical Association in the amount of \$120,000.00 for the building. Dennis Confer read the details as agreed upon by the Council's bank committee and Watsontown Historical Association members. He went on to thank the following people: Tom Hetherington, Erica Frey, Diana Johnson, Kathi Wertman and Larry Bieber. Solicitor Jon DeWald will work with Jay on the final sales agreement. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- no	Moyer	- yes
Miller	- yes	Confer	- yes
Young	- no		

Motion carried by majority vote.

**ORDINANCE  
2021-04:**

Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk approving Ordinance 2021-04 which restricts truck traffic on West 8<sup>th</sup> Street. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Confer	- yes
Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**ORDINANCE  
2021-05:**

Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk approving Ordinance 2021-05 which replaces the West Branch Fire Department with the Warrior Run Area Fire Department. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Confer	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**2022 BUDGET:** Dennis Confer made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve the 2022 Budget. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 2021-06:** Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Dennis Confer to approve the Ordinance 2021-06 regarding the 2022 Tax Ordinance at 18.25 mils, no change/no increase. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**LEHIGH ENGINEERS:** Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to retain Lehigh Engineering for 2022. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Miller	- yes	Confer	- yes
Young	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**SALARY INCREASES:** Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve salary increases as recommended by the Personal Committee for employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Confer	- yes
Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE  
GIFT CARDS:**

After a brief discussion, Dennis Confer made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve \$40 gift cards for all Borough employees. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Confer	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**2022 MEETING  
SCHEDULE:**

Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the 2022 Meeting schedule. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**THOMAS  
HETHERINGTON  
RE-APPOINTED:**

Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to re-appoint Tom Hetherington to the Civil Service Commission for a 6 year term. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**WAYNE GREINER  
RE-APPOINTED:**

Dennis Confer made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to re-appoint Wayne Greiner to the Zoning Hearing Board for a 5 year term. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Miller	- yes	Confer	- yes
Young	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**RICK WOLFE  
RE-APPOINTED:**

Dennis Confer made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to re-appoint Rick Wolfe to the Planning Commission for a 4 year term. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Confer	- yes
Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**MARK  
STANKIEWICZ  
APPOINTED:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to appoint Mark Stankiewicz to the Planning Commission for a 4 year term. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Confer	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**TIM HALUCK  
APPOINTED:**

Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to appoint Tim Haluck to the Planning Commission for a 1 year term. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**JAY JARRETT –  
MRSA:**

Dennis Confer made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to re-appoint Jay Jarrett to the MRSA Board for a 5 year term. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**PELRAS  
CONFERENCE:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Dennis Confer to approve Jay's attendance to the PELRAS Conference in State College from

March 16 to March 18, 2022. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Miller	- yes	Confer	- yes
Young	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

**MAYOR:** The Mayor thanked Brendi for handling the Carl Reed Christmas Program, Brent and the Borough crew for great decorating and the police department for all they do. Watsontown is a nice town!

**POLICE:** The Chief mentioned the Christmas Program; the new car is outside for anyone that wants to see it; he will contact the Solicitor for the body cam policy and the K-9 Program is doing really well. He thanked the Susquehanna Trail Animal Hospital for their exceptional service and continued support of the K-9 Project.

Dennis Confer asked about the sale of the Crown Victoria to Catawissa; he also asked about Lilly's Toy Drive.

**FIRE &  
AMBULANCE:** written

**EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT:** nothing to add

**CODE  
ENFORCEMENT:** written

**SOLICITOR:** nothing to add

**BOROUGH  
MANAGER:** written

**PUBLIC WORKS:** written

**BOROUGH  
SECRETARY:** Brendi spoke briefly about the Christmas Program – there are currently 95 kids – delivery is set for Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and

Council Chambers will be ground zero for pick-up. She spoke about Lilly's Toy Drive and the huge success during the Caravan of Lights Parade with toy and snack pack (food) collection for the Warrior Run School District. Because of Lilly, the Chief Carl Reed Christmas Fund received a \$2,500.00 donation that otherwise might never have been received. The Mayor asked that Lilly be recognized for her work – Brendi mentioned Lilly's dad is one of the Pastors at the Baptist Church – Lilly will be interviewed by WBRE this year. Lastly, she stressed Watsontown is the "exception" and not the rule when it comes to CHRISTMAS!

**REMINDER:** President Greg Miller reminded everyone that the Borough Office & Public Works Department will be closed for holidays on the following dates: December 24<sup>th</sup>, December 27<sup>th</sup>, December 31<sup>st</sup> & January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer