

**Watson town Borough
Council Meeting/Committee Workshop
August 23, 2021**

OPENING: The Watson town Borough Council Meeting/Committee Workshop began at 7:00 pm on Monday, August 23, 2021 in Council Chambers at 318 Main Street, Watson town. Mayor Russell McClintock opened with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Janet Rump, Vera Young, Carolyn Powell, David Powell, Robert Brown, Larry Bieber, Erica Frey, Brent Frey and MaryAnn Everetts-Confer.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: A motion was made by Fred Merrill, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve the meeting minutes from the July 26, 2021 Council Meeting/Committee Workshop. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS & TRANSFERS: A motion was made by Dennis Confer, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the bills and transfers for August in the amount of \$316,414.32. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Merrill	- yes
Confer	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Dave Powell spoke regarding his concern with the purchase of a new police vehicle and the police department's need for so many vehicles.

MaryAnn Everetts-Confer spoke as well; the Chief and Dan Folk spoke to the vehicle concerns; there were questions from Todd Moyer and comments by Rob Brown and others. Mr. Powell also questioned the horse and the need for "Watson's goodwill". A lengthy discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Brendi read a thank you card received from Kids Café; also mentioned was an invite to Kingdom Kidz' Grand Opening on September 27th.

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE: Jay spoke regarding the 2020 Liquid Fuels Audit and the 2020 Financial Audit; both are complete. He offered to arrange a meeting with the Auditor and Finance Committee if desired.

EMA: nothing at this time

CEMETERY: Denny Confer said the cemetery wall is up but not painted yet. A member of the audience asked why the cemetery wall is going to be painted; she didn't think it was necessary.

ELECTRIC: Brent Frey said the electric re-closures will be installed starting Monday.

INSURANCE: nothing at this time

PARKS: Denny Confer said the cameras are up, doors are locked nightly, no damage per Bob Simpson; Jay said a few folks have been banned for 60 days. Denny said all are happy with the lines painted at the basketball courts; he thanked Brent and the Public Works Department for the work they did.

PERSONNEL: nothing at this time

PROTECTION to PERSONS & PROPERTY: The Mayor said the police department has been busy again this month.

Jay spoke regarding 720 Ash Street; the final court order for the conservatorship was granted on July 26th. Jay, Jon DeWald and the contractor had a conference call last week; the contractor will begin work within the next few weeks.

STREETS & HIGHWAYS:

Brent said fog sealing the streets will take place tomorrow.

Jay said the 1st Street bridge has been inspected; no real problems. Dan Folk asked of a past problem; Jay said it was mentioned by the engineer but it would be looked into.

WABA – MUSIC IN THE PARK ReSCHEDULED:

Dennis Confer said WABA’s Music in the Park has been re-scheduled for this week due to rain last week. It is free entertainment and everyone is encouraged to attend.

WATSONTOWN HISTORICAL

Denny spoke of the Watsonstown Historical Association’s FREE Ice Cream Social that is re-scheduled for this Sunday.

Denny said attendance tends to be low at events in Watsonstown– he doesn’t understand why.

FARMERS’ MARKET & FIRST FRIDAY:

Ralph Young mentioned low attendance at the Farmers’ Market and the First Friday event; others commented.

REFUSE:

nothing at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

YARD SALE PERMITS:

Dennis Confer made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the sale of (\$10) permits for those wishing to set up yard sales on Borough property – including but not limited to the parks and bank property. Dan said we will have someone monitoring those areas; he also said it would be advertised. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Merrill	- yes
Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

HALLOWEEN:

Denny Confer made a motion, seconded by Fred Merrill to approve the Borough’s Halloween festivities on Saturday, October 30, 2021. The Halloween Parade will move at 6 pm and trick or treating will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Merrill	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

2022 FIREWORKS: Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Fred Merrill approving Bixler Pyrotechnics for the Borough's 2022 fireworks on July 4th. This year's fee is up \$1000 – for a total of \$9000.00, which will be paid after the new year. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Merrill	- yes	Confer	- yes
Young	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

NEW POLICE VEHICLE: Fred Merrill made a motion to purchase a new police vehicle at \$48,926.00; there was no 2nd. The new police vehicle was tabled for a later date.

MMO – POLICE PENSION: Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young approving the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the police pension at \$135,386.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Merrill	- yes	Confer	- yes
Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

MMO – NON UNIFORM PENSION: Fred Merrill made a motion, seconded by Dennis Confer approving the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the non-uniform pension at \$81,276.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Merrill	- yes
Confer	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

AMEND ORDINANCE 1988-01: Fred Merrill made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young amending Ordinance 1988-01 dealing with junk cars and junk materials. Others spoke of oil changes/grease jobs/paint jobs being done in the streets that should not be permitted; the conversation continued. The change

will include allowing (1) junk car on each property. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Merrill	- yes
Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

REPORTS:

MAYOR: The Mayor stated his disappointment in Council's lack of approval for the new police vehicle.

POLICE: written

MOTION RE-OPENED: The Chief said the new police vehicle was discussed a year ago; the vehicle is ready to be ordered now and will be delivered after the 1st of the year. He asked for the support of Council and community regarding his department. After a lengthy discussion about the number of cars in the fleet, Fred Merrill made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to **re-open** the motion to approve the purchase of a new police vehicle at \$48,926.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Confer	- yes	Young	- yes
Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Merrill	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

EMA: nothing to add

CODE ENFORCEMENT: written

SOLICITOR: nothing to add

BOROUGH MANAGER: written

PUBLIC WORKS: written

Brent asked for Council's permission to take down (2) diseased pine trees at the bottom of the 1st Street. Brent said he does nothing without Jay's approval. The plan is to replant trees along Canal Street. He also spoke regarding the railroad lot that is maintained by the Borough. There is a \$500 application fee for the railroad's beautification project; he asked Council to pursue it. It was tabled for the next workshop. Someone asked about the removal of the tree at the corner of Liberty Street and the cemetery. Lastly, Brent stated the river gauge is being worked on.

**PURCHASE
POLICE
VEHICLE:**

Fred Merrill made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the purchase of a new police vehicle at \$48,926.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Merrill	- yes	Confer	- yes
Young	- yes		

All in favor; motion carried.

**BOROUGH
SECRETARY:**

nothing to add

FYI's:

Tuesday, August 24, 2021–7 am to 5 pm–fog seal tar/chipped streets
Wednesday, August 25, 2021 – Music in the Park – rescheduled
Monday, September 6, 2021 – Labor Day – Borough Office closed

**COMMITTEE
MEETINGS:**

A resident asked for clarification on the rules regarding the advertising and scheduling of committee meetings.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer