

**Watsonstown Borough
Council Meeting
February 8, 2021**

OPENING: The Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting began at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 8, 2021 via conference call.

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

OTHERS: Janet Rump and Kevin Mertz, Standard Journal

**APPROVAL
Of MINUTES:** Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk approving the minutes from the January 11, 2021 Council Meeting. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BILLS &
TRANSFERS:** Dennis Confer made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer approving the February bills and transfers in the amount of \$264,074.34. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor.

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE: nothing at this time

CEMETERY: Todd Moyer and Brent Frey spoke about progress at the cemetery; Public Works is tearing buildings down and moving equipment to the garage at the rental property; the spouting and sheeting will be saved. The only expense will be dumpster fees.

Jay said he is researching an above ground building called a columbarium, possibly housing 64 niches for cremation remains. It would be an additional burial option for families; possibly using local bricks to build it. This would be a long-term investment and if successful, the Borough could look into building more. Jay hopes to have more information at the Committee Workshop. Brent spoke of it being a way to generate revenue for Perpetual Care.

ELECTRIC: nothing at this time

INSURANCE: Jay said there had been a small fender bender last week and the insurance company is taking care of it.

PARKS & RECREATION: Dennis Confer said the girl's softball league is interested in using the field at the park again this year. Dennis encouraged them to send their request to the Borough; they will take care of maintaining the field. Jay said the Anthracite Teener League had also requested to use the field – as in the past, the teams will share the field. Dan Folk spoke regarding the dugouts – “A & H” painted on them.

Jay also said the library might be interested in hosting a wing fest in the park. They would ask the Borough to wave the open container law for the day so they could serve beer and wine. They will talk with their library board about the fundraiser; they wanted to know if Council was ok with the idea first.

Dennis Confer asked about the rental rates for the pavilions at the park; Brendi said Pavilions #1 & #2 are \$50; the River Pavilion is \$35 and the Canal Boat Pavilion is free.

PERSONNEL: nothing at this time

PROTECTION to PERSONS & PROPERTY: nothing at this time

STREETS & HIGHWAYS:

Dan Folk thanked the crew for the great job they continue to do. Todd Moyer and the Chief agreed – it is great seeing all departments working together for the good of the community! The Mayor said many people have commented to him about the fantastic way Watsontown is handling the snow.

REFUSE:

Todd Moyer said even during snowstorms, Bob Frey is out collecting garbage.

MRSA:

Brent said MRSA was in town recently to blow out sewer lines from 7th to 8th Streets – Brent gave kudos to MRSA and is thankful for the good working relationship they have with Greg at MRSA.

OLD BUSINESS:

none

NEW BUSINESS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

President Miller said an Executive Session was held prior to tonight’s meeting regarding a contractual matter that pertains to the police protection agreement with McEwensville.

POLICE PROTECTION TERMINATED w/McEWENSVILLE:

Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to terminate the Police Protection Agreement with McEwensville Borough effective 30 days from today. Attorney DeWald will send a letter promptly. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2021-01:

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve Ordinance 2021-01, amending the snow emergency routes. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Motion was carried by a majority vote.

**RESOLUTION
2021-02:**

Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve Resolution 2021-02, approving the sale of an old firearm (a Ruger mini 14.223 Serial Number #186-63345) to Chief Witherite for \$400.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**WOOD CHIPPER
PURCHASE:**

Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to purchase a wood chipper now and reimburse ourselves with DEP grant monies once received. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

MAYOR:

Mayor McClintock again thanked the Public Works Department for the job they do; Chief Witherite thanked them as well for the recent help at the garage with K-9 training.

POLICE:

written

Chief Witherite said problems with the new police plate reader have been resolved and they have training planned for tomorrow. He offered to demonstrate it for Council/Public Works anytime.

**FIRE &
AMBULANCE:**

written

**EMERGENCY
MGMT:**

nothing at this time

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

Jay said the transition from Light-Heigel to Lehigh Engineering went smooth.

SOLICITOR: nothing at this time

PUBLIC WORKS: written

Brent asked for Council's permission to go ahead with the sale of Public Works equipment on Municibid and Auction.zip; Council will approve the winning bids. He will proceed with the sale.

SECRETARY: nothing at this time

REFUSE BID: Ralph Young asked about the renewal of the garbage contract; he suggests the contract be changed from backdoor service to curbside service. Ralph said we have the best garbage collection in the area and the lowest rates; everyone agreed Bob Frey does an excellent job. The conversation continued; Jay said he wasn't aware Bob provided backdoor service for everyone; he will talk to Bob Frey.

**ELECTRIC
LATE FEES
WAIVED:** Janet Rump asked about late fees on electric bills. Jay said the Borough has been waiving late charges since Covid began.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer