

**Watsonstown Borough
Council Meeting
July 26, 2021**

OPENING: The Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting began at 7:00 pm on Monday, July 26, 2021 in Council Chambers, 318 Main Street, Watsonstown. Mayor Russell McClintock opened with prayer, followed by the Pledge to the American Flag.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Thomas Hetherington, James Robison, Janet Rump, Vera Young, Erica Frey, Leona Houseknecht, Tracey Nicholas, Mack Gatz, Debby Bieber, Carolyn Powell, Wanda Walters, Brian Harrison, Dakota Harrison, Jennifer Gainer, Larry Bieber, Crystal Moyer, Jenadelle Burrows and Mary Ann Everetts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Greg Miller announced an Executive Session is to follow tonight's meeting regarding personnel, not to return to Public Session.

He also said Chief Witherite would not be attending tonight's meeting due to a family emergency.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: A motion was made by Fred Merrill, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2021 Council Meeting and the June 28, 2021 Committee Workshop. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor; motion carried.

BILLS & TRANSFERS: A motion was made by Dennis Confer, seconded by Ralph Young to approve June's bill and transfers in the amount of \$451,524.66. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor; motion carried.

**BANK
COMMITTEE:**

Tom Hetherington spoke on behalf of the Bank Committee; he said the committee has met 2 times; they originally had (4) options and have narrowed it down to 3 options for use of the bank. They expect to have more information this week but feel they will be ready to present a plan to Council within 30 to 45 days.

**BANK
DRAWINGS:**

Jay introduced Dakota Harrison who prepared bank drawings with measurements for the Borough. Copies will be made for Council and the Bank Committee.

**WATSONTOWN
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION:**

Erica Frey spoke on behalf of the Historical Association regarding the vision they shared with Council in January 2020. She gave a copy to each Council Member. She also requested Council's permission to include their support letter with the Borough's September 2021 electric bill.

**CORRE-
SPONDENCE:**

Brendi said the Borough was in receipt of 80 form letters supporting the Watsontown Historical Association. She also read (6) other letters addressed to Council regarding the plan for the Santander Bank. Ralph Young suggested a Facebook post from a former resident who called Watsontown home for the last 2 years be read to Council regarding our community; the family has moved to Arkansas.

COMMITTEE:

FINANCE:

nothing at this time

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:**

nothing at this time – "rain but no floods" per the Mayor.

CEMETERY:

nothing at this time; Todd said the wall has been repaired. He thanked Brent and the Borough crew.

ELECTRIC:

nothing at this time

INSURANCE:

nothing at this time; Jay said payment for the damaged Canal Boat light pole was received; the red light from Lecce is done.

**PARKS &
RECREATION:**

Denny said the basketball court has been sealed and coated; relined shortly, cameras installed, restroom doors replaced and the restrooms are being locked at night because of vandalism.

PERSONNEL:

nothing at this time

PROTECTION TO PERSONS & PROPERTY: nothing at this time

STREETS & HIGHWAYS: Brent said tar/chipping is scheduled for the week of August 9th.

REFUSE: nothing at this time

ASH STREET PROPERTY: Jay updated Council on the Ash Street property.

STIMULIS MONEY: Jay updated Council on the American Rescue Plan money which he had moved into the Capital Reserve account; he has already committed \$40,000.00 according to the plans rules. A final ruling is expected – recreation is an “allowable expense”; Jay will meet with the Parks and Recreation Committee. He hopes to have additional information to Council by the next meeting and will consider re-visiting 2020 expenses. There is no rush to spend the money, we have 5-6 years to spend the money. The conversation continued.

FROZEN FAVORITES: Dennis Confer asked about the route Frozen Favorites is taking on Sundays; Jay asked Brendi to check into it.

DEWART BANDSHELL: Brent confirmed that the Dewart band shell stage is now being stored at the Borough Garage.

NEW BUSINESS:

CHURCH EVENT – 9/12/2021: Fred Merrill made a motion, seconded by Dennis Confer to approve the closing of the alley behind the Baptist Church for an event on September 12, 2021. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor; motion carried.

MEMORIAL BENCH @ MEMORIAL PARK: Dennis Confer made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer approving the placement of a memorial bench for Daniel Harmon in Memorial Park. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor; motion carried.

**COMBINED
MEETING –
8/23/2021:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Dennis Confer to cancel the Council Meeting scheduled for 8/9/2021 and combine it with the Committee Workshop on 8/23/2021. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Motion carried by majority vote.

**2021 YARD
SALES – WABA:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer approving the 2021 WABA Yard Sales scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2021. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Motion carried by majority vote. Dennis Confer said an auction is scheduled in his neighborhood for the same day.

**HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION -
MAILING:**

Dennis Confer made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve a Watsontown Historical Association letter to be included with the September electric bill. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor; motion carried.

REPORTS:

MAYOR: nothing to add

POLICE: written

**FIRE &
AMBULANCE:** written

**EMERGENCY
MGMT.:** nothing to add

CODE

ENFORCEMENT: written

SOLICITOR: nothing to add

BOROUGH

MANAGER: written

PUBLIC WORKS: nothing to add

**BOROUGH
SECRETARY:**

Brendi said the Borough is sponsoring lunch for Kids Café on Friday, July 30, 2021; Council is encouraged to stop by.

**PARK
CLOSED:**

Janet Rump asked when the park closed; she said there are problems with noise, foul language, etc. after 10:00 pm most days. Neighbors are complaining about the commotion; she asked that the police take care of this problem. President Miller said the same thing is going on at the 8th Street Park.

VACANT HOMES:

A resident asked about vacant homes around town that are in disrepair. She asked how long are they left go and what the procedure is. Jay said the system is complaint drive; Borough letters are sent out and if not taken care of they are turned over to code enforcement leading to citations. He stressed the process is anonymous. It can be a lengthy process – most complaints are dealt with to resolve these problems – not to make money.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before Council; the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer