

## **Regular Meeting of California Borough Council, July 14, 2016**

President Alfano called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

**ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Alfano, Mr. Bittner, Mr. Difilippo, Mr. Glab, Mrs. Gutosky and Mr. Mariscotti, and Mayor Weld

**ABSENCE:** Mr. Encapera

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Mrs. Gutosky added the Solicitor's bill in the amount of \$3,382.80

Mr. Glab added possible hiring of part time officer under the Mayors report

President Alfano stated the agenda stands as printed and amended.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Maddiex asked council to define the Patriotism Committee.

### **AUDITOR'S REPORT – STEVEN CYPHER & DAN STARCESKI**

Mr. Cypher introduced himself and provided documents to council. He reviewed the power point presentation with council. He stated the year ending Dec. 2015<sup>th</sup> was done using general auditing standards and provide the financial status as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> and how you got there. He explained the balance sheet and fund balances. He stated this will be the first year in a long time where the fund balance went down in the general fund and explained the deficit to the general fund was due to the new addition and borough building renovations. He stated there is enough fund balance to establish a contingency fund for emergencies. He stated he wouldn't make it a capital fund because then it has to be used for capital purchases but perhaps consider a rainy day fund so you can use it for contingencies in case of emergencies. He suggested that the escrow fund be consolidated into one fund outside of the general fund. He stated as far as the sewer fund there was a significant penalty for late payments and that has been removed so the accounts receivables shows a significant drop. The council's biggest job is risk management and implementing internal controls. It would be nice to have a separation of duties however he understands you are a small borough and can't hire people to do all of that. He said the final item is GASB he stated the two good things the police pension fund is very well funded the other fund which is the non- uniform is well funded to the point where under the department of Labor rules it would not be considered endangered and is considered a Class A plan meaning that it is properly funded and is accumulating assets. He thanked Dr. Martin and Ms. Evans for doing an awesome job and council for letting them be our auditors.

### **MINUTES**

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to approve the minutes of June 9, 2016 Special meeting carried with all members present stating aye.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to approve the minutes of June 28, 2016 Regular meeting carried with all members present stating aye.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT – MS. EVANS**

Ms. Evans read the accounts payable and account balances as of June 30, 2016.

Motion by Mariscotti/Gutosky to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's report carried with all members present stating aye.

### **PRESIDENTS'S REPORT – PRESIDENT ALFANO**

### **REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION – JUNE 9, 2016**

Mr. Alfano stated the executives session on June 9<sup>th</sup> was on legal matters.

### **MACKING ENGINEERING INVOICE # 43657**

Mr. Alfano stated we have an invoice from Mackin Engineering in the amount of \$1,701.96 and would entertain a motion to pay this.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to pay Mackin Engineering invoice #43657 in the amount of \$1,701.96 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

### **PIRMA – PROPERTY LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Mr. Alfano stated we have our renewal invoice from PIRMA, which is our property liability insurer in the amount of \$161,135.00 and asked for a motion.

Motion by Bittner/Gutosky to pay PIRMA's renewal invoice in the amount of \$161,135.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

### **STATE WORKER'S COMPENSATION RENEWAL FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Alfano stated we have the renewal invoice for the California Volunteer Fire Department's worker's comp. insurance in the amount of \$19,462.00 which is an estimated amount and asked for a motion.

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to renew the Worker's comp insurance through State Workers Insurance Fund for the California Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$19,462.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

### **STATE WORKER'S COMPENSATION RENEWAL FOR BOROUGH EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Alfano stated we also have a State Worker's comp renewal price of \$70,922.00 for borough employees and asked for a motion.

Motion by Bittner/Gutosky to renew the State Workers Comp insurance through State Workers Insurance Fund in the amount of \$70,922.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

### **HIGBEE INSURANCE INVOICE - \$4,175.00**

Mr. Alfano stated we have an invoice from Higbee Insurance who handles our insurance renewals in the amount of \$4,175.00 and asked for a motion.

Motion by Mariscotti/Gutosky to pay Higbee in the amount of \$4,175.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

### **ADD THREE LIGHTS TO OUR CDBG PROJECT**

Mr. Alfano stated he was contacted by Kerry Fox from the Washington County Redevelopment Authority and he asked us to do a final count on lights on the Community Development Block Grant project and we realized that we omitted three lights in the original count and they would be located across from the former fire department at the bottom of Wood St.. The cost is estimated at \$3,300.00 per light and the borough would cover that cost. He thinks it is our best interest to pay for these street lights. Mrs. Gutosky asked why those three lights were not included in the first estimate. Mr. Alfano stated we can include them now it will just come out of our future CDBG funding.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to purchase three lights to add to the CDBG project at a cost of approximately \$3,300.00 each duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

### **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – DR. MARTIN**

#### **PATRIOTISM COMMITTEE**

Dr. Martin stated he was contacted by Cornel Larry Papini retired from the Pentagon who lives up the street about forming a community patriotism committee to pick up the slack at the area around the honor roll and liberty circle area and to plan the ceremonies up there that used to be handled by the American Legion which is no longer active in town. He suggested the committee members would be himself, Mike Sears, and Tom Steadman as well as any citizen that would like to be involved. Essentially the scope of the committee right now would be the 11:00 am services on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November for Veterans Day up in the circle. Mr. Papini has done some

planting up there on his own accord. The flowers up there were done by he and Mr. Steadman. Dr. Martin stated the borough would continue to maintain the area. They are looking to plan the events and enhance the area with flowers and plantings. Dr. Martin stated he thinks it is a good idea and they are eager to get started and he is asking council to authorize them to do so. Mr. Alfano asked if they need a dollar value set for spending. Dr. Martin stated in the budget for this year there is nothing allocated but it is his intent that when we sit down to do the 2017 budget we can put a few dollars in a line item to cover their expenses. Mr. Difilippo stated if they need something done this year then they can come to the meeting and present it.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to permit the organization of a Patriotism Committee consisting of Mr. Papini, Mr. Sears, and Mr. Steadman carried with all members present stating aye.

#### **REMOVAL OF METERS AT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Dr. Martin stated that he has a request from the Ken, the parking enforcement officer, to remove 8 meters from in front of the library. Four of them in general library parking spots and four of them in handicap library parking spots. He intends to leave the "Library Parking Only" signs there and intends on enforcing that but the revenues generated from those meters don't in his view justify them being there. Both he and I would rather people have freer access to the public library.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to remove 4 meters outside the library doors and the 4 meters on the library disability spaces and leave the library parking only sign there duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

#### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY FLAG POLES**

Dr. Martin stated that this request was brought in by Mr. Harris on behalf of the Historical Society. The Historical Society has come into possession of two historical California flag poles. The one from the old Philipsburg School and the one from the old Republican School. They have identified an area which is on the right of way along the street up there, in the grassy area between the sidewalk and the street where they would like to erect these. It is our right of way and because it is not private property it does not fall under the zoning ordinance and they have respectfully asked council's permission to erect those poles at their expense.

Motion to permit the Historical Society to erect two flag poles along the grassy area between Fifth Street and the sidewalk carried with all members stating aye.

#### **UPDATE ON POLICE NEGOTIATIONS**

Dr. Martin stated he was asked by Mr. Bittner to provide an update on the police negotiations and he is pleased to report there have been several meetings and the tone has been amicable and productive and we are working through some of the lesser issues now and moving more toward the wages and benefits and the more substantial issues. He believes things are going well for everyone.

#### **PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. GLAB**

##### **ZONING/CODE ENFORCMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Glab stated the zoning office is going through their normal actions and duties and are very busy this time of year preparing and doing the inspections to the rental units before the students return. It is very comprehensive and very time consuming issue.

##### **BOATERS PARKING TRAILERS**

Mr. Glab stated there were some questions about boat trailer parking but it seems to be resolved. There is a sign down at the wharf telling them where to park but it needs freshened up a little bit because it is weathered and difficult to read. With the parking restrictions on Second St. we need to make them aware that if these guys are going out fishing through the night they are no longer permitted to park on Second Street overnight so they'll have to park down at the former sewage plant.

## **CORRESPONDENCE FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY CONCERNING THEIR REVIEW OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Mr. Glab stated we received correspondence from Washington County Planning Commission suggesting two changes to the comprehensive plan. He stated according to the email from Mackin Engineering council is required to take actions. He stated he'd like to put this on July's agenda.

## **BARBERO SUBDIVISION**

Mr. Glab asked Mr. Petro to explain this one. Mr. Petro stated Mr. Barbero is in attendance tonight and he submitted a subdivision to make three parcels into 2 parcels. There is a public right of way that was approved back in 1955. The plan was reviewed by Widmer Engineers and there is a letter in his file dated July 1, 2016. He met with Mr. Barbero last Thursday before the committee meeting and we went over each item one by one and he took it back to the surveyor and assured Mr. Petro that the corrections have been made. There was one last issue concerning the right of way that goes through the back of the property and Mr. Barbero secured an agreement with Student Association, Inc. and Mr. Agrafiotis will elaborate on that. Mr. Agrafiotis stated that Mr. Barbero has received a letter from SAI that states SAI has no interest and is relinquishing its rights of the right of way and this needs to be a recorded document. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he spoke to Mr. Barbero's attorney, Richard Mudrick, who agreed to prepare a document for SAI to execute and to be recorded in the office of the Washington County Recorder of Deeds. At that time the subdivision will reference that document and its date of recording. Mr. Petro stated all we have to do is pretty much have that recorded and it is good to go and he recommends conditional approval upon that being recorded and placed on the subdivision plan and he thinks he's complied with everything that they've discussed and he thinks it should be approved conditionally. Mr. Glab asked Mr. Barbero if he has anything to add before council acts on this. Mr. Barbero stated no. Mr. Glab asked Mr. Agrafiotis if he agrees with Mr. Petro.

Motion by Glab/Difilippo to approve the Barbero subdivision contingent upon the recommendations of John and Tom being completed before it is formally registered and along with any Widmer Engineer recommendations of July 1, 2016 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Bittner who abstained and stated he was not here for the meeting.

## **PUBLIC WORKS – MR. MARISCOTTI**

### **STREET DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Mariscotti stated there are ongoing operations in the street department and they have been repairing some roads and they will begin the alleys and the grass cutter has been busy and Rotary Park looks wonderful.

### **LTAP TRAINING – OCT. 6<sup>TH</sup>- EIGHTY FOUR PA**

Mr. Mariscotti stated Jeff would like he and his crew to attend an LTAP training on October 6, 2016 in Eighty Four. He stated it will fill up quick so he wanted to get registered early.

Motion by Mariscotti/Bittner to permit the Street Department to attend the LTAP training on October 6, 2016 from 8 to 3 and regular wages only to be paid duly carried with all members present voting yes.

### **STREET LIGHT – VENTURA LANE**

Mr. Mariscotti stated this was discussed at the work session meeting and a residence from Daisytown requested a light be placed at the end of the bridge on Ventura Lane. He stated it is very dark and people gather there and do bad things so he would like a street light installed. Mr. Taday stated he has not contacted West Penn yet but he will.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY – MR. BITTNER**

### **SMART HOME SOLICITATION PERMIT**

Mr. Bittner stated that was resolved at the Committee meeting.

## **CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

Mr. Bittner stated Mr. Gamble will be here on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm to meet with council and the civil service commission.

## **FINANCE – MRS. GUTOSKY**

Motion was made by Gutosky to pay the monthly bills. Mr. Alfano asked if that includes the \$3,382.50. Mrs. Gutosky asked if that has to be a separate motion. Mr. Alfano stated you added that under agenda changes. Mrs. Gutosky stated she added it under agenda changes.

Motion by Gutosky/Mariscotti to pay the monthly bills duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH – MR. DIFILIPPO**

Mr. Difilippo stated he has Widmer Engineering bills for the time period from May 30<sup>th</sup> through July 3<sup>rd</sup> totaling \$13,522.50 under invoice #2160212 (A-H).

Motion by Difilippo/Glab to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #2160212 in the amount of \$13,522.50 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

## **PERSONNEL – MR. ENCAPERA & MR. MARISCOTTI**

Nothing to report

## **MAYOR'S REPORT – MR. WELD**

### **HIRING PART TIME OFFICER**

Mr. Weld asked council to make a motion to hire Adam Russell as a part time officer pending back ground check and according to the terms of the collective bargaining unit. Mr. Alfano stated prior to this meeting we interviewed Adam Russell and our police Chief has told us that he is losing 3 or 4 of our part time officers due to them moving on to other employment.

Motion to hire Adam Russell as a part time officer pending background check, physical, and according to the collective bargaining agreement duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Bittner who abstained since he did not attend the interview.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT – MR. EBY**

### **SEWER PLANT UPDATE**

Mr. Eby stated we did move the flow meter but had not finished the wiring up on the alarm for the pumps in the pit. He has contacted the electrician to get that done.

### **PRICING FOR PUMP TO HOIST OFF CATWALK**

Mr. Eby stated the cost came in at \$6,556.00 for a pump to mount between alternate tanks and hoist it to either tanks and alternate it that way. Mr. Baker stated we need to decant the digester and we need to decant it every week and right now we're using one pump pumping it to the pump station and then pumping back into the tank. In the summer time we have to drain the tanks and inspect them and we are using that big trash pump now but it doesn't pump all the way down to the bottom. Mr. Eby stated this pump will. Mr. Alfano asked if this price covers the installation. Mr. Eby stated the electrician will have to wire it in.

Motion was made by Mr. Difilippo to purchase a pump to hoist on the catwalk at a cost of \$6,556.00. Motion died for a lack of a second.

## **SAMPLERS**

Mr. Eby stated when he took over the plant we knew the permitted costs for samplers to hand in the discharging plant. It wasn't set up that way and it's been almost two years now with not doing this. He came in with the samplers and we were able to get the effluent wired in and regulated. We do not have the influent ones. He called a guy in who brought a flow meter out and hooked it up on the piping and it actually worked. He gave me a quote on a brand new flow meter and he'll do all the hook ups and we'll just have to mount it. The cost on that is \$4,715.00.

Motion by Glab/Mariscotti to purchase a new flow meter with chart at a cost of \$4,715.00 duly carried with all members present voting yes except Mrs. Gutosky who abstained she had stepped out of the meeting.

#### **MAIN PUMP STATION UPDATE**

Mr. Eby stated he has not yet received a cost on the phase monitor yet

#### **COAL CENTER PUMP STATION**

Mr. Eby stated the design is completed and he's spoken with Tom and we think we have the right of way worked out.

#### **HIGHLAND & BLAINE SEWER LINE UPDATE**

Mr. Eby stated he's been working on the LSA application and he needs council to finalize the amount that they will be asking for. He stated he does want to speak to that LSA committee because he's heard two different responses, one says if you apply and they reject it they do not counter offer, the other one says yes they will counter. He stated he'll have a definite answer for the next meeting. Mr. Alfano stated ask for more and we'll probably get less. Mr. Eby stated that's what he thought but the one person he talked to said no they will reject it and not counter with a lesser amount so he wants to get a definite answer from the LSA committee on this. Mr. Glab stated a match is pretty much required to even be considered.

Mr. Eby stated he will need a motion that the borough is behind the project.

Motion by Bittner/Glab to apply for LSA monies and provide a letter of support for the Blaine Road & Highland Dr. sewer line extension project carried with all members present stating aye.

Mr. Eby stated he does have a planning module for this project and will need a motion to have it signed off on

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to permit Council President to sign the planning module for the Highland Dr. & Blaine Rd. sewer line extension project duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

#### **CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY SEWER LINES**

Mr. Eby stated he will need a motion to sign the planning module for the renovation of Coover Hall he's not sure if council wants to approve this tonight or not. Mr. Alfano stated if anything we need to put them on notice for that sewer and is not sure how to do this. Mr. Agrafiotis asked when the module needs to be done by. Mr. Eby stated he had it last meeting. Mr. Agrafiotis asked if there is a dead line. Mr. Eby stated no there is not. Mr. Agrafiotis stated they should be told they have to meet with us before we sign the module.

#### **GASKILL SEWER REQUEST**

Mr. Agrafiotis stated he's reviewed the quitclaim deed Mr. Gaskill submitted however it has not been recorded nor is the power of attorney. It appears to be in order other than that and the zoning officer needs to do an inspection of the inside before he deem it habitable and council will have to decide if they want to do anything with this gentleman's request on the sewage. Mr. Alfano asked with the quitclaim deed do the liens follow the property. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he can't imagine they'd be dismissed he's inheriting her half so he's always owned it and just because he was barred by a PFA doesn't exempt him from bills.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business at this time

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business at this time

#### **RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS**

#### **JAMES MADDIEX**

Mr. Maddiex stated at the May's regular meeting council asked for alternates for the civil service commission and Mr. Maddiex wasn't sure if he could hold that position as well as planning commission member. Mr. Agrafiotis read a portion of the Municipal Planning Code for the

planning commission rules and the borough code for the civil service commission rules which states those two positions are incompatible and cannot be held by the same person. Mr. Maddiex stated the Planning commission meetings August 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

### **JOHN STASZEL**

Mr. Staszel introduced himself as JT Staszel and is a resident of California. Mr. Staszel stated the last time he was at the meeting he asked about the fire whistle downtown and wanted to know if council discussed this. Mr. Mariscotti stated he's with him on this issue. Mr. Bittner stated it was discussed at the firehouse and it will stay and keep blowing. Mr. Alfano stated with all the electronics out there he's surprised. Mr. Staszel stated he saw the street department doing the alley near his home and thanked council for that. He stated now that it is repaved when the university students come back they use that to avoid the light so they may go a little faster since it is smooth. He asked if the website could be spruced up and he said it doesn't speak to every generation. His concern as a faculty member and employee of the University and a citizen is making sure that we grow and evolve in an appropriate manner that makes this town an interesting place to live in. Mr. Staszel stated he spoke to Mike Sears and John Petro a bit to move an art organization into one of his properties and into the community. He stated Jozart is on its last leg and his intentions, not sure of the timing, to make the old church into the Mon Valley Performing Arts Academy which is housed at the University right now and hopefully will move in that direction in the near future. Mr. Staszel thanked council for listening. Mr. Staszel stated along Green Street there is an old US Mail box that doesn't look like anyone uses it and it is tagged. Mr. Alfano asked if it was one of the big drop off boxes. Mr. Tудay stated they still use it. Mr. Staszel asked if it is a decision that we can make to paint it. Mr. Bittner stated no that belongs to the US Postal Service. Mr. Mariscotti stated that box is used solely by the mail carriers we can't go drop a letter in there but they use it for their carriers route.

### **VICKI GALLLO**

Mrs. Gallo stated she lives at 522 Second Street and she received a no parking notice in her door yesterday. She stated so what exactly are the boundaries for the parking on Second Street. Mr. Alfano asked if this has to do with the Street Sweeper days. Mrs. Gallo stated according to the notice she received it is everyday which means she can never park in front of her house overnight again. She would like some clarification from council. Mr. Glab stated Third Street and Wood Street have been posted that way for a long time and council decided to add Second Street to it for several purposes; snow removal in the winter and street sweeping in the summer and basically Vicki we did it to keep in unity to what we have in other parts of the downtown. He stated the Ordinance was posted, opened for review and was passed last month. Mr. Alfano asked if there is parking on either side of the street. Ms. Evans stated no parking on the entire street. Mrs. Gallo asked so where does that leave her because to be honest she doesn't want to leave her house at 5:30 am and walk along those streets down there to get my car. Our cars have already been vandalized down there being parked in front of our house and if they're parked in a remote location that only opens up the opportunity more for vandals. She stated as a resident she would like council to consider revising this to either one side of the street or the other. Green Street she was told the street sweeper goes down there too. When the university students come back in the fall where is everyone supposed to park. She asked council to show some mercy so she can keep an eye on her car and not have to walk 2 to 3 blocks at 5:30 am. Mr. Alfano thanked her for bringing this to council's attention and stated that may be an alternative one side of the street or the other. He asked if council has any suggestions. Mr. Mariscotti stated let's take a look at again and maybe we can modify it to make it better. Mr. Alfano asked Mr. Tудay if he has any suggestions. Mr. Tудay stated maybe provide her a permit sticker just limit it to residents. Mr. Vitchoff stated that is discrimination. Mr. Alfano asked how would that alleviate the problem when there is a snow storm. Mrs. Gallo stated to be honest you do not sweep the streets 3 am in the morning down her street. Mrs. Gallo stated this is not a dig but they take care of that area down there when it snows and move the snow from the roadway. Mr. Bittner stated why don't we just suspend enforcement on this for one month until we have time to discuss this amongst ourselves and then readdress it. Mr. Bittner stated his daughter lives in a community in Bethel Park and her housing plan is no parking on the streets from 3 to 7. Ms. Evans asked Mr. Bittner if that is an area like the Harris plan that required everyone to have driveways he stated yes but we're not unique and other towns have it when you have 2" of snow you have to move your cars too or maybe we can do something like that but we're not the only town who does something like that. Mr. Alfano stated let's get our heads together in the next couple of weeks and see if we can come up with a solution.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Alfano stated this meeting will adjourn into executive session and will report back next meeting. Council went into executive session at 8:00 pm.