

Regular Meeting of California Borough Council, August 9, 2018

President Alfano called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm

ATTENDANCE: Mr. Alfano, Mr. Bittner, Mr. Difilippo, Mrs. Gutosky, Mr. Mariscotti, and Mayor Stetar

ABSENCE: Mr. Encapera, Mr. Glab

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATION FROM CYPHER & CYPHER SUMMARIZING THE 2017 AUDIT]

Mr. Cypher introduced himself and reviewed the 2017 audit report. He suggested that council go to an accrual basis accounting instead of cash basis so they can be more aware of cost analysis with accrual basis accounting and budgeting. He stated it would probably not be able to become effective until 2019 or 2020. He stated you are supposed to know down to the sidewalk what assets you have and what their costs are so you would need an insurance appraisal to figure out the numbers for all the borough's assets.

OPEN SEALED BIDS

Motion by Difilippo/Bittner to open the bids for paving of alleys carried with all members present stating aye.

Motion by Difilippo/Bittner to open the bids for the Gutters and downspouts carried with all members present stating aye.

Mr. Eby stated he will open the bids and read the results under the President's report.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

Mrs. Gutosky added the Solicitor bill -\$2,622.00

Mayor Stetar added class for Officer McCarthy paid for by donation

Mr. Mariscotti stated we are going to move the authorizing of advertising for Police Chief under Personnel.

Mr. Alfano stated the agenda stands as printed and amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to approve the minutes of July 12, 2018 carried with all members stating aye.

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to approve the minutes of the Continued meeting of July 17, 2018 carried with all members stating aye.

SECRETARY'S REPORT –MS. EVANS

Ms. Evans read the accounts payable summary and the account balances as of July 31, 2018.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MR. ALFANO

CONCRETE WORK BID RESULTS

Mr. Eby stated we had one bid from Defrank Construction from Smock. Base bid to replace retaining wall, replace grate in parking lot, and remove catch basins from sidewalks and move them to the roadway on Fourth Street and that came in at \$81,331.00, and the Alternate bid on that was to replace 233 sq. yards of sidewalk and curbing on Fourth Street and that came in at \$216,538.00 which includes the base bid price.

GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS ON BOROUGH BUILDING

The first bid is from DeFrank Construction at \$24,840.00 and the second bid is from Arcadia and their bid is \$33,340.00.

RITE AID REFUND OF TAXES

Mr. Alfano stated we have a request to refund \$1, 1818.15 to Rite Aid for their overpayment of the 2017 taxes. Mr. Alfano stated this is the result of an over assessment amount.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to refund Rite Aid \$1,818.15 for overpayment of taxes duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

APPROVAL TO SIGN ENERGY CONTRACT

Mr. Alfano stated we had our typical situation with our Keytex energy consultant and they've been watching the market very closely and when it gets to the lowest number they are projecting then we have to move fast. He stated he signed the contract last Friday so he's hoping council will retroactively approve him signing the energy supplier agreement.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to sign the energy contract with Constellation duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ON AUG. 2, 2018

Mr. Alfano stated we had an executive session on August 2, 2018 to discuss personnel issues and negotiating with our Chief.

BUD GREBB BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Mr. Alfano stated the league is getting bigger and bigger each year and the Allstars of the Bud Grebb league and Allstars from Uniontown will be having a final championship game this Saturday at 7:00 pm rain or shine.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – DR. MARTIN JUNIOR COUNCILMAN

Dr. Martin stated because of Council's interest in maintaining the Junior council seat he has had a series of meeting with the principal at the high school and she's reviewed several names and she made some recommendations and he went up and the two of them spoke to the two young people that she is recommending. The main seat should be filled by Trevor Kotchman who is a senior and a gifted honor student and active in activities. Dr. Martin asked for a motion to appoint Trevor Kotchman to the vacant junior council seat.

Motion by Gutosky/Mariscotti to appoint Trevor Kotchman as the Junior Council member duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Dr. Martin stated the alternative candidate is a junior student and would understudy the senior student this year and would be considered for the position next year. Mrs. Fulmar is recommending a young lady and her name is Claire Mock.

Motion by Gutosky/Difilippo to appoint Clair Mock as the alternate junior council member duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

UPDATES

Dr. Martin stated as far as updates he doesn't have anything more than what he put out by email this week.

PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. GLAB

RESIGNATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER – MIKE SEARS

Mr. Alfano stated that a resignation letter from Mike Sears was received and asked council if they would like to accept his resignation.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to accept the resignation of Mike Sears from the Planning Commission duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC WORKS – MR. MARISCOTTI

2018 ALLEY PROJECT BID RESULTS

Mr. Mariscotti stated we had bids for the 2018 Alley project that were 1. El Grande at \$149,814.00 and 2. Morgan Excavating at \$142,506.00. He stated council had allotted only \$100,000.00 toward this project. There was no language in the original bid specs for prevailing wage. He believes council wants to re-advertise.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to reject all bids for the 2018 Alley paving project duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to allocate another \$45,000.00 to the alley paving project making it \$145,000.00 from the Act 13 fund duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Taday stated the paving contractor has not yet begun work and has indicated that he will not be starting before September due to weather he's having issues completing his other jobs.

PUBLIC SAFETY – MR. BITTNER

PSAB FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Mr. Bittner stated the PSAB Fall Leadership conference is at Seven Springs on October 12th through the 14th.

Motion by Bittner/Mariscotti to pay the expenses, except mileage, of any council person or borough official who wishes to attend; pay their cost of the conference and if they want to stay pay the cost of their lodging duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

FOUR OFFICER TO ATTEND A.R.I.D.E TRAINING – SEPT 4TH AND 5TH

Mr. Bittner stated that Chief has indicated that four officers would like to attend the A.R.I.D.E, Roadside Advanced Roadside impaired driving enforcement, on Sept. 4th and 5th and the four officers would be Russell, Ireland, McCarthy, and Kurilko. There is no cost to the borough other than they would be paid straight time for education.

Motion by Bittner/Difilippo to authorize these four officer to attend A.R.I.D.E. training on Sept 4th and 5th duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

BILL GAMBLE – PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Motion by Bittner/Gutosky stated he would like to retain Bill Gamble for professional services in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 at this time.

FINANCE – MRS. GUTOSKY

Motion by Gutosky/Mariscotti to pay the monthly bills duly carried on roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Bittner voting no.

SOLICITOR'S BILL

Motion by Gutosky/Difilippo to pay the Solicitor's bill for \$2,622.00 which is Administration - \$1,500.00, Zoning - \$638.99, and Sewer fund - \$484.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mrs. Gutosky stated at the next meeting we will begin scheduling our budget meetings.

PUBLIC HEALTH – MR. DIFILIPPO

WIDMER ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Eby stated he has some invoices form Widmer Engineering.

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to pay Widmer Invoice #21806226 in the amount of \$600.00 for Malden Pump Station and storm pipe duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to pay Widmer Invoice #21806235 in the amount of \$900 for preparing projects for bid duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to pay Widmer Invoice #21806238 in the amount of \$1,515.00 for Union Street Sewer and Liberty Street storm water lines duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Difilippo/Bittner to pay Widmer Invoice #21806239 in the amount of \$225.00 for plant discharge/Part II permit duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to pay Widmer Invoice #21806251 in the amount of \$1,597.50 for Sewer line smoke testing duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

WRITE OFF BAD DEBT

Mr. Difilippo stated he has to make a motion to get this off the books. He said there was an error made in a lien letter for account #231 and we have to write off \$1,168.00.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to write off \$1,168.00 from sewer account #231 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Doug Baker stated on Tuesday they installed the two manholes on the distribution line to the river and today they finished up and put lids on them and tested them for leakage and there was no leakage. He wanted to thank Mr. Taday and the street department and Mr. Eby for helping them and it went smoothly. He asked Mr. Eby to notify the DeP that this has been completed.

PERSONNEL – MR. ENCAPERA & MR. MARISCOTTI

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING FOR A CHIEF OF POLICE

Mr. Mariscotti stated Mayor Stetar along with a few councilmembers the requirements for a Chief of Police advertisement.

Motion by Mariscotti/Bittner to advertise for a Chief of Police once Bill Gamble has reviewed the requirements duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Ms. Evans asked if it will go in the Valley Independent. Mr. Bittner stated Bill Gamble will approve the requirements before advertising along with where it should be advertised. Ms. Evans asked what date should all resumes be submitted by. Mr. Mariscotti stated by 4:00 pm on Sept. 21, 2018. Mayor Stetar we are giving Bill Gamble a week to go over the advertisement before we advertise it. Ms. Evans stated she will just wait until she receives something from him then.

MAYOR'S REPORT – DR. STETAR

CLASS FOR OFFICER MCCARTHY- PAID FOR BY DONATION

Mayor Stetar stated he has a request from Officer McCarthy to attend a self- defense class in December for four days and if paid prior to Oct 19th it is \$895.00 and this was not budgeted for however, he did get a donation from EQT so he would like council to make a motion to authorize Officer McCarthy to attend these classes and it be paid for by donation from EQT.

Motion by Bittner/Difilippo to authorize Officer McCarthy to attend this four day class and pay for the class and any ancillary costs up to \$1,000.00 from the \$1,000.00 donation from EQT duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mayor Stetar stated he would like to recognize EQT for their donation for this class in addition to the donations made this past month to the public library, the Volunteer Fire Department Golf outing as well as Riverfest and he thanked them for their support.

RIVERFEST

Mayor Stetar stated the Riverfest will be held down near the public library the end of this month on the 25th and 26th and there is more information on the Recreation facebook page.

Mayor Stetar stated we've said it softly but with the news of us authorizing for a new Chief he stated this is a result of Rick anticipating retiring. This is not a bad thing. Rick has been with the police department for 40+ years and anticipating his retirement we need to have all our ducks in a row.

ENGINEER'S REPORT- MR. EBY

CONCRETE WORK BIDS

Mr. Eby stated the bid opening tonight for the concrete job was \$81,331.00 was the base bid. Mr. Bittner asked how many people looked at this job. Mr. Eby stated about 6. Mr. Alfano asked Mr. Eby in his professional opinion what he thought. Mr. Eby stated he looked at some of the numbers and some of them are a little high. Mr. Alfano asked council if they want to reject his bid and rebid it. Mr. Alfano asked what does Mr. Eby think turned the other contractors away. Mr. Eby stated if you want to advertise your paving again you can put these two together. Mr. Eby stated it is just replacing the pad out front the block wall and there is a footer but he doesn't want to undermine the existing sidewalk so we'd just go one block down from existing grade and build the block wall out, fixing the grate out there in the parking lot, removing 4 catch basins in the sidewalk around the circle on fourth street and re-pouring those sidewalks.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to reject the bid on the concrete work duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

RE-ADVERTISE 2018 ALLEY PAVING PROJECT

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to re-advertise the 2018 Alley paving project and have bids due by August 30th and continue this meeting until then duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

RE-BIDDING CONCRETE WORK

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to re-bid the concrete work duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUT QUOTES

Mr. Eby stated the low bidder on the downspout was at \$24,840.00 and that was DeFrank Construction.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to award the downspouts and gutters contract to Defrank Construction at a cost of \$24,840.00 pending background and recommendation of engineer and solicitor duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Agrafiotis stated prior to this meeting we had an executive session on pending litigation with SAI.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bittner stated he wants it to go on record that we approved an expenditure tonight that wasn't necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Alfano stated the Recreation Authority is trying to get a project together to apply for the LSA funding. He stated they are not sure what it is going to be yet but want something in the works.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

JIM MADDIEX

Mr. Maddiex stated there is a trail way, the bike trail between the Rotary park and Szalley Park is a project that could be done with LSA funds. Mr. Maddiex asked if any money has been expended from the DARE fund this year. Ms. Evans stated no. Chief Encapera stated the school district isn't interest in running this program this year but we do have two dare officers. Mr. Maddiex reminded everyone that the Planning commission needs two members and announced the next date of the planning commission meeting is Sept. 4th.

WENDY MACKEL

Ms. Mackel introduced herself as the communications director at California University and wanted to make everyone aware that welcome weekend and student move in dates are the Aug. 24, 25, and 26th and classes will begin on August 27th. She stated there are all sorts of weekend activities planned and we are encouraging them to check out the Riverfest so if you see them stop and say hello. There is a fireworks display at 8:30 on Sunday, August 26th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bittner/Difilippo to Continue this meeting until August 30, 2018 at 6:30 pm duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.