

**REGULAR MEETING OF CALIFORNIA BOROUGH COUNCIL
JUNE 10, 2016, 6:30 PM**

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

ATTENDANCE: Mr. Alfano, Mr. Bittner, Mr. Difilippo, Mr. Encapera, Mr. Glab, Mr. Mariscotti and Mayor Weld

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

President Alfano announced that Mr. Bittner was honored for his fifty years of service with the Fire Department.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA

Mr. Eby of McMillen – add Lone Pine final pump station

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Maddiex stated that the Borough's new generator is gas and should be put into the calculations.

Mr. Maddiex had questions on Ordinance 555.

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Difilippo and seconded by Mrs. Gutosky to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 12, 2016. Motion carried with all members present stating aye.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT – MRS. CLANCY

Mrs. Clancy read the accounts payable and account balances as of May 31, 2016.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MR. ALFANO

KEYTEX ENERGY – EXCLUSIVE AGENT – ELECTRICAL SERVICE

Mr. Alfano called for a motion to approve the Borough's relationship with Keytex Energy as the agent for electrical services. Mr. Difilippo made the motion and Mr. Mariscotti seconded the motion. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members stating yes.

KEYTEX ENERGY – ELCLUSIVE AGENT – GAS SERVICE

Mr. Alfano called for a motion to approve Keytex Energy as the Borough's agent for gas services. Mrs. Gutosky made the motion and Mr. Difilippo seconded the motion. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members stating yes.

**ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF MICHELE HUBA FROM THE RECREATION
AUTHORITY BOARD**

Mr. Glab made the motion to accept Michele Huba's resignation from the Recreation Authority Board. Mr. Difilippo seconded the motion. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members voting yes.

REQUEST FOR POSITION ON RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD – MR. DILLON

Mr. Alfano stated a letter was received from Mr. Ted Dillon stating he is interested in filling that position on the Recreation Authority Board. Mr. Bittner made the motion to appoint Mr. Dillon to the Recreation Authority Board and Mr. Encapera seconded the motion. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members voting yes.

WIDMER INVOICE #21604137-A - \$315.00

Mr. Difilippo made the motion to pay Widmer invoice #21604137-A in the amount of \$315.00. Mr. Mariscotti seconded the motion. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members voting yes.

COMMUNITY PICNIC – ROTARY PARK – JUNE 30, 2016

Mr. Alfano announced there will be a Community Picnic at Rotary Park on June 30, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and this is being sponsored by the Rotary. The rain location is the California Volunteer Fire Department.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – DR. MARTIN

HAYES REQUEST

Dr. Martin had an update on the request from the citizen on Skyline Drive to adjust a property line by moving it down on some Borough property. That matter was thoroughly reviewed by the engineer. The engineer gave the Borough the price to do the subdivision. That information was communicated to the landowner. Mr. Agrafiotis has the matter at this point reviewing it because of the possibility of having to do some kind of assessment on the property. A figure was obtained and the family has agreed to that figure.

PROPERTIES

Dr. Martin stated Mr. Newcomer is looking at properties for which the Borough does not seem to have complete paperwork showing clear deed, title and ownership. Mr. Newcomer has begun his review. He is in the process of drafting a report and he will be getting that to the Borough shortly. He did indicate preliminary that the Borough is not in as bad shape as was thought. There are some documents that need supplemented into the records but by and large he thinks the Borough services consulted with a few professional accounting firms that do research with Borough is on solid ground of ownership with all of those properties. Mr. Newcomer is an expert in this type of property research and he seems to think the Borough is okay. His report will tell what needs to be done to get the needed paper work so the Borough can proceed with the parks and prospectively the loop trail.

PAVING PROJECT UPDATE

Dr. Martin provided an invoice that Mr. Mariscotti will be presenting under his report. Dr. Martin is pleased to report that the paving window was moved back and the major paving project has already been completed. Dr. Martin and Mr. Taday have looked that the paving and things look great. It was done early and has come in somewhat under the allocated funds for it so the Borough will have a little more money for doing base repair and some other things.

CAT PROBLEM

Dr. Martin received a complaint from a citizen about a cat problem in one neighborhood of the Borough. Dr. Martin and the code enforcement officer and looked around the area and tried to ascertain what was going on. There were a number of cats running around. Unfortunately, private citizens have taken to feeding the cats up there. There were dishes of cat food in several locations. The gentleman that reported this problem told that there are even rats eating out of those dishes. Dr. Martin and code enforcement are investigating this problem and he hopes to come back to Council with recommendation on what the Borough may or may not need to do up there.

REPROGRAM METERS

As a result of the changes to the downtown parking area some meters need to be reprogrammed. The reprogramming cost is estimated at approximately \$500.00. Dr. Martin asked that a motion be made to spend \$500.00 to reprogram the meters to the new rates. Mr. Encapera made the motion to spend \$500.00 to reprogram the meters to the new rates. Mr. Mariscotti seconded the motion. Under questions, Mr. Alfano asked if the company will do the reprogramming. Dr. Martin stated the company will program a small device and the Parking Enforcement Officer will go meter to meter, insert the device, press a button and that will reprogram the meter but the Borough has to pay to have the little device programmed for the new rates. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members voting yes.

CRANK METERS

There are a number of old crank meters that are beyond repair, there are several pieces of meters in the basement that has become obsolete and the decision was made at budget was to put to eventually replace the crank meters with the coin slot controlled meters. The decision at budget time was to purchase fifteen new meters per year over each of the next five years so the meters could be replaced and upgraded. Dr. Martin asked council for a motion to use the budgeted funds to purchase fifty meters at an approximate cost of \$147.00 per meter. Under discussion, Dr. Martin mentioned that the cast outer portion of the meter is not being replaced, just the inside mechanisms. Mr. Glab made the motion to purchase fifteen meters from POM, INC at a cost of \$147.00 per meter, not to exceed \$7,350.00. Mr. Difilippo seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried with all members voting yes.

PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. GLAB

ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Mr. Glab reported that the rental property inspections have started and reminded that all fees including sewage must be paid before obtaining the license.

WIDMER INVOICE #21604137-B - \$190.00

Mr. Glab made the motion to pay Widmer invoice #21604137-b in the amount of \$190.00 and this for part of the expenses incurred when the storm water retention review and inspection at CalTech 7. Mr. Mariscotti seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried with all members voting yes. Mr. Petro stated he did not see the bill asked if this is for escrow account. That was for the inspection done by Vaughn did of the retention pond prior to establishing the escrow account. Mr. Glab noted that monies need to be retained to cover all expenses incurred with the inspections before the monies are released. Mr. Petro felt this is a special circumstance because that was the only account that was in escrow and Council authorized the inspection by the Borough Engineer in order to release the escrow

account. Mr. Tудay accompanied the engineers during the inspection and the funds were authorized to be released.

**PUBLIC WORKS – MR. MARISCOTTI
STREET DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Mariscotti reported that the Street Department had base repair on Pennsylvania Avenue and everyday things.

SEAL COATING

Mr. Mariscotti stated that there has been no response for Fifth Street.

VICTOR PAVING INVOICE

Mr. Mariscotti made the motion to pay the Victor Paving invoice for paving Intermediate Unit Drive and Green Street. Under discussion Dr. Martin stated subject to review and approval by PennDot. Mr. Difilippo seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes.

PUBLIC SAFETY – MR. BITTNER

Mr. Bittner had nothing to report this evening.

FINANCE – MRS. GUTOSKY

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Mr. Bittner and seconded by Mr. Mariscotti for payment of the regular monthly bills. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members voting yes.

PUBLIC HEALTH – MR. DIFILIPPO

PRICES ON SEWER AT HIGHLAND, BLAINE, McCRORY AND HILL ST.

Mr. Difilippo made a motion to have the engineers start with a constriction package for the Highland, Blaine, McCrory and Highland Street sewer project. LSA monies could be used. Mr. Mariscotti seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes

WIDMER ENGINEERING INVOICE #21604136 (A-C) – \$3,307.50

Motion by Mr. Difilippo and seconded by Mrs. Gutosky to pay Widmer Engineering Invoice #21604136 in the amount of \$3,307.50 for the period April 4 – May 1, 2016. One was for pump station \$165.00, one was for general engineering associated with that for \$427.50 and four or five things done at the waste water treatment plan: flowmeter, Mele punch list, CADD tech on Highland Drive. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members voting yes.

WIDMER ENGINEERING INVOICE #21605170 (A-D) – \$12,790.00

Motion by Mr. Difilippo to pay Widmer Engineering Invoice #21605170 in the amount of \$12,790.00 for the period May 2-29, 2016 for: Waste Water Treatment inspection - security, Mele and pump station security for \$862.50, Highland Drive and Franks wall for \$780.00, Coal Center Pump Station for \$9577.50 and Knob road sewer easement for \$1670.00. Mr. Mariscotti seconded the motion. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members voting yes

**PERSONNEL – MR. ENCAPERA & MR. MARISCOTTI
RESIGNATION OF PART TIME OFFICER**

Mr. Encapera was notified that the resignation was rescinded. The Chief spoke to Dr. Martin today and indicated that the part time officer had requested and had been granted his permission to withdraw her resignation from the force, however she will be taking some time off from the force and her duties to undertake some additional training.

ENGINEERING REPORT – STEVE EBY

SEWER PLANT UPDATE

Mr. Eby reported that the electrician was there today and moved a flow meter to a new location and putting an alarm system on the pump station. That should be finished tomorrow. The new decanter motor stalled today. New parts may have to be bought for that. The pump station is fully operational.

LONE PINE FINAL PAYMENT - \$10,798.28

Mr. Mariccotti made the motion to approve the final payment to Lone Pine in the amount of \$10,798.28 for the pumping station project. Mr. Difilippo seconded the motion. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members voting yes.

LONE PINE RETAINAGE - \$7,048.27

Mr. Mariscotti made the motion to pay Lone Pine for retainage in the amount of \$7,048.27. Mr. Difilippo seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes.

LONE PINE SUBSANTIAL COMPLETION – MAY 27, 2016

Mr. Bittner made the motion to approve Lone Pine Substantial Completion, one year maintenance bond dated May 27, 2016. Mr. Ebe will send a letter to Lone Pine. Mr. Difilippo seconded the motion. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members voting yes.

WHARF

Mr. Eby stated a sink hole developed last week by the wharf. A terracotta pipe smashed causing a void. It was filled with concrete.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - MR. AGRAFIOTIS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Agrafiotis requested a brief executive session after the meeting for litigation purposes.

ORDINANCE No. 555 – QUALITY OF LIFE

Mr. Agrafiotis stated that Ordinance No. 555 – Quality of Life Ordinance was advertised in the paper on June 2, 2016. It was in last Thursday's paper. Mr. Bittner made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 555 – Quality of Life Ordinance. Mr. Difilippo seconded the motion. On a roll call vote motion carried with all members voting yes.

TAX CLAIM BUREAU

After discussion with Council, Mr. Agrafiotis contacted the Tax Claim Bureau regarding a demolition lien on a property. The sale won't be until September so there is plenty of time to ask the judge to include that lien to protect the Borough's investments.

MR. MADDIEX LETTER OF INQUIRY

Mr. Agrafiotis received Mr. Maddie's letter today and will have an answer for him at the next meeting.

COOVER HALL SEWAGE

Mr. Agrafiotis asked Council to authorize the engineer to do a request from Pennoni Associates regarding Coover Hall. They are asking for the Council President to certify that the Borough's facilities have the capacity to handle this upgrade. The sewage is going to pass through the University's pump station and the Borough has no information on that so the engineer would have to find the pertinent information on the University's pump station. Mr. Bittner made the motion to direct the engineer to perform that service. Mr. Glab seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

JIM MADDIEX

Mr. Maddiex stated that the Comprehensive Plan could not be found on the Borough's web page. Regarding the Planning Commission, they are into zoning and then announced that these meetings are open to the public.

MR. AUGUSTINE

Mr. Augustine of Cross Street was complaining about the problem with cats in his area. Mr. Alfano suggested contacting the Borough's Animal Enforcement Agency. Mr. Bittner stated they do not deal with cats and cats are not regulated by the state. Mr. Augustine was told by Animal Enforcement that it would be \$10.00 per cat. Dr. Martin asked Council's permission to speak to the Animal Control Officer, Kym Secrete and if, as a first step have her bring traps to that area then explore ways to pay the cost of trapping and removing those cats. Dr. Martin reviewed the Animal Control contract and cats are excluded from the contract. If she is willing to remove some of those cats, he would suggest removing them because that neighborhood is overrun. Mr. Augustine stated he would put some of them on his farm if trapped. Mr. Mariscotti suggested that the Borough buy some traps. D. Martin stated something has to be done about residents feeding the cats also.

JOHN PAUL STASZEL

Mr. Staszel of Green Street stated that California University has created a space for cats. He questioned why the fire siren is still needed in today's age of technology and requested it be moved to a different place. Mr. Alfano stated that would be up to the Fire Department. He then requested a stronger police presence during the Summer. Mr. Staszel spoke of homeless people in town. Mr. Bittner stated the Presbyterian Church has been directing them to the City Mission in Washington, PA. Mr. Staszel questioned fire pit burning.

JEFF TUDAY

Mr. Taday announced that the Borough is now having a recycling electronic pick up the first Friday of each month. Dr. Martin added that if putting something out, call the Borough so that it is not missed.

Council adjourned to an executive session at 8:40 p.m. to be reported on at the next Council Meeting.

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer