

Regular Meeting of California Borough Council, January 14, 2020

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

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

ABSENCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Solicitor bill was added by Mrs. Gutosky

Solicitor added COVID ordinance expires end of January need to discuss

Solicitor added Dye test ordinance and Rental ordinance for discussion

Mayor Stetar added two invoices for dues for the Chief and quotes to get police cars equipped

President Alfano stated the agenda stands as printed and amended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments at this time

MINUTES

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Dec. 10, 2020 carried with all members present stating aye except Mr. Maddiex who abstained due to absence at that meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Evans read the accounts payable and bank balances as of December 31, 2020..

Motion by Difilippo/Maddiex to accept the Treasurer's report carried with all members present stating aye.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – MR. ALFANO

A1 INVOICE DATED 12-29-2020 - \$20,042.00

Mr. Alfano stated this invoice is for work on the street lights.

Motion by Bittner/Difilippo to pay A1 Electric's invoice in the amount of \$20,042.00 from the gaming revenue fund duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

COMPUTER GUYS 2021 SERVICE AGREEMENT 2021 - \$4,068.00

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to retain the computer guys for 2021 and pay the yearly service invoice of \$ 4,068.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Under discussion Mr. Difilippo asked if there are any problems with these guys. Ms. Evans stated she doesn't have any issues with them but Dr. Martin doesn't care for them. Dr. Martin stated it is half the level of service he was use to having form the other company. Dr. Martin stated they never respond to him. He said he's played telephone tag with these people for two months. Mr. Alfano stated they answer every time he calls. Mrs. Clancy stated they answer all the time, Mike just called the other day and they took care of his issue immediately.

SIANA LAW INVOICE #85342 - \$167.50

Mr. Alfano stated we have an invoice from Siana Law and it is for drafting letters, reviewing the borough's use of force policy and so forth.

Motion by Difilippo/Bittner to pay Siana Law invoice #85342 in the amount of \$167.50 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Alfano stated the pre-bid meeting was held yesterday at Mechanic Street and there were two bidders and they reviewed the project and took some comments.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – DR. MARTIN UPDATES

Dr. Martin referred council to his weekly updates from department heads he sends via email to council.

He stated he recently had a meeting with the California Rotary President and he they have a community patriotism program they want to initiate. He asked him to put together a formal proposal which he will bring to council at the next meeting. Essentially what he wants to do is put flags along Wood and Third Street for holidays. They are not asking for any contribution from the borough. They need permission to drill a series of 1 ¼” holes into the sidewalks near the curbs along those affected streets and they hope that the Road crew could do that for them.

Dr. Martin stated he became aware today from Engineer Eby that we have a problem at the Malden Pump Station. It involves the power source on that pole that goes into the station. He will refer the technical specification to Mr. Eby. He did say while we were redoing the service we would need West Penn there to cut off power.

Dr. Martin stated he got a request from Mr. Bittner to look into some grant opportunities for the traffic light at Wood and Third St. apparently the mechanism is just getting old and some of it needs to be replaced. Dr. Martin stated the grant window for any kind of state monies we could get for that project doesn't open until June, but he's already started to write the request and will try to secure grant money to cover most of that cost.

Mr. Alfano stated we talked briefly to Kerry Fox and they went to bat for us on getting the project done up around the Liberty Circle and they were resistant on spending the money to get that done but it looks like they are going to do it. Dr. Martin stated he's having issues with HMT moving on the pavilion project. He stated that Kerry wants him to push them to move forward with this. Mr. Bittner stated didn't the Redevelopment Authority make us use HMT so he thinks they should have to push HMT to get it done.

PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. MADDIEX UPDATES

Mr. Maddiex stated Mike called him this afternoon and was going to try and make this meeting. He is going to try to make the rest of the meetings if they are done via zoom.

REAPPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER

Mr. Maddiex stated he is asking council to reappoint him to another four-year term to the Planning Commission. Mr. Difilippo stated if his memory serves him right council discussed this and since there are no other members beside Mr. Maddiex we are going to have council act as the Planning Commission for now. Mr. Agrafiotis stated we discussed doing an ordinance dis-banning them and then decided to put them on hiatus. Mr. Maddiex stated technically Mrs. Mariscotti is still on the commission and the other three have resigned. Mr. Maddiex stated the new by laws state even though the other three members resigned their resignations were not accepted they are still technically on the commission. Mr. Mariscotti stated he is his mother's POA and he is letting council know that she is no longer able to serve on the commission.

80 HIGHLAND DRIVE DEMOLITION

Mr. Maddiex stated Mike brought that up to him and wants to know council's wishes. Mr. Agrafiotis stated we discussed this a couple of times but it was in the tax sale system. He stated that we have no public purpose for it and Mike and him discussed that the Mount's still technically own the property gave us permission to take it down and it probably best we take it down now before you get someone from out of state purchasing it and we have to chase them around. However, council needs to be aware we will not be able to recoup our costs for demolition since the Mount's will retain the property. Mr. Mariscotti stated normally the owners turn the property over to the borough and then the borough demolishes it and liens it and then sells it. Mr. Petro stated he was under the impression that council did not want to take the property. He stated the Mount's were willing to turn it over to the borough but he didn't think that was council's intention to do that. Mr. Mariscotti stated there was an issue with school district not willing to waive the taxes. Mr. Agrafiotis stated the other issue is if we would obtain the property there is no public use for it. Mr. Glab stated if you demolish it and not acquire the property it still belongs to the Mounts and the last thing we need is to have another property we need to maintain. He asked Mr. Garlowich how bad it was. Mr. Garlowich's microphone is not

working. Mr. Garlowich called Mr. Petro via cell phone and was put on speaker. Mr. Garlowich stated the borough will not recover any money for demolition but it is still up for free and clear tax sale but if someone from out of state gets it and we have to go after them it will be harder to get them to do anything so he thinks it would be beneficial for the borough to have it demolished. Ms. Evans stated her only concern with this is are we encouraging folks to just walk away from their properties and letting the borough come in and demolish them and they still retain the rights to them? Mr. Garlowich stated he thinks that since the house has been vacant for over three years it is becoming a nuisance and he thinks we should just demolish it and be done. Mr. Alfano stated let's proceed with getting some bids on demolition and take it from there. Mr. Tудay stated he thinks we should see what it cost for dumpsters to get in there and let the Street Department tear it down and that way we can do it in our off season as long as there is no snow. Mr. Alfano stated we need to look into renting a machine. Mr. Difilippo stated then you have to backfill and bring dirt in. Mr. Tудay stated we have dirt at the dumpsite. Mr. Alfano asked Mr. Tудay to get prices on the dumpsters and the rental of a machine and bring it back to council. Mrs. Gutosky asked about a controlled burn through the fire dept. Mr. Tудay stated the fire department no longer does that because of the DeP and stuff like that. Mrs. Gutosky asked about the school taxes and Mr. Alfano stated we may need to approach them again with the new Superintendent. Dr. Martin stated so we would simply demolish the structure and leave the property with the owners and walk away.

PUBLIC WORKS – MR. BITTNER

Nothing to report.

Mr. Tудay stated NPL is aware of some of their ditch lines sinking and they will come in and refill those until the restoration company can come in the spring. They are done with all the gas line repairs but will maintain their ditch lines.

PUBLIC SAFETY- MR. DIFILIPPO

Nothing to report

FINANCE – MRS. GUTOSKY

Motion by Gutosky/Maddiex to pay the Solicitor bill in the amount of \$3,291.00 which is his 2021 Retainer - \$2,400.00,. Admin. \$781.00 and Zoning - \$110.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

MONTHLY BILLS

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

PUBLIC HEALTH- MR. MARISCOTTI

WIDMER INVOICES

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to pay Widmer invoice #2201236 in the amount of \$120.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to pay Widmer invoice #22012377 in the amount of \$580.00 for MS4 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to pay Widmer invoice #22012381 in the amount of \$480.00 for SCADA , GIs, and location of bore duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to pay Widmer invoice #22012384 in the amount of \$3,280.00 for new pump station duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MR. GLAB

WIDMER INVOICE

Motion by Glab/Maddiex to pay Widmer invoice #22012368 in the amount of \$420.00 for the Liberty Circle improvement project duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER – MR. BECKINGER

Mr. Beckinger stated next week we should be going back to school in person full time and they are getting their official notice tomorrow. The sports will be continued when we go back. He stated he does not want to toot his own horn but he is the first one in almost two decades to be eligible to audition in the State level for band.

MAYOR'S REPORT – DR. STETAR MEMBERSHIP DUES

Mayor Stetar stated he has an invoice for the Washington County Chief Assoc. for \$50.00.

Motion by Difilippo/Maddiex to approve payment to the Washington County Chief Association for 2021 dues in the amount of \$50.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mayor Stetar stated he has an invoice for the Western Chief Association for \$90.00.

Motion by Maddiex/Glab to approve payment to the Western Chief Association for 2021 dues in the amount of \$90.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

QUOTES TO OUTFIT THE TWO NEW POLICE VEHICLES

Mayor Stetar stated the quotes are from Lowery's and Car #1 is \$10,295.00 and Car #2 would be \$8,135.00. He thinks that is \$8,000.00 less than the quotes from Team Force. Chief Sheehan stated and they can get us in right away.

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to approve Lowery's price to outfit the police vehicles at a cost of \$10,295.00 and \$8,00.00 for a total of \$18,295.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mayor stated Tim has followed up on submitting information to Bud Cook's office concerning the accidents near the Center in the Woods.

ENGINEERS REPORT – MR. EBY UPDATES

Mr. Eby stated they got the alarms set up on the main pump station. He is logged in and Jeff is logged in and if anyone wants to see it on their computer or phone he can give them the access codes.

Mr. Eby stated the main power line coming in is on a mast and runs down the pole and there are three brackets and right now there is only 1 screw holding that onto the pole. Additionally where the conduit goes into the meter socket that is not built up at all so when it rains the water is running into the meter socket. So we will coordinate with West Penn and an electrical inspector to get that fixed.

The LSA presentations are scheduled for next Thursday and he will send an email with the zoom access information in it.

Mr. Eby stated the piece of equipment they brought out they did a bunch of readings and he could not get a definite hit on the pipe. They have a bigger machine and right now it is on a gas company work site so hopefully early next month they will bring that out. Mr. Difilippo asked Mr. Eby if he spoke with Jim Britton. He stated he spoke to him this weekend and he knows exactly where that hole is. Mr. Eby stated he will contact him and he can come show us where it is at.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – MR. AGRAFIOTIS

COVID ORDINANCE

Mr. Agrafiotis stated the Ordinance we did #570 expired Jan. 31st 2021 and he asked if council would like to continue it or let it go.

Motion by Maddiex/Glab to do an ordinance extending Ordinance #570 until the State Dept of Health lifts their state of emergency duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Mariscotti stated he thinks the part about wearing a mask outdoors should be deleted because you don't need a mask if you are outdoors unless you are within 6' of someone else but the way the ordinance reads now you have to wear a mask all the time. If you are out in your yard you have to wear a mask and it needs changed. If you want to wear a mask wear one but it shouldn't be a law you have to wear one outdoors. Mr. Alfano stated it could be discretionary on the citizens part. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he will update the ordinance accordingly. Mr. Taday stated you better believe if my crew is outside doing a job and they don't have masks on because they are 6' a part or some borough official or other employees someone is going to take a picture and complain about it. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he will get it advertised and ready for adoption for February's meeting.

Mr. Agrafiotis stated council had instructed him to review and revise the Rental ordinance and look over the dye test ordinance. He stated he did revise and do a new ordinance for the dye test and sent that to council this evening.

Mrs. Clancy addressed council regarding the rental ordinance and we were talking in our office and they don't know where this information came from. She stated it is verified that we do call them and Mike uses his cell phone most of the time to have record of it, people are being cited and what was in the discussion prior to the motion she has no idea where that came from. She stated we have on the computer and in the folders the owners phone numbers and we do call. She stated a lot of people were not renting this year with COVID and they asked to be pushed till the end. She stated Mike has some rental inspections that he's been recently doing because they are coming back to school now. She stated if anyone on council wants any information on this it is all documented. She stated she's still doing the paperwork and asking Mike questions and different things like that but people are called. She stated Dr. Martin told her that council has him do this every year at budget time and she doesn't know why. She stated the last person to ask their office anything at all on what was done was Chip when he was the head of their department. She stated she hasn't been asked anything, John and Mike haven't been asked anything. Why would you put instructions for the workers in an ordinance she thought the ordinances were for the public so they know what the laws are or whatever. She stated what is it? Dr. Martin stated it is about establishing time frames to ensure that things get done in an expeditiously manner. She stated we already established time frames, there is a deadline and you cannot cite someone until after that deadline passes. If no body asks us anything how can they say we are not doing our work. Mr. Petro stated with the new revision of the housing ordinance you can't cite anyone till after August 31st and people start working on their properties as soon as the kids move out so why call them for an inspection when they obviously aren't ready for an inspection. Mr. Petro stated it doesn't make sense. Mrs. Clancy stated when she calls them they claim they didn't get the rental license application and letter and then you call them again and they say they mailed the check and we must have not have gotten it. Mrs. Clancy stated we are not little kids who aren't doing our jobs and that is very degrading to have that in the minutes. Mrs. Clancy asked Mr. Agrafiotis: say you put in the ordinance that I have to call them and it goes to the magistrate would it be the borough's fault because it's in the ordinance that we have to call them and then they are just going to say that they never received a call just like they say they never got the application. Mr. Agrafiotis stated we could write it in a way that they couldn't use that as an excuse. Mrs. Clancy stated why does it have to be in writing because we already have procedures in place, between the three of us we probably have 50 years of experience. She stated she's been here 20 years. She asked again what prompted this. Mr. Garlowich called in and added that every year it is the same people that are late and he doesn't see anything wrong with the way they are doing it now. He stated the majority of people call and take care of things and it is the same old ones that go late year after year. Mrs. Clancy stated she was given a list to cross reference and Patsy you were in there when we were cross referencing and a lot of those weren't even rentals so if that is what you are going off it is incorrect.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Martin stated in a previous meeting council instructed him to look into covid relief money that was available through the county and we received approximately \$77,000.00.

NEW BUSINESS

SRO

Mr. Glab stated last Friday Dr. Martin sent us an email about the SRO contract and we haven't discussed that yet this meeting. Dr. Martin stated he's given council his recommendation for a range to go by. He received a call from the School District requesting an extension of the agreement and explained that we may have negotiate a cost. He stated being that there was a significant increase in police wages this year which took effect Jan. 1st and he used that number and emailed council a suggested range for renewing the agreement. Ms. Evans stated to Dr. Martin when she was asked to compile those figures he used last year's W2 wages which do not reflect that wage increase. Dr. Martin stated he built in the raise.

Motion by Gutosky/Maddiex to approve and enter into SRO agreement at a cost of \$63,500.00 for the year being billed at \$31,750.00 per semester duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Glab stated we also got an email concerning the radios in the police cars and the numbers that we passed earlier do they include the radios. Chief Sheehan stated no that would be separate purchase and he has a guy working on finding some new less expensive ones for us.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

No citizens need

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Maddiex/Difilippo to adjourn carried with all members present stating aye.