

Regular Meeting of California Borough Council, March 11, 2021

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

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

ABSENCE: Mr. Difilippo

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Bittner added grass cutter's return

Mrs. Gutosky added the Solicitor's bill- \$2,002.00

Mr. Alfano added executive session and vaccine clinic

President Alfano stated the agenda stands as printed and amended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments at this time

MINUTES

Motion by Mariscotti/Gutosky to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2021 carried with all members present stating aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Evans read the accounts payable and bank balances as of February 28, 2021

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT – MR. ALFANO

President Alfano stated we had an executive session today on personnel matters and we had two employees here in person to explain and work out their issues.

COVID VACCINE

He stated that Cal U was gracious enough to invite California Borough employees to take advantage of their vaccine clinic that they are having next week and we have 5 borough employees that have not gotten their COVID vaccines yet and they have offered it to them. Mr. Agrafiotis asked if he could jump in on that list. Ms. Evans stated it is Tuesday and she will email him the information and contact email.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – DR. MARTIN

Dr. Martin stated beside his emailed periodic updates he stated all employees have had their AED training. He thanked the personnel at Brownsville Ambulance Service for coming in and providing that training at no cost.

He stated he put out an email today that on Monday the engineer and the Redevelopment Authority will be here at 1 pm and they would like as many council members as possible to join them here and then we will walk down to the pavilion project and the engineer will explain what can or can't be done. He stated hopefully council can then select one of the 5 options he provided and we can get this project started. Mr. Glab asked if our borough engineer should be there. He stated he's not an engineer but this guy can baffle us with all the bs he wants to make us believe him but it's harder to baffle your peer. Mr. Eby stated he can come but has another meeting at 3:30 so will have to leave early.

PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. MADDIEX DEMOLITION OF 81 HIGHLAND DRIVE

Motion by Maddiex/Glab to rescind the motion made last meeting to have our borough crew demolish a structure was made and then withdrawn. Under discussion Mr. Maddiex stated we ran it by our insurance carrier who advised us not to let our street department do it. Mr. Glab

stated it was mentioned last week to go after a rider and he thinks it would be advantageous to see what the rider would cost and add that to our current costs and see how it compares to hiring an outside contractor. Mr. Bittner just asked in an email if we've ever considered doing that. He thinks we should have the administrative office to see if they would give us a special rider. Dr. Martin stated we can have Shirley call the insurance carrier tomorrow to see what the rider would cost. He stated then we can put it out for bid and compare the two costs. Mr. Agrafiotis stated if it is under the bidding threshold you don't need to formally bid it. Mrs. Gutosky asked what the rider would encompass or what would it cover. Mr. Agrafiotis stated they would give us different insurance which is over and above what we have not which is just for this project. Mrs. Gutosky stated so it would cover our employees. Mr. Agrafiotis and Mr. Bittner stated it would cover everything. Mr. Maddiex stated he's not really in favor of demolishing it because we don't get anything from it. Mr. Alfano stated they will deed the property to us. Mr. Agrafiotis stated no they were not deeding the property to us. Mr. Bittner stated he understand what Jim is saying but if you have someone go up there and get you and if you have a fire up there you are subjecting 20+ fireman to being hurt there also. For just pure public safety we have to tear it down in his opinion.

PUBLIC WORKS – MR. BITTNER UPDATES

Mr. Bittner stated Mr. Taday and Mr. Towner have been putting the equipment back together after a very harsh winter. We've gotten a couple loads of salt according to the bills he saw this evening and they've been running the street sweeper getting all the grit and stuff off the side of the road.

2021 STREET PROJECT

Mr. Bittner stated Mr. Taday supplied us with a list for the 2021 paving project and he will do the ones that we want alternate bids on first and then the paving list. He stated we'd like to get an alternate bid on First St. from Wood St. to Mechanic St. and that would just be an overlay to keep it intact. He stated we'd also like an alternate bid on East Alley there are six spots that need base and top. He stated since the University did that road we'll have to get the Solicitor to look at the agreement and see if they or we are responsible for that.

Motion by Bittner/Maddiex to advertise for two alternate bids for an overlay on First Street from Wood to Mechanic Streets and for 6 spots on East alley that need base and top placed duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Bittner/Maddiex to advertise to mill and overlay Fifth St. from dead end to 5th St. extension, Ash St. from Fourth St. to Pennsylvania Ave., Union Street from 4th St. to Pennsylvania Ave. To pave Orchard St. from Zulu to dead end, American St. from 6th Street to Orchard St., Lemoyne Way from Parking lot to Second St., Cross ridge he wants to do 2,530' that will finish up that side from our dirt and gravel project, and Shutterly St. from Zulu to dead end at the top of the hill, Orchard St. from 6th St. to Pennsylvania Ave., Olympic Circle, Woodring Road and rough section of Promise land drive with council reserving the right to reject all bids duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion Bittner/Glab to bring the grass cutter, Jim Mitchell, back on April 1st according the collective bargaining agreement duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC SAFETY- MR. DIFILIPPO

Nothing to report

FINANCE – MRS. GUTOSKY

MONTHLY BILLS

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

SOLICITOR BILLS

Motion by Gutosky/Maddiex to pay the Solicitor's bill in the amount of \$2,002.00 for two months with \$1,859.00 for administration, \$77.00 for sewage, and \$66.00 for zoning duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

**PUBLIC HEALTH- MR. MARISCOTTI
WIDMER INVOICE**

Motion by Mariscotti Glab to pay Widmer invoice #22101400 in the amount of \$760.00 for installation of alarms at the pump station duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Ms. Evans asked Mr. Eby if we can eliminate the Verizon bills which we used for the old phone dialers since these new systems are up and running. Mr. Eby stated yes we can terminate the Verizon service.

PAWC SHUT OFF AGREEMENT

Mr. Mariscotti stated in your packets is a copy of the new Shut off Agreements with PAWC which they have provided. Ms. Evans stated they terminated all old agreements with municipalities and changed it so that any rental properties they will handle the postings and terminations of these properties to ensure both tenants and landowners are notified. Mr. Agrafiotis stated and Shirley was absolutely correct in that we need to amend the sewage ordinance to incorporate the changes in this new agreement. Ms. Evans stated this agreement needs signed and sent back to PAWC by March 31st. Ms. Evans also stated the fee that would be charged is \$150.00 and we can then charge those off the to customer. Mr. Alfano stated this is normally the time of year we start shut offs. Ms. Evans stated they are still under a moratorium under COVID to not terminate service but they are hoping that will be lifted in May.

Motion by Mariscotti/Bittner to approve the new Shut off agreement with PAWC duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Maddiex.

SALE OF TWO LOTS IN GRANVILLE

Mr. Mariscotti stated we have an offer of \$1,000.00 each for both lots to Mr. DeFranco.

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to sell Lot 20 along Pike Run Drive, which appraised at \$750.00 to Mr. Defranco at a cost of \$1,000.00 with the fees coming out of the sale price duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to sell Lot 21 along Pike run Drive, which appraised at \$800.00 to Mr. DeFranco at a cost of \$1,000.00 with the fees coming out of the sale price duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MR. GLAB

Mr. Glab stated this time of year Mr. Petro usually prepares an advertisement for grass cutting ordinance requirements.

Motion by Glab/Maddiex to advertise the grass cutting requirements duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER – MR. BECKINGER

Mr. Beckinger stated we are currently in school full time in person on a five-day schedule. He stated the basketball team made it to playoffs but didn't make it past the first game. He added that this year's musical will be the Adams Family. He stated they are not sure if they will have a live audience or options for streaming it. He added that the band concert will be outside instead of inside this year. He also stated that several high school students take part in the ABC, 123 club and they go down to tutor the elementary kids on Mondays and Wednesday. He stated the 21 honors English class is restoring the courtyard in order to utilize the open space for outdoor activity. He stated 20 years ago was the last time a student from the High School band made champion all state and he did that. Everyone congratulated Mr. Beckinger for his success.

MAYOR'S REPORT – DR. STETAR

Mayor Stetar congratulated Mr. Beckinger on All State.

INTERMEDIATE UNIT – VACCINE CLINIC

Mayor Stetar stated the IU is holding a vaccine clinic at California High School as well on Saturday. There will be roughly 3,000 teachers being vaccinated in the high school gym. He asked for a little bit of help by the police department on traffic control.

SHEEHAN'S OWED VACATION AND SICK TIME

Mayor asked council for a motion to pay the sum of \$8,262.00 less taxes to Sheehan for vacation and sick time owed.

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay Chief Sheehan his owed vacation and sick time of \$8,262.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Mariscotti stated he sees on the spreadsheet about Sheehan that his medical insurance is to end on March 31st and wanted to know if Kim had been notified of that. Ms. Evans stated she sent the information to Kim, because she had not contacted me to date, about who to contact for pension, life insurance, and medical insurance with the phone numbers to call.

ACTIVE 911 INVOICE

Motion by Mariscotti/Bittner to pay the Active 911 invoice in the amount of \$130.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

SWIFT REACH INVOICE

Ms. Evans stated council passed a motion last month to pay it upon the Mayor's approval. Mayor Stetar stated yes please send them the payment.

K9 COMP TIME

Mr. Stetar stated this is still up for discussion. Ms. Evans thought maybe that should be discussed in executive session. Mr. Agrafiotis stated we discussed that earlier today. He stated if he understand the issue of the K9 comp time. The agreement that was executed with Officer McCarthy, the Borough, and the Union speaks to 4 hours comp time and now there is an issue that he is supposedly getting 8 hours a week. He asked if Officer McCarthy could elaborate on that. Mr. McCarthy stated he and the former Chief Encapera had an agreement that there were four hours of K9 compensation time for K9 care, grooming, and the dogs needs and that also included any additional training besides maintenance training. He stated that the Garcia Act is specifically defined as training as training that did not need to be added to the agreement. At the time he said he's been writing it down to save the borough's headaches because training isn't always at the same facility. He's not sure if it appears that he is putting in for additional monies but that's not the case. Ms. Evans stated correct you are only working 4 days and training and maintenance the other day. Mr. Agrafiotis stated we need to look at this he doesn't see how Chief Encapera, with all due respect to him, can change a contract that the borough and he signed. Mr. Agrafiotis stated we need to meet with him and get some clarification. Mr. McCarthy stated he is on the police side of the building and will come into the meeting. Mrs. Gutosky asked so how is he paid. Ms. Evans stated on his time cards he is working 32 hours a week and being paid 40 hours a week and it is marked 4 hours training and 2 hours k9 comp time. She asked where does he go for this training. Ms. Evans stated she does not know. Mayor Stetar stated he goes different places. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he doesn't change places every single week. Mrs. Gutosky stated so we are not honoring the agreement. Mr. Agrafiotis stated it sounds like he's getting double what the agreement calls for. Ms. Evans stated the agreement states he's to work 36 hours and take 4 hours for training and maintenance and additional training is addressed in another paragraph of the agreement. Mr. McCarthy stepped into the meeting. Mr. McCarthy stated the agreement he had with Chief Encapera at the time. Mr. Agrafiotis stated we should probably do this in executive session.

Council went into an executive session.

Council reconvened. Mr. Alfano stated the executive session was on some clarification on K9 training.

POLICE OFFICERS FIREARM TRAINING

Mayor Stetar stated Officer McCarthy is interested in attending the Firearm Qualification course so he would be trained to qualify other officers at a cost of \$575.00. Ms. Evans asked for information on where the training is and who to send the check to. Mr. Maddiex asked what firearms would be used. Officer McCarthy stated this particular class is for pistol and shot guns. The long rifle certification course would be in the fall.

Motion by Bittner/Maddiex to authorize Officer McCarthy to attend a firearms certification course at a cost of \$575.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

SWAT TIME

Mayor Stetar stated he doesn't know if this is in addition to what we talked about today.

ACTING CHIEF

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to remove Officer McCarthy as Officer in Charge duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Alfano stated this is being done to be in accordance with our collective bargaining agreement.

Motion by Maddiex/Glab to appoint Officer McCarthy as Acting Chief with an additional .25 cents per hour effective today duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

ADVERTISE FOR CHIEF OF POLICE

Mayor Stetar stated Chip had sent out qualifications for this position and does anyone have any feedback or changes that need to be made to this.

Mr. Glab stated instead of advertising the full ad just put that we are hiring and direct them to our website. Ms. Evans stated she will need the specifics. Dr. Martin stated you need to at some point approve what you are posting.

Motion by Mariscotti/Gutosky to advertise for Chief of Police, as provided by Mr. Glab, at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00 with a deadline for submissions of April 15, 2021 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mayor Stetar asked that all resumes are to be marked to the Attn: Mayor Stetar.

ENGINEERS REPORT – MR. EBY

Mr. Eby asked that before we disconnect the Verizon telephones on the pump station alarms he should check with Ron and make sure they are all functioning properly with his phone. He will get back to us on that. Mr. Eby stated he's been working with Jeff and the GIS and marking the sewer lines and our system is not going to work on his computer, it is too old and very slow so he's not sure how to proceed. Ms. Evans stated it should be installed on several computers just in case we lose a computer. They are not backed up to a server down there. Mr. Eby stated he can put it on several but right now on Ronny's but we haven't finished the whole think he wants to make sure it works. He stated we could try another computer to verify it would work but Jeff's is too slow. Ms. Evans stated he has one of the old ones from here council has never purchased one for him. Mr. Tудay stated he has a laptop from 2011 that the borough bought him. Mr. Tудay stated it was a refurbished one for the police dept.

Motion by Bittner/Gutosky to purchase the Street Commissioner a new computer/laptop not to exceed \$1,500.00 through our computer consultant duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Eby stated we need to have a meeting to select the sewer project. He asked council if they would want to meet prior to the 1 pm meeting for the pavilion. They agree to meet at 11 am.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – MR. AGRAFIOTIS

ORDINANCE #574

Mr. Agrafiotis stated up for adoption tonight is the revised amended Dye test ordinance. It amends certain sections in accordance with Dr. Martin's recommendation and council's motion. It was in the paper last Thursday so can be adopted tonight.

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to adopt Ordinance #574 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

SRO AGREEMENT

Mr. Agrafiotis stated at January's meeting council authorized the Solicitor to enter into another SRO agreement. He stated he's working with the Solicitor and everything is resolved so I will be emailing him the agreement tomorrow and he will get it voted on next week.

SEWAGE ORDINANCE

Mr. Agrafiotis stated there was a motion earlier to approve PAWC's shut off agreement so Shirley is correct in that the sewage ordinance will need amended to reflect those procedures.

Motion by Bittner/Maddiex to authorize the Solicitor to amend the sewage ordinance to comply with the shut off agreement we have with PAWC duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Agrafiotis stated we did have an executive session at the committee meeting concerning personnel.

OLD BUSINESS

OPENING OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Mr. Alfano stated how about we open the borough building for business on April 1st. Mr. Glab stated with the holiday lets make it April 5th. Mr. Alfano stated masks and social distancing will be required. Dr. Martin stated along those lines Shirley and he had conversations about putting hand sanitizing stations in the lobbies for all who come in to pay sewage bills and parking tickets. He is recommending that we install one in the police lobby, and one in the administrative lobby for when the building opens. Mr. Alfano stated he thinks it is a good idea. Mrs. Gutosky asked if we will eliminate the drop off box outside. Ms. Evans stated she thinks some people may still feel uncomfortable face to face so she thinks we should leave it for a little while. Ms. Evans stated she will notify the tax collector that she can come back down to collect taxes again also.

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to purchase two hand sanitizing stations for the police lobby and municipal lobby at a cost not to exceed \$300.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Ms. Evans stated we made a motion a while back to discard the Taurus and she asked if we have gotten rid of the Taurus yet, it is still on the insurance policy. Dr. Martin stated it is still there but he can put it on Munibid. Ms. Evans stated she thought Jeff was directed to get rid of it anyway he could. Mr. Bittner asked about the police vehicle down there with the blown engine is it still there and if it is tell Jeff to get rid of both of them. Ms. Evans stated we still have a match to that police vehicle that we may be able to use parts from it. Mr. McCarthy stated yes the vehicle that Scott drives is the same year as that one so we can use it for parts if needed. Mr. Bittner stated then let that one sit there for a while. Dr. Martin stated we do need to move the GPS devices from these old vehicles to the two new vehicles we just purchased. Mr. McCarthy stated the GPS stated about a month prior to the car catching on fire the GPS exploded inside of the car and he thinks the wiring was overloaded causing the battery of the GPS to erupt. Dr. Martin stated he believes he has already ordered a replacement GPS for that.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mariscotti announced that there is a Tri County Borough Association meeting on the 18th at 7:00 pm via zoom and the notification is in your packets.

Mr. Maddiex stated unless somebody can tell him where he noticed that our street address sign is missing. Ms. Evans stated it was taken down when they did the new concrete decking out there. Mr. Maddiex stated he hasn't seen it. Mayor Stetar stated they took it down when they did all that concrete work out there and they were supposed to put it back up. Dr. Martin stated he'll straighten it up tomorrow.

Mr. Bittner stated in front of our building we have a memorial and it is for any council person that passed while they were on council. He doesn't know of any other employee since he's been on council that has passed while still being employed by the borough and he thinks it would be appropriate to put Chief Sheehan's name on that monument. He stated if you passed while still serving on council you were put on that memorial. Mr. Maddiex stated maybe a separate monument for employees because that was already dedicated to council members. Mr. Bittner stated it was so long ago he doesn't know if we would even find the minutes. Dr. Martin stated all the memorial says is "McGirk memorial and the words in service to the community". If it doesn't have the wording on the monument that states council members then he is making a motion:

Motion by Bittner/Maddiex to have Chief Sheehan's name placed on the memorial in front of the municipal building carried on a roll call vote with all members present saying aye.

Mr. Maddiex stated there is going to be a cost don't we need a roll call vote. Mr. Vitchoff stated he will pay for the inscription. Council stated if not they will pitch in a pay for it.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

CHRISTINE KINDL

Ms. Kinder stated that it is the intention of Cal U to return to all face to face classes and as near as they can accomplish it business as usual for the fall semester. She stated they will continue to monitor the process and the testing for COVID but their plan right now is to go to full open for the fall semester.

JOE GRODZ

Mr. Grodz stated about the drop box he thinks it is convenient for the customers. He stated National pipe line did all that work for Columbia Gas and he knows there are contractors for sidewalks and street repairs and he wanted to know if there is a timeline in place when they are supposed to be finished with everything. Mr. Bittner asked Mr. Taday if he is aware of when the restoration should be finished. Mr. Taday stated they told him a couple of weeks and they should be done.

MICHELLE KINSEY- RECREATION AUTHORITY

She stated the Easter egg hunt is canceled and they are working on other things so she suggested for everyone to check their facebook page. She stated she spoke with Candace from the University and the fishing festival will also be canceled. She stated there is a lot of trash accumulating at the Mechanic Street park. She stated there are trash receptacles and signs there but if they don't start cleaning up after themselves we can lock it up or remove basketball hoops or at a last resort start citing people. Officer McCarthy stated he will put out a directive for some foot patrols through there and ask them to please clean it up and they usually do it without problems. She stated there is a clean up a Rotary park on March 27 at 9 am and invites anyone from the community to come and help. Mr. Alfano stated we are thinking of a doing our own basketball league here since the original Bud Grebb league went to Elizabeth . He stated perhaps our local kids or a younger league. Mr. Grodz stated if you have it they will come. He stated as a high school teacher and former basketball coach if you have a program they will come.

GINA CAETI

Mrs. Caeti asked if there has been any updates or news about her situation. Ms. Evans stated at the last meeting Mr. Petro was going to talk to Mr. Garlowich about it. Mr. Petro stated we do not have the authority as Zoning officers to extend the deadline and that is his opinion. Mrs. Caeti stated Mike has been working with her and was looking into to see if it would qualify as a granny flat with minor modifications. Mrs. Caeti stated we do not want her going to into a home right now with the pandemic, she is 85 years old and it is frightening to her.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bittner/Gab motion to adjourn carried with all members present stating aye.