

Regular Meeting of California Borough Council, June 10, 2021

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

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

ABSENCE: Mayor Stetar

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Maddiex added request from Steven Kawelkewics

Dr. Martin added new clock for chambers

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments at this time

MINUTES

Motion by Gutosky/Mariscotti to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 13, 2021 carried with all members present stating aye.

Motion by Maddiex/Gutosky to approve the minutes of the Special meeting of May 20, 2021 carried with all members present stating aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Evans read the accounts payable and bank balances as of May 31, 2021

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

PRESIDENT ALFANO'S REPORT

CONDITIONAL USE HEARING – VIASET

Mr. Alfano stated we had a conditional use hearing for VIASET who are proposing to place a high-speed satellite dish in underserved areas for internet. He stated it will be placed by our 84 sub-station.

Motion by Maddiex/Gutosky to approve the conditional use for VIASET with the following conditions, they meet all ordinance conditions and federal, state and local regulations and any conditions set by the zoning office duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING CAL -U, CLARION, EDINBORO MERGER

Mr. Alfano read the following resolution 21-002 for council to adopt. He stated there was a lack of planning on the board of governors' part to get this thing going.

Mrs. Langley stated she is a 30- year adjunct faculty member at Cal U and has lived in California forever and live on the corner of Fifth and Wood Street. She stated she is completely against the consolidation for her colleagues, her town, and for our students. She stated she would love to see the resolution pass. Mr. Alfano stated personally he sees no benefit to California University from this merger and at the least he'd like to see them slow the process down and logically plan for a solution.

Mrs. Kinder thanked council for their fine comments about the current administration and the work that they have done. She stated she believes Cal U would be a strong partner in this integration and would play a leading role helping our sister Universities work. She stated they have had their own struggles and it is Cal U intentions to be the leaders in this project. We will have a stronger voice for our students, our faculty and staff and the community where we live. She stated Cal U is not going away and will continue to offer a wide variety of classes.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to adopt the resolution opposing the Cal-U Merger duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Whereas, California University of Pennsylvania is a PASSHE institution situated entirely within the Borough of California, Pennsylvania, and

Whereas California University of Pennsylvania is the largest employer in the Borough of California, Pennsylvania and is a major regional employer, and

Whereas California University of Pennsylvania brings thousands of students and hundreds of staff into the Borough of California, Pennsylvania and the Monongahela Valley and the entire Southwestern Pennsylvania Region which serves as a major economic and developmental engine for the area, and

Whereas the PASSHE chancellor and board of governors have advanced a restructuring proposal to consolidate California, Edinboro, and Clarion Universities of Pennsylvania, and

Whereas, California University of Pennsylvania has remained fiscally solvent through sound management while Edinboro and Clarion Universities of Pennsylvania are operating at significant deficits, and

Whereas this consolidation plan would result in significant realignment of staff, resources, and programs, and

Whereas the proposed restructuring plan will have the effect of transferring resources from California University of Pennsylvania to its less effectively managed struggling sister institutions, and

Whereas, this restructuring plan will result in limiting and restricting on-campus programs and opportunities available to students of California University of Pennsylvania, and

Whereas, this restructuring will result in reduction of teaching and non-teaching staff on the campus of California University of Pennsylvania, which will adversely affect the Borough of California, Pennsylvania, the Monongahela Valley, and the entire Southwestern Pennsylvania Region, and

Whereas, the proposed restructuring would also have a detrimental impact on educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for the local community; therefore,

Be it now resolved by California, Pennsylvania Borough Council that the council register its vigorous, formal opposition to the proposed restructuring plan, and

Be it further resolved that this resolution be presented to representatives of California University of Pennsylvania, the PASSHE board of governors and chancellor, State Representative Bud Cook, State Senator Camera Bartolotta, and Governor Tom Wolf

Enacted this tenth day of June, 2021 by California Borough Council

President of Council

Mayor

Attest

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – DR. MARTIN UPDATES

Dr. Martin referred council to his weekly email updates.

CRYSTALLINE TECHNOLOGIES- ANNUAL SERVICE AGREEMENT - \$1,259.30

Dr. Martin stated he got a request from Crystalline Technologies that we are at the end of our service agreement for the police cameras and is asking to be renewed at a cost of \$1 259.30. Dr. Martin stated as you know he has had issues with the service from that company and have looked at other alternatives both of whom stated they could not provide us anything that would be consistent and would tie into what we already have. He is respectfully asking council to let Mr. Mosher wait a month and let this in limbo to give him the opportunity to try and find some other companies to at least give a competitive bid on this. He stated he has been underwhelmed by the service of Crystalline Technologies thus far. Acting Chief McCarthy stated the cameras are sub-par quality and very faulty.

REQUEST FROM METHODIST CHURCH

Dr. Martin stated the Methodist church will be holding their summer vacation bible school and has requested permission from council to use the green area where the former Hollywood Theatre was located and where our new pavilion will be erected. He stated they would need to provide certificate of insurance and provide a liability waiver.

Motion by Maddiex/Gutosky to authorize use of the lot on Third Street for Vacation Bible School for the Methodist Church providing they provide liability waiver and provide a certificate of insurance duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

NEW CLOCK FOR CHAMBERS

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to purchase new clock for Council Chambers at a cost not to exceed \$100.00 from the building fund duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. MADDIEX UPDATES

CAL-U FLAG

Motion by Maddiex to fly the California University flag on the Municipal Flag pole year -round. Motion failed for a lack of second.

Motion by Maddiex to fly the California University flag during homecoming week on the Municipal flag pole. Motion failed for a lack of a second.

STEVEN KAWELKEWICS

Mr. Kawelkewics stated he requesting a copy of the engineering study which was done on Kaukonen Drive to establish a weight limit. Mr. Agrafiotis stated you'll have to fill out a right to know request. Ms. Evans stated he received a copy of the Heavy Hauling Ordinance from Mike but there were no studies in with that ordinance. Mr. Kawelkewics stated he was told he had to bond that road and when he went to the bonding companies and both of them told him he needed a copy of the engineering study. He stated he also did some research at the Department of Transportation to see if their requirements were similar and they told him the same thing that without the engineering study he cannot submit a bond on that road. Mr. Alfano asked him if he needs this for heavy hauling. Mr. Kawelkewics stated he built two pole barns on the property and he needs to fill in around the pole barns so he needs to bring fill in. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he will have to see if he would still have a copy of that. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he is not sure if one has been done or not. Mr. Alfano stated Carl Deicas did those years and years ago to post limits on those roads. Mr. Eby stated if it is posted somebody had to have done a study. Mr. Alfano asked Mr. Kawelkewics to submit an official right to know request. Mr. Alfano asked Steve and Tom to put their heads together and see if they can come up with something to move this along.

HOLDING TANK- 809 CALIFORNIA DRIVE

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to rescind the motion for the holding tank at 809 California Drive carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Agrafiotis stated just last month we approved that property for a holding tank and he and Mike talked and now they are going to do a small flow treatment facility and sent paperwork for Shirley and council President to sign but he wants the engineer to take a look at it first.

PUBLIC WORKS – MR. BITTNER 2021 PAVING PROJECT

Mr. Bittner asked the engineer to open the sealed bids for the 2021 paving project and report them under his agenda.

WIDMER ENGINEERING INVOICES

Motion by Bittner/Maddiex to approve payment of Widmer invoice # 22104542 in the amount of \$800.00 for the paving project duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Bittner/Maddiex to approve payment of Widmer invoice #22105593 in the amount of \$160.00 paving project re-bid duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

**PUBLIC SAFETY- MR. DIFILIPPO
SIANA LAW INVOICE #86707**

Motion by Difilippo/Glab to approve payment of Siana Law invoice in the amount of \$467.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

**FINANCE – MRS. GUTOSKY
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.

SOLICITOR BILLS- 3 MONTH BILL

Motion by Gutosky/Maddiex to pay the Solicitor's bill in the amount of \$3,453.50 with \$2,793.50 for Admin, \$429.00 for Zoning, and \$231.00 for sewage duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

**PUBLIC HEALTH- MR. MARISCOTTI
SEWER ISSUE UPDATE**

Mr. Mariscotti stated 811 was called and the line may or may not have been marked properly. He stated this was for a call in front of Patsy's office and West Penn power put their pole through our sewer line. We discovered it when Patsy was tapping in his sewer line. The pole was removed we had an emergency call up there and it is all taken care of and the pole will be reset. Mr. Mariscotti stated we should have a bill next month. Mr. Alfano stated we should forward it on to West Penn Power, we can pay the contractor but we will try and get reimbursed from West Penn.

PURCHASE OF JUMPING JACK/JACK HAMMER ARM

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to purchase a jumping jack in an amount not to exceed \$2,600.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

WIDMER ENGINEERING INVOICES

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay Widmer invoice #22104561 in the amount of 1,440.00 for Act 53, new pump station update duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay Widmer invoice #22104536 in the amount of \$640.00 for sewer line camera work duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mrs. Gutosky stepped out of the meeting.

Motion by Mariscotti/Bittner to pay Widmer Invoice #22104539 in the amount of \$1,440.00 for DEP dump permit re-submittal duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay Widmer invoice #22105587 in the amount of \$80.00 for Dep pump permit re-submittal duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Bittner to pay Widmer invoice #22105596 in the amount of \$1,070.00 for general sanitary and 88 manholes duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

SERVER & COMPUTERS SEWER DEPT.

Dr. Martin stated we are having difficulty with the sewer dept. computers because they are older and we have several systems down there and we need to have them all backed up to a server as to not lose any data. Mr. Glab asked why we need two computers down there. Dr. Martin stated one is in the lab and one is in the office.

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to purchase server & computers at a cost of \$4,931.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mrs. Gutosky returned to the meeting.

MR. GLAB

Nothing to report

MAYOR’S REPORT – DR. STETAR

Nothing to report

ENGINEERS REPORT – MR. EBY

BID RESULTS – 2021 PAVING PROJECT

BIDDER	BASE	ALT. #1 (East alley)	ALT. #2 (Olympic circle)
CH &D Enterprises, Inc. -	\$265,297.71	\$13,075.00	\$32,980.00
El Grande Ent.	\$250,607.90	\$ 9,800.00	\$29,750.00
Morgan Exc.	\$226,621.02	\$ 8,646.20	\$26,955.20
Redstone Exc.	\$233,047.25	\$10,005.00	\$28,560.00
Tresco Paving	\$238,025.50	\$ 9,100.00	\$28,900.00

Motion by Bittner/Maddiex to hire Morgan Excavating at a base bid of \$226,621.02 and Alternate #2 bid of \$26,955.20 upon approval of the Solicitor, Engineer, and Penndot Representative duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Dr. Martin will contact the University to see if they would be interested in having Morgan complete Alternate #1 at a cost of \$8,646.20 and they would pay that bill. Mr. Eby stated he will let Morgan know that they have to hold their number for the University.

Motion by Bittner/Difilippo to hire TRIAD Engineering as our independent inspector on the 2021 paving project.

UPDATE ON SEWER PROJECT

Mr. Eby stated he has been working on the Third Street extension sewer line project and they have all the manholes shot and everything is figured out. He stated we had a flow meter placed there near 2020 and according to those flows we succeeded the capacity for a 6, 8, and 10” pipes up there. He stated we will have to go at least 12” to cover what we got through there that the flowmeter caught. He will bring a proposal back to the board once that is all figured out. He stated if we use a minimum of 12” we could go higher because there is a 24” running down Ash Street.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – MR. AGRAFIOTIS

OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Glab asked the Solicitor if he’s looked into the taxation of the former Catholic Church on Fourth St. yet. Mr. Agrafiotis stated the time is expiring July 1st so hopefully he can have it filed by the July meeting.

Ms. Evans stated she put a letter in the packets from Gov. Wolf concerning the funds we can receive from the American Rescue Plan and he is suggesting we file for that money within five days from the date of this letter. Dr. Martin stated he and Steve need to get together and look for a project.

Motion by Difilippo/Bittner to authorize the Borough Administrator and the Borough engineer to apply for funding from the American Rescue Plan funds duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Bittner asked how we can stop that cigarette butt pit down in front of the Dollar General store it is disgusting. Acting Chief McCarthy asked if the Dollar General is responsible for in front of their store. Mr. Alfano stated yes. Acting Chief McCarthy stated he will go down there and speak to them after the meeting tonight.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

Janet Bateman shared her concerns about the need to clean the town up from slum landlords and the trash receptacles and dumpsters being over filled and left out in front of their houses. Mr. Bittner stated he walks around town all the time and the biggest issue he says is undersized dumpsters for some of these properties. Mr. Agrafiotis stated we may have to look at this issue when we bid out the next garbage contract.

Mr. Alfano asked Dr. Martin what the status is of the Sounds guys we hired to fix the issue in council chambers. Dr. Martin stated last he heard they ordered the equipment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Difilippo/Glab to adjourn the meeting carried with all members present stating aye.