

Regular Meeting of California Borough Council, August 12, 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. Difilippo added Retiring K9 Ego

Mr. Maddiex added Bongiorno subdivision reapproval

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments at this time

MINUTES

Motion by Gutosky/Difilippo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 2021 carried with all members present stating aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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

PRESIDENT ALFANO'S REPORT

RECREATION AUTHORITY'S MECHANIC STREET PLAYGROUND PROJECT

Mr. Alfano stated we have the bid results from the Recreation Authority's Mechanic Street playground project.

El Grande was - \$51,997.50

Plavchak Construction came in at \$49,955.00.

He is asking the borough to award the bid with the solicitor's approval.

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to award the Recreation Authority's Mechanic Street playground project to Plavchak Construction at a bid price of \$49,955.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Alfano stated he received a letter from Bear Creek properties concerning a lot on Highland Drive near Hill Street. He stated he is guessing this is the lot where we demolished the house. Mr. Mariscotti stated he got the same letter. Mr. Glab stated those people live in Ohio that's owns a piece adjacent to the Mount's property. He's not sure if that is the property they are referencing or the Mount's property.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – DR. MARTIN UPDATES

Dr. Martin referred council to his weekly email updates.

PAY FOR SIDEWALK REPAIRS FROM GAMING REVENUE FUND

We did not identify funding to pay for the sidewalk repairs being done by the Street Department so he's asking for a motion to pay those costs from the gaming revenue fund.

Motion by Difilippo/Maddiex to pay for the sidewalk repairs duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

CAMERA MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Dr. Martin stated the other company we were talking to about the maintaining and updating the police cameras had not gotten back with him and then he called him and told him that he needs something by Thursday's meeting. He has not received any bid from the man. So reluctantly, he is recommending that you renew your agreement with the current folks we have which is Crystalline Technologies in the amount of \$1,259.30 until he can find another company to do this. Mr. Alfano stated surely we can find someone. Dr. Martin stated they want to sell you cameras but not maintain the system. Dr. Martin said we have 8 cameras down, four have been down for several weeks and now he understands there are four additional ones down. Mr. Taday stated the reason the cameras are down are because of the trees growing and leaves covering the signal. He stated we need to speak to Crystalline to see if they can reroute the signal to go around those trees. Mr. Alfano stated the trees are not on our property so we can't touch them. Mr. Taday agreed. Dr. Martin stated they can hardwire those. Mr. Taday stated there is no hardwire system on those that way they can move them anywhere they want. Mr. Maddiex stated the agreement states that new structures and foliage growth or blocked radio path are not covered. Ms. Evans stated if these trees are along the sidewalks and in our right-of-way we should be able to trim them back. Mr. Glab asked if the cameras and pictures they take are of good quality. Dr. Martin stated they are not as bad as he thought and if councilman Glab and I were in an alley you would be able to distinguish him from me. Mr. Difilippo asked if it was a stranger in the alley would you be able to see their face with enough clarity to identify them and be able to arrest them. Dr. Martin stated the camera guy he met with stated they really are not bad cameras and they are not as old technology as you described on the phone. Mr. Mariscotti asked if our current guy is just too busy to respond quickly or just don't care. Mr. Glab stated he will be Mayor of Monessen in a few months so he's probably going to take his time getting here. Dr. Martin stated he marveled at the number of municipalities in Southwestern PA that use his company. Mr. Alfano stated it seems like there is no other choice. Dr. Martin stated that is what he is running into. Mr. Difilippo stated he hates to go with this guy but it seems like Dr. Martin has distinguished every other avenue. Dr. Martin stated he spoke to 7 different companies and 5 of them would not even consider coming here. Mr. Taday stated they can remotely do everything from their office also. He stated he does not have any access to that system. Chief Kirsch asked if by chance he spoke to a company called Lautanus. Dr. Martin stated yes he did. Mr. Glab asked if the cable company would provide this service. Mr. Alfano stated all we can do is ask the owners if we could trim their trees. Mr. Mariscotti asked where these cameras are located. Mr. Taday stated one is along Second Street and Union Street, PNC Bank and then up to the red light. Mr. Mariscotti asked if it would help to place something on his building or the church or Liberty towers. Dr. Martin stated at this point we have no one else lined up to provide this service. Mr. Bittner stated we are coming upon a very busy season in the borough and those cameras are there for the security of this borough. Ms. Evans asked if the cameras are someone's property. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he believes they are on utility poles. Ms. Evans stated isn't that on our right-of-way then. Mr. Agrafiotis stated if they are in our right-of-way then we can just send them notice that we are going to be trimming them.

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to renew maintenance agreement with Crystalline Technologies in the amount of \$1,259.30 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. MADDIEX UPDATES

Mr. Maddiex stated he received an email from Mike today and 220 rental inspections have been completed out of 351 and that leaves 131 to go.

Mr. Maddiex suggested in stead of paying for a stage every year for the Riverfest we could just buy an old trailer and rehab it and store it on borough property and that would be more cost effective. Mr. Alfano stated there is more than just a stage involved, there is the sound system also. Ms. Evans stated hopefully we will be able to utilize the stage in the new pavilion that will be built this year for future Riverfest entertainment.

BONGIORNO SUBDIVISION RE-APPROVAL

Mr. Maddiex stated the Bongiorno Plan2 subdivision dated April 30, 2021 was approved on May 13, 2021 however the subdivision was not recorded within the 90-day time limit required.

Motion by Maddiex/Bittner to re-approve the Bongiorno subdivision dated April 30, 20201 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC WORKS – MR. BITTNER

Nothing to report

PUBLIC SAFETY- MR. DIFILIPPO

RESIGNATION OF PART TIME OFFICE QUINTERO

Mr. Difilippo asked Chief Kirsch if he has received all the borough's belongings from Office Quintero. Chief Kirsch stated yes it has all been returned to the borough.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to accept the resignation of Officer Quintero duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

SIANA LAW INVOICE #87309- \$1,367.00

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to pay Siana Law invoice #87309 in the amount of \$1,367.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

RETIRE K9 OFFICER EGO

Mr. Difilippo stated the Chief received an email from the K9 handler saying that he is going to retire the dog because its been having issues. Mr. Difilippo stated that is our dog and the decision should come from council. He would prefer a vet visit should be done and the vet should be able to provide his recommendation to the borough. Mr. Bittner asked if he has been taking him to the vet. Ms. Evans stated she doesn't think the handler has been using the insurance we provide because no bills or statements come to the borough. Chief Kirsch stated what if the vet says the dog is healthy enough to continue as a K9 officer then we are going to force the handler to change his mind and work the dog some more. Mr. Alfano asked how old the dog is. Ms. Evans stated he was born in 2013. Chief stated he feels you would just be wasting money getting an evaluation from the vet and the handler has lived with the dog every day for the past 9 years and he trusts his judgement on this. He feels we should just go with the handler's recommendation. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he thinks the issue is how it was addressed to cancel. The handler should have said it is his recommendation to retire K9 Ego and not that he's retiring the dog. Mr. Agrafiotis asked if the borough is giving the dog to McCarthy. Mr. Alfano stated yes but he would have to incur all the expenses and liability for the dog. Mr. Bittner asked what the K9 agreement says about this. Chief Kirsch stated the agreement does not address retiring the dog at all. Mr. Agrafiotis stated typically the handler has first choice if he wants the dog.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to retire K9 Ego effective immediately contingent on the handler being notified that he will be responsible for expenses relating to care, costs, insurance & liabilities duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Maddiex who voted no.

Ms. Evans asked if we will continue the K9 program or discontinue it all together. Mr. Difilippo stated he believes we will just let it go and not have it.

Motion by Difilippo/Maddiex to pay WQM

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.

PUBLIC HEALTH- MR. MARISCOTTI

WIDMER INVOICES

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay Widmer invoice #22106617 in the amount of \$120.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay Widmer invoice #22106635 in the amount of \$4,250.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay Widmer invoice #22107652 in the amount of \$840.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay Widmer invoice #22107668 in the amount of \$160.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

MR. GLAB

Mr. Glab stated last week we discussed to remove the turn right between 7pm and 7am sign on Wood Street turning toward the college. He stated we should probably get the okay from PennDOT for that. Mr. Vitchoff stated they didn't put them up why would they take it down.

MAYOR'S REPORT – DR. STETAR

Dr. Martin stated Mayor is at band camp until August 19th.

ENGINEERS REPORT – MR. EBY

Motion to pay DEP Water Quality Management in the amount of \$ 500.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to pay for the Clear Water permit at a cost of \$200.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay the administrative filing fee for Clear Water permit in the amount of \$500.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mr. Eby stated he went and looked at home that was complaining of rain water runoff from the road. That road hasn't been paved in years so that is an issue the homeowner will have to take care of. He stated there are four houses on the same side of the road with the same issue. Mr. Eby stated the yard can be fixed and their driveways are lower than the roadway so the water is just ponding in their driveways. They will have to raise their driveways up to get the water to stay out on the road. The one house actually has her downspouts running out to the road and the downspouts pipe was lower than the road. He stated none of these are the borough's responsibility.

Mr. Eby stated he did hear something about weight limits on roadways from the last meeting but didn't know which roads council was looking at. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he thinks they all need looked at. Mr. Eby stated he would like to see a committee formed to advise him what needs done because he doesn't know if they want to isolate an area or what. He thinks they should have a meeting and have a map there so everyone is on the same page.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – MR. AGRAFIOTIS

Mr. Agrafiotis stated he emailed council on what he's been working on but the tax appeal for the Hotel be this Monday afternoon and he has also prepared the tax appeal for the former St. Thomas church building.

Mr. Agrafiotis stated after the last meeting Dr. Martin emailed him and stated that when Acting Chief McCarthy was switched back to patrolman the original motion did not cover taking his wage back to patrolman wages. He stated you need to do that and make it retro-active back to the date of the original motion.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to, retro-actively from the date of the new Chief's hire, approve Officer McCarthy's pay reduction from Acting Chief back to patrolman salary duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to deposit the proceeds from the pop machine back to the gaming revenue fund until initial pop order balance is paid off then to the general fund duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Bittner who voted no.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Difilippo/Maddiex to authorize the purchase of 10 Glock hand guns not to exceed \$8,000.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Difilippo/Bittner to close the K9 fund and move the balance over to the general fund duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Maddiex who voted no.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

ASHLEY ROTH – RECREATION AUTHORITY

Ms. Roth stated the family of Marshall, who was killed, will do a bench dedication on his behalf at the Rotary on Sept. 11th.

She stated as far as Riverfest the vendor spots are completely full, she ran off the two-day schedule of entertainment

ADJOURNMENT

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