

Regular Meeting of California Borough Council, November 18, 2021

President Alfano called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

ATTENDANCE: Mr. Alfano, Mr. Bittner, Mr. Difilippo, Mr. Glab, Mrs. Gutosky, Mr. Maddiex, Mr. Mariscotti, Mayor Stetar and Junior councilmember Ms. Winwood

ABSENCE:

MOMENT OF SILENCE
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Difilippo added hiring a Police Chief
Mrs. Gutosky added the Solicitor's bill - \$2,090.00

President Alfano stated the agenda will stand as presented and amended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments at this time

MINUTES

Motion by Maddiex/Gutosky to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on October 7, 2021 carried with all members present stating aye.

Motion by Gutosky/Maddiex to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 14, 2021 carried with all members present stating aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Evans read the accounts payable and bank balances as of October 31, 2021.
Motion by Gutosky/Mariscotti to accept the Treasurer's report carried with all members present stating aye.

PRESIDENT ALFANO'S REPORT

CHRISTMAS PARADE – RECREATION AUTHORITY

President Alfano stated on December 3rd we might have a Christmas parade. He asked Ashely Roth from the Recreation Authority to elaborate on that. Ms. Roth stated there will be a Christmas parade on Dec. 3rd and they are working with the University as opposed to having it in door holly day mainly because the University has a mask policy and they were thinking having it outdoors would be better. Parade will begin at the borough building and end at the Student Center. There will be EMS vehicles, youth groups, two dance studios and some characters participating in the parade. It won't be as big as homecoming. Santa will end in front of the Student Union at the University and he will be there for children to visit him and they have 120 stuffed bears to give out to the kids. Cal U is setting up different activities for the kids to do. It should be a very nice time as long as the weather holds up.

SOLVENCY FEE FOR 2022 - \$1,709.96

President Alfano stated we have the solvency fee due for 2022. Ms. Evans stated that would cover the borough in the event an employee leaves here for another job and they then get laid off from that job, it will not fall back on the borough.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to pay the Solvency fee for 2022 in the amount of \$1,709.96 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

RENEWAL OF COMPUTER MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – THE COMPUTER GUYS

President Alfano stated our computer support and contract is up for renewal for 2022 at a cost of \$4,068.00.

Mr. Difilippo asked if it increased from last year. Ms. Evans stated no it is the same amount.

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to renew the computer support agreement with the Computer Guys for 2022 at a cost of \$4,068.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

2022 MEETING DATES

Mr. Alfano stated you have in your packets the meeting dates for 2022 and we need to advertise this before the end of the year. Council moved April's meeting from Thursday, April 14 to Wednesday, April 13th due to holy Thursday.

Motion by Maddiex/Gutosky to advertise the 2022 meeting dates duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – DR. MARTIN

Dr. Martin stated he did put out the request for bids for emergency snow removal.

PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. MADDIEX

Mr. Maddiex stated at the committee meeting he provided the incorrect cost of the file cabinet recently purchased for the zoning office so we are over the budget by a small amount.

He stated the code enforcement office is working on an updated demolition list.

PUBLIC WORKS – MR. BITTNER

Mr. Bittner stated as you can see the Street Dept. has been putting up Christmas lights and have been preparing the vehicles for winter road maintenance.

RESIGNATION OF DONALD TOWNER

Motion by Bittner/Difilippo to accept the resignation of Street Department employee Donald Towner effective Nov. 12, 2021 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

ADVERTISE FOR STREET DEPT. EMPLOYEE

Motion by Bittner/Maddiex to advertise for a Street Dept. employee duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Ms. Evans asked when council wants the deadline for application submission to be. Council decided on Dec. 2nd at 4:00 pm.

WIDMER INVOICE

Motion by Bittner/Mariscotti to pay Widmer invoice #22109748 in the amount of \$320.00 for the paving project duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Bittner/Difilippo to pay Widmer invoice #22110809 in the amount of \$2,920.00 for the weight limit study duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC SAFETY- MR. DIFILIPPO

NEW CHIEF POLICE

Motion by Difilippo/Maddiex to hire James Smith as the Chief of Police at a salary of \$65,000.00 per year contingent upon a physical and memorandum of understanding with a 6-month probationary period duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Bittner who vote no.

ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS

Motion by Difilippo/Glab to accept the resignation of part-time officer Kristie Salzman duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Maddiex who voted no.

Motion by Difilippo/Bittner to accept the resignation of full- time police officer Thomas McCarthy duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Difilippo/Mariscotti to accept the resignation of part- time office Tony Andronas duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

SIANA LAW INVOICE #88151 - \$1,954.50

Motion by Difilippo/Maddiex to pay Siana Law invoice #88151 in the amount of \$1,954.50 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

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.

PAY SOLICITOR’S BILL

Motion by Gutosky/Maddiex to pay the Solicitor’s bill in the amount of \$2,090.00 which breaks down to Administration \$1,529.00, Zoning - \$33.00 and Sewer - \$528.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

2022 TAX ORDINANCE

Motion by Gutosky/Maddiex to advertise the 2022 Tax Ordinance which includes a 1 mil increase duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

2022 TENTATIVE BUDGETS

Motion by Gutosky/Mariscotti to approve the tentative 2022 General fund budget which is balanced at \$2,368,831.80 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Maddiex who voted no.

Motion by Gutosky/Maddiex to approve the tentative 2022 Sewer Fund budget with income at \$1,953,900.00 and expenses at \$2,201,533.67 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Gutosky/Mariscotti to approve the tentative 2022 Highway Aid Fund budget which is balanced at \$329,801.91 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion Gutosky/Maddiex to advertise the 2022 tentative budgets for the 10-day review duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mrs. Gutosky thanked everyone involved in completing these budgets. She also added that we have not had a tax increase in 5 years and money that the University stopped paying was part of our budget.

PUBLIC HEALTH- MR. MARISCOTTI

WIDMER INVOICES

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #22109753 in the amount of \$4,680.00 for 88 sewer line upgrade duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #22109752 in the amount of \$1,210.00 for the MS4 report duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #22110800 in the amount of \$7,450.00 for the 88-sewer line upgrade duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PAWC WINTER MORATORIUM HOT WATER HEAT WAIVER

Mr. Mariscotti stated we do not want to shut off water during winter in the event folks have hot water heat.

ADVERTISE FOR SEWER DEPT. EMPLOYEE

Mr. Mariscotti stated council is not sure what job descriptions this would entail and is waiting on union response for sewer/street employee so we won’t act on this tonight. Dr. Martin stated we talked to people in both departments and Jeff gave us what he needs on the Street Dept. side and Ron gave us an exhausting list of what is needed on the other side. Basically these would be put together as a single job description and we need to negotiate a memorandum of understanding

that clearly identifies who is responsible for this individual and when they would work and all those details. Once those things are worked out we can move forward but those details need to be resolved. He stated there is currently a vacancy in the contract for a laborer's position in the sewage department and in the course of our conversations we need to talk about what council wants to do in relationship to the sewer/street employee and the sewer labor position.

MR. GLAB

Nothing to report

JUNIOR COUNCILMEMBER CAYLEE WINWOOD

Ms. Winwood stated on Nov. 24th school will be dismissed two hours early for the Thanksgiving break and the break last until Nov. 29th. On the 24th the high school is corn hole tournament where students in grades 9-12 pair up, dress up in costumes and play corn hole for prizes. Math tutoring has started on Monday and Wednesdays for high school students and Tuesday and Thursdays for middle school students all after school. The high school now has a laser engraver that can provide students grades 7-12 with manufacturing experience. The marching band is hosting a pancake breakfast with Santa on Dec. 11th from 9-1 pm with a basket option and a \$10.00 person and will be held at the California Calvary Church. The high school football team lost to Leechburg 28-7 in the playoff game on Nov. 5th. Starting tomorrow the basketball season officially starts. Tonight there is a powderpuff football game at 6:00 pm for high school students. Superintendent Laura Jacobs has recently began a podcast and it can be viewed on Facebook, Spotify, and apple podcasts.

MAYOR'S REPORT – DR. STETAR

ENGINEERS REPORT – MR. EBY

WEIGHT LIMIT STUDY

Mr. Eby stated the weight limit study has been taken care of and you should be getting the report in a week or so.

88 SEWER LINE UPGRADE

He stated we are working on the Route 88 extension and we are having a small issue with DEP. Trying to upgrade the line and they want to know why it needs upgraded so he's trying to get it done as cheaply as possible and if we would do what they want us to do it would cost much more.

Mr. Glab asked if the federal infrastructure bill that they signed recently and if there is anything we need to do to apply for that or has it already been predetermined. Mr. Eby stated is has not been predetermined yet and they are checking into because he has several other authorities trying to jump on that too. He stated there is a lot of money out there right now for water service and it is loan/grant so it's a good option. He stated it would go through PAWC so if you have areas you want to get water too you may want to contact them and start those discussion.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – MR. AGRAFIOTIS

Nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time

NEW BUSINESS

No new business at this time.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

ADJOURNMENT

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