

Regular Meeting of California Borough Council, December 9, 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. Maddiex added PC to ZHB advertising

Mr. Bittner added Widmer Engineering invoice \$4,420.00

President Alfano added Siana Law invoice - \$684.50

Mr. Mariscotti added Widmer Engineering invoice - \$8,020.00

Mrs. Gutosky added Solicitor's invoice

Mr. Bittner added tree trimming quotes

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments at this time

MINUTES

Motion by Difilippo/Bittner to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 18, 2021 carried with all members present stating aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Evans read the accounts payable and bank balances as of November 30, 2021.

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

PRESIDENT ALFANO'S REPORT

SIANA LAW INVOICE #88409- \$684.50

Mr. Alfano stated we have an invoice from Siana Law in the amount of \$684.50.

Motion by Gutosky/Bittner to pay Siana Law invoice #88409 in the amount of \$684.50 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR – DR. MARTIN

EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL BIDS

Dr. Martin stated he sent out three RFP's for emergency snow removal and only received one back. It is from Britton & Sons at \$120.00 per hour for labor& equipment.

Motion by Difilippo/Maddiex to approve Britton & Sons for Emergency Snow removal at a cost of \$120.00 per hour for labor & equipment duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. MADDIEX

REAPPOINT ZONING HEARING BOARD MEMBER GENE KNIGHT

Motion by Maddiex/Mariscotti to reappoint Gene Knight as a member of the Zoning hearing board for a three- year term expiring Jan. 6, 2025 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes

Motion by Maddiex/Gutosky to advertise for zoning hearing board member and alternate member. Motion failed with Mr. Maddiex voting yes and Alfano, Bittner, Difilippo, Glab, Gutosky, and Mariscotti voting no.

It was decided to just put it on Facebook and the website.

Mr. Maddiex donated a money order in the amount of \$50.00 to refill a fire extinguisher and last year he missed two meetings at \$15.00 per hour so he donated another \$60.00 money order.

DEMOLITION LIST

The zoning office prepared a demolition list of potential properties and Mr. Maddiex provided a copy to all of council.

PUBLIC WORKS – MR. BITTNER HIRE STREET DEPT. EMPLOYEE

Motion by Bittner/Maddiex to hire Mark McCune with a start date of Jan. 3, 2022 pending physical, background check and according the collective bargaining agreement duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

TREE TRIMMING QUOTES

Mr. Bittner read the three quotes received for tree trimming in the downtown area: Arnold's tree service - \$2,650.00, Dillon Tree Service- \$2,800.00, and Scotts Tree service - \$2,400.00.

Motion by Bittner/Difilippo to award the tree trimming to Scott Tree service at a cost of \$2,400.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

WIDMER ENGINEERING INVOICE- #2211846

Motion by Bittner/Mariscotti to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #2211846 in the amount of \$4,420.00 for weight limit survey duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC SAFETY- MR. DIFILIPPO

Mr. Difilippo stated the Chief's only concern was the civil service testing but it is under the Mayor's agenda.

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.

2022 BUDGETS

Motion by Gutosky/Glab to adopt the 2022 General Fund Budget which is balanced at \$2,368,831.81 carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Maddiex who voted no.

Motion by Gutosky/Glab to adopt the 2022 Sewer Fund Budget with income of \$1,953,900.00 and expenses at \$2,201,553.67 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Gutosky/Mariscotti to adopt the 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.

2022 TAX ORDINANCE

Motion by Gutosky/Glab to adopt the 2022 Tax Ordinance with a 1 mil increase for a total millage at 5.33 mils duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Maddiex who voted no.

SOLICITOR'S BILL

Motion by Gutosky/Glab to pay the Solicitor's bill at a cost of \$7,964.00 for Oct., Nov., and Dec. with a breakdown of Administration- \$7370.00, Zoning - \$352.00, and Sewer - \$242.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

PUBLIC HEALTH- MR. MARISCOTTI WIDMER ENGINEERING INVOICE - #2211859

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #2211859 in the amount of \$8,020.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

MAUND INDUSTRIES INVOICE

Motion by Mariscotti/Maddiex to pay Maund Industries, Inc. invoice in the amount of \$1,320.00 for sewer line repair at 235 California Road duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

MR. GLAB

Nothing to report

JUNIOR COUNCILMEMBER CAYLEE WINWOOD

Mrs. Winwood stated the Seniors have a memory tree in the high school lobby with personalized ornaments. The marching bands pancake breakfast with Santa is this Saturday. There will be a ski trip on Friday, December 18th. Candygrams are being sold by the middle school students for a dollar to anyone in 7-12th grade. On Dec. 22nd the district is letting out two hours early and the middle school is hosting a dodgeball tournament and the high school is hosting a madden tournament and a paint & sip. Winter break begins Dec. 23rd and school will resume on Jan. 3rd. The 2nd quarter or first semester is ending Jan. 14th. The boy's basketball team plays propel Montour at home tomorrow at 5:30 pm and the girl's basketball team plays Jeannette at 1pm at Monessen on Saturday.

MAYOR'S REPORT – DR. STETAR

Mayor stated he spoke with Officer Short and we currently have 2/3 of the ammunition and the tasers and the sights for the guns but no guns yet.

ADVERTISE FOR CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEMBER

No action taken

ADOPT FIREARM POLICY

Motion by Maddiex/Difilippo to adopt the fire arm policy written by Officer Short which was approved by the Union, Chief, and Solicitor duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

ADVERTISE FOR PART-TIME OFFICER

Motion by Mariscotti/Glab to advertise for Part-time police officers duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Chief to let Shirley know where to place the ads for part-time officer.

ENGINEERS REPORT – MR. EBY

ADVERTISE 88 SEWR LINE UPGRADE PROJECT

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to advertise the 88 Sewer line upgrade project on Third St. and Third St. extension duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

WEIGHT LIMIT STUDY

Motion by Bittner/Mariscotti to authorize the Solicitor do a Weight Limit Ordinance with the criteria in the weight limit study prepared by Widmer Engineering duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – MR. AGRAFIOTIS

Mr. Agrafiotis stated he has several items he needs to update council on but rather than go into executive session tonight he will do that by email tomorrow. The one he thinks is pressing is failed septic system 281 South Ridge Road was discussed and should be brought up under new business.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Agrafiotis stated there is a pending sale at the property located at 281 South Ridge Road in Coal Center, however the Washington County Sewage council has failed their on-lot sewage system. He stated what he has done in the past in other municipalities is we can do an escrow agreement whereby the seller directly at closing give the borough a certain sum of money to guarantee that the repairs are made rather than scrap the sale. However the sum we suggested of

\$7,000.00 was deemed not to be sufficient by the Washington County Sewage Council to rectify the problem and he asked Mr. Alfano about the update that occurred today. Mr. Alfano stated the buyer agrees to take care of it but how do we handle that if the buyer agrees to provide a new system/repairs and he thinks they were in contact with a company that does that. He stated the closing is scheduled for tomorrow so he's not sure what can be done to remedy it now. Mr. Agrafiotis stated if we get the quote the money can be escrowed and we can do an escrow agreement after the money is escrowed. Mr. Alfano stated the buyers are asking for a reduction of the selling price to cover the repair but that is not going to guarantee the repairs. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he'd like to help this transaction go through but he doesn't want the borough sticking their neck out too far that may end up in serious consequences. He stated we can conditionally approve an escrow agreement with the seller or the buyer assuming that the quoted repair price is satisfactory and the repair is satisfactory to the Washington County Sewage Council. He said the money has to come to the borough and that's the only way we can guarantee it gets done. Mr. Alfano stated he will have to let the parties involved know. Mr. Agrafiotis stated if there is an agreement worked out tomorrow between the seller and buyer and the quote is acceptable by the Sewage Council and they want to escrow us a check he thinks we can still do it without a motion by council.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

No-one wished to be recognized.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mariscotti/Difilippo to continue this meeting until Dec. 16th at 6:30 pm