

Borough of Waterford Council

Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2017

Opening

Council President Jeff Horneman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation.

Council Members Present

Jeff Horneman, Harry Latta, Judy Cline, Kevin Gardner, Garry Sargent, Tim Williams and Jeff Smith. Also in attendance Mayor Justin Blose, Solicitor Ed Betza, Dave Senger/Streets Dept. and Secretary Stacy Mattson.

Others in Attendance

Racquel Gray, Doris Becker, Steph Cox, Marvin Cross, Tim LaFlamme, Karen Horneman, Linda Petrick, Joe Petrick, Richard McGuire, Joe Petrick, Benny Hunt, Michael Pennock, Connie Wilmire, Corinne Zaffino, Carolyn Zaffino, Gary Nelson, Dan Kearick, Barbara Shields, Jessica Walburn, Vivian Pietrzak, William Pietrzak, Jim Rodenbaugh, Audrey Hamilton, Don Boehm, Detta Dahlkemper, Christa Heard Hassel, Darlene Yochim and Renee Sedgwick.

Public Comment

Gary Nelson spoke concerning a variance for zoning that they would like to pursue for a screened patio they would like to add to the American Legion. Gary stated the patio will be accessible from inside with a fire exit available. Plans were available to view and a zoning hearing board meeting will be scheduled. Ed Betza explained the process. Gary stated they have also purchased the property next door, 142 West 4th St. They would like to extend their parking lot. Many residents voiced their concerns and thoughts regarding the back-in reverse angle parking. Several business owners stated that they are losing business due to the new parking. Several residents were also concerned about pedestrians crossing the street safely. Curbs, speed limits and handicap parking were also discussed.

Minutes

Jeff Smith motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Garry Sargent seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills

Judy Cline motioned to pay the bills as presented, Kevin Gardner seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Justin Blöse discussed the fact that school is now in session and the crosswalks, sidewalks and school zones are being monitored by the State Police, noting that the complaints have been heard from residents. Justin mentioned the playground and the fact that some young individuals have been hanging out at the playground at night, being very disrespectful to neighbors and community members. Justin stated that the "No Trespassing" signs pertain to after dark only, and they are posted by the school. Justin also stated that the constable cannot serve fines on the blighted properties, and he will discuss this with Ed Betza after the meeting. Ed suggested we go directly to the District Justice, if we cannot serve them notice.

President's Report

Jeff discussed the Erie County Council meeting he attended, noting that there will be a \$5 or \$10 deed transfer tax and will be directed to the municipalities for blight control. Jeff stated we would support that and he will be contacted in October. Jeff noted that we were denied the grant for the paint for the garage. Jeff then discussed BIU and whether we will retain them as our Building Inspectors. Jeff stated we would entertain a resolution to retain them after Ed Betza reviews the contract. Ed Betza noted that we have 3 options 1) have someone in-house 2) hire out or 3) do nothing. Ed stated that doing nothing is not realistic, nor having someone in house. Ed stated that hiring out would be the only option. He stated that of all the municipalities that are his clients, and that he is aware of, all use BIU. Benny Hunt said he was in contact with a gentleman from Washington Township which uses several inspectors, at a lower price. Jeff stated that if Benny got his name and contact information, we would at least make a call. We will also check with Summit Twp. We will bring this up again next month. Jeff discussed the telephone poles and possibly putting reflectors on them, so they may be more visible. Jeff stated he also contacted the State Police for more coverage, due to aggressive drivers. Jeff discussed approaching Penndot

again to lower the speed limit. Jeff mentioned 3 letters that he received that were very positive, commending all the road work and supporting the back-in parking.

Streets

Harry mentioned the work that Dave has done in the alleys. He also mentioned the seal coating that will be done in the next couple of weeks. Harry discussed an accident that happened on Bagdad Rd., hoping to put a "Stop Ahead" sign up and possibly something on Walnut St. Harry mentioned Porter Park, and since it has been cleaned up, it has become a hang-out for the kids, with a lot of garbage. Dave is working with Waterford Township on several roads. The line painting corrections will also be done soon. Harry also mentioned that they have been maintaining the signs, etc. to make sure they are in good condition. Harry mentioned some community service people that have been working in the park.

New/Old Business

Jeff Smith questioned the green space on the north side of the park and by the hotel and in front of the church. Harry stated that there is no parking on the north side of the park and the church would like to topsoil and seed, but would like to have it posted as no parking first.

Kevin Gardner stated that he would work on communication with the public.

Jeff then stated that the back-in parking decision that was made was a difficult one. He stated that this was discussed for months, going over the pros and cons. He noted that change is always difficult, the roundabout being a prime example of that. He mentioned the young people on Council, this being a difficult position to hold. Jeff said that he has friends and neighbors that this has affected, and he feels really bad about that. But, he stated, he does stand behind the decision. He feels it was a necessary change, that the Borough has avoided this for years and years and this Council, at least, had the courage to stand up and take this move. He stated, "Is this the right move"? He does not know that for a fact, he feels in his heart that it is, but it would be some time before we know the answer to that. Jeff stated that at the last meeting it was said that we would wait a year and see what happens.

Judy Cline motioned to adjourn, Tim Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.