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

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 Blose 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.