

Williamstown Borough Meeting Minutes March 2, 2020

Williamstown Borough Council met Monday, March 2, 2020 in Council Chambers. Present were: President Dane Williard, Ron Umholtz, Mark Challenger, Jr., Brian Troup, Kenn Derr, Solicitor Joe Kerwin, Mayor Jeffrey Shuttlesworth and Secretary Lynne Daniel.

Citizens: Donald & Shayna Machamer, Rebekah Machamer, Rosemary Hoke, Steve & Michele Saltzburg, Janice Culton, Joan & Rich Bohner, Bill Miller, Dylan Keiter, Andrea Bixler and Gary Wetzel

President Dane Williard called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

Gary Wetzel questioned the hiring practices in regards to Bill Miller as far as probation periods, wages and benefits. He was told there is a year probational period and every employee receives benefits immediately upon being hired. Gary also questioned the expense of garage repairs and why weren't those plans in the minutes. He was told the plans and approval for repairs were planned a long time ago and are just getting done now. Gary questioned why the open seat on council was not advertised; he was told it had been advertised. Uninspected/unregistered vehicles on the streets was brought up. A notice has been sent to the Julian Street owner of one vehicle and Ron Umholtz will look into the other one. It was brought up that Kenn Derr has an uninspected vehicle in front of his home. Kenn apologized and said it would be taken care of. Donald Machamer brought up the nuisance of the almost daily explosions being heard in town and also the backpack/dark clothed people walking the streets at all hours of the night. Joan Bohner asked what the fine is for residents who consistently have garbage/junk on their properties. She was told the worst offenders have already been taken to the magistrate, who imposes the fines, but they still continue to have unresolved property violations. Rosemary Hoke asked if shooting bow & arrows in the borough is allowed. She was told it is not but Donald Machamer added the type of arrow involved is harmless and it is an activity for the school. It will be looked into further.

Dylan Keiter asked if it was possible to meet with council members at the borough garage during work hours. He was told anything that needs to be discussed can be done in executive session. Andrea Bixler questioned what the plans are for the playground/park area. She was told initially top soil was going to be placed in the entire area but the prices they received were pretty high. When the weather breaks they will determine where to put the soil and or grass. Andrea also asked about the condition of Hemlock Alley and all of the pot holes. She was told Liquid Fuels is the monies used for most road projects and the main roads are the first priority. Andrea also questioned how it is possible to have a council member on council with a criminal record. She was told the crime must be a felony. She personally feels the situation is giving the borough a bad name.

The Mayors report was given with \$148.07 from the District Magistrate. The Tax Collectors Report was given for \$41,272.54. Solicitor Kerwin stated the owner of the Market Street 2nd property hasn't responded to the 30-day letter he sent. Ron Umholtz reported he is filing 2 violations with the district Magistrate and a vehicle removal letter was sent to the Julian Street owner. Light & Heigle sent a notice to the owners of the building by the Historical Center. Brian Troup made a motion to approve Clean Up Day for Saturday, May 9th. Ron Umholtz 2nd the motion and all were in favor. An Executive Session was called at 8:00pm. The meeting reconvened at 8:40pm.

Ron Umholtz made a motion to pay the bills for \$8,349.34 and payroll for \$7,859.69. Mark Challenger, Jr. 2nd the motion and all were in favor. Steve Denkovich made a motion to adjourn, Kenn Derr 2nd and all were in favor.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY APRIL 6, 2020

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