

Borough of Pitcairn Council
Workshop/Business Combined Meeting
Minutes
March 8, 2021
6:00 pm

Meeting called to order – President Dona Galia
Stand for Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

John Bova
Kevin Dick
Debra Freeman
Dona Galia
Lisa Petrosky
Jim Rullo
Michael Tobias
Mayor Margaret Stevick
All Present.

Council held an Executive Session at 5:15 to discuss personnel.

Motion to approve Minutes for February 8, 2021 Council Workshop/Business Combined Meeting.

Citizen Comment on Agenda Items

Deb Marto: the lower part of Center Avenue is deteriorating. Mr. Dick: the plan is to apply for more grants to continue after first stabilizing the road and paving the upper that area. Engineer Don Black: the current construction was to stabilize the upper hillside. Paving of the road was removed from the specs in order to purchase more stabilization for the upper part which was accomplished and we are confident it won't move again. It will not need to be paved every few years as has been the case. The lower part has a little movement compared to the upper part. In his opinion, Mr. Black encouraged the Borough to apply for more grants for the lower section will be more maintenance as opposed to the road sliding out. Ms. Marto likes the new website design, asked if it was outsourced. Ms. Dietz responded: the same company, SLG Web Design, updated the site at no cost to Pitcairn for better security and ease of use on multiple digital devices.

Khristie Kimbrough introduced herself as the sister of Pastor Niecy Dennis White of the Lord's Church who had hoped to attend tonight's meeting to request playing field use, but is stuck in traffic. The project coordinator is present and prepared to give more details as requested at the last Meeting.

Mayor Betsy Stevick

Mayor Stevick reported Pitcairn Police worked 150 calls in the month of February, received \$275 in Borough fines, \$472 from Magistrate, \$27 from County, \$200 Quality of Life fines.

Personnel – Dona Galia

Mr. Bova motioned to approve request for playing fields and concession stand use by the Lord's Church and PitCare for June 6, 13, 20 and 27. Seconded by Mr. Rullo. He explained this was discussed at the prior meeting. Question on the motion: Mr. Dick brought up the stage. Mr. Bova asked if the stage is movable. Kris Kohler brought diagrams for parking, traffic flow, stage specs for Council. He said the stage is movable and can be hauled away to Gateway after each event if that is required. They would like to use the concession stand if possible. If the School District needs it to distribute school lunches and store items, they can bring tents instead. Motion carried unanimously.

Streets – Kevin Dick

Mr. Dick announced the grant funded paving of Wood and High Streets has been awarded to low bidder, Independent Enterprises for \$37,922.50.

Mr. Dick motioned to approve payment application #1 to GeoBuild, LLC, for the Hillside Avenue Slide project, in the amount of \$54,000. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick reported the Borough has an opportunity for approximately \$30,000 to be used for purchasing equipment. Jim Comunale has asked for a riding paving roller. Also mentioned was a bocce court. No match is required. Mr. Bova motioned to submit the projects as described. Seconded by Mrs. Galia; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick prefaced his motion as not being on the Agenda, to hire part time Police Officer Stefan Lawson as full time Patrolman. Seconded by Mr. Tobias. Question on the motion: Mr. Bova asked if Chief Farally and Mayor Stevick have weighed in. Mayor Stevick confirmed they have talked about it before. Mr. Bova asked Ms. Dietz if the budget could cover this. Ms. Dietz responded that Chief Farally had submitted two budget alternatives during last year's budget planning meetings. One scenario included the hire of another full time officer and the other included more part time officers. He will have to adjust the scheduling to stay within budget. Mayor Stevick said the hope is that a full time officer will stay. Mrs. Petrosky asked if he is willing to move to Pitcairn. Mr. Dick responded if he wants the job, he understands the agreement. Heather Luimes pointed out there is an Officer who already lives in the community, currently working as a part time Officer, with years of law enforcement experience. Mr. Bova: this is not necessarily the last full time hire. Roll call vote resulted in motion carrying unanimous.

Parks and Recreation – Debra Freeman

Mrs. Freeman asked the Fire Company and Camp G to contact her about Easter holiday options and staying within the current CDC guidelines. Mrs. Galia did speak with representatives of Camp G, they are planning a drive-thru breakfast, treats and picture with Easter Bunny. She encouraged Mrs. Freeman to contact them.

Finance and Economic Development – Lisa Petrosky

Mrs. Petrosky motioned to pay bills as presented. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Petrosky motioned to adopt Resolution 3-2021, authorizing participation in the grant funded Allegheny County economic development multi-year program, Allegheny Together. Seconded by Mr. Bova. Mrs. Galia asked her to explain. Mrs. Petrosky: we had a first meeting last week. They will work with Pitcairn businesses, non profits and the Planning Commission to create a plan for bringing more businesses to Pitcairn, help the business district improve. Mrs. Galia added she also attended, it is a three year commitment, we have the vision, they have the expertise and guidance to help us get there. Motion carried unanimously.

Health and Welfare – Michael Tobias

Mr. Tobias invited Code Enforcement Officer, Nick Turner to speak. Mr. Turner reported Pitcairn now has a Code Enforcement App residents can download.

Electric – Jack Bova

Mr. Bova motioned to adopt Ordinance 1042 as legally advertised, establishing specific standards relating to the location, placement, construction and maintenance of tower-based and non-tower wireless communication facilities in the Borough of Pitcairn. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bova motioned to adopt Resolution 4-2021 establishing a fee schedule for wireless communications facilities. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bova reported there was a virtual meeting with a company exploring the possibility of installing an array of solar panels on unused land possibly off Jewel Way, and we are moving forward with learning more, what it would mean for the Borough.

Mr. Bova announced that Wilmerding is reaching out to surrounding communities for police service since the agreement with the County is ending. Members of Council met to discuss basics, how much they could pay and what their expectations are. There are other communities in the Pittsburgh area that have regionalized police service or use contracted service. Mr. Bova said there is currently no commitment, only the beginning of discussions and Mr. Rullo will be making a motion under his Committee.

Public Safety – Jim Rullo

Mr. Rullo motioned to explore further with no decision yet, the request from Wilmerding Borough for contracted policing. Seconded by Mr. Bova. Roll call vote resulted in the motion passing unanimously.

Mr. Rullo motioned to authorize application for a grant to cover the cost of emergency vehicle opticons for \$14,000. No local match is required. Seconded by Mr. Dick. Question on the motion: Mr. Bova asked for more information. Tom Dick, Jr. explained that once equipped, fire or police vehicles activating this device, can change the traffic light to ‘green’ to allow them to safely proceed through the intersection. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor’s Report

Mr. Witherel had nothing to add to item already discussed during Executive Session.

Engineer’s Report

Don Black reminded Council at the end of last year, it was decided to stagger paving Center Avenue with Brinton Avenue grant funded paving this Spring. It will be inconvenient for a time; not simply an overlay but complete reconstruction, removing bricks, closing Brinton for a week. Residents will not be able to park there during that time. The goal would be to have the contractor start as soon as possible this Spring, work long hours to lessen the time. Mrs. Galia: from 6th Street to Broadway. There was discussion regarding the old paving bricks, that if anyone would like to take some they can. In the past, no one was interested until an historical railroad in the eastern part of Pennsylvania with a team of volunteers retrieved them.

Borough Manager’s Report

Ms. Dietz read the current bank fund balances and Tax Collection for February.

Mr. Turner asked Council to consider appointing Monroeville Station One as the EMS provider for Pitcairn. He said the Fire Company is in talks with Monroeville One with the goal of forming a Pitcairn QRS to assist in medical emergencies which would benefit the community. Mr. Tobias asked their location. Mr. Dick, Jr: up School Street, off Rosecrest. Mr. Rullo asked if that Station assists now. Mr. Tom Dick, Jr.: they are our ladder truck, for EMS calls Station Four is first, One comes next. Mr. Turner added, their Chief is willing to respond first. He suggested someone on Council speak with the Chief. It was decided that Mr. Rullo would follow up.

Mr. Dick motioned to adjourn at 6:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Dietz