

AUBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL – APRIL 3, 2024 MINUTES

The regular meeting of Auburn Borough Council was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Auburn Municipal Building at 451 Pearson Street.

In attendance were Council-President John Eckert, Vice-President Doug Naftzinger, and Council-members Melissa Schwenk and Liz Shaner. Also in attendance were Solicitor Stanley Burke, Engineer Chip Pohronezny, and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Fessler. Council-member Jesse Spencer was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor Megan Kimmel passed away on March 27, 2024 because of medical issues. Council-members agreed that they were sorry to lose her and she will be missed.

At this time, the meeting was called to order by President Eckert and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

March 2024 Minutes and Financial Reports

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Doug, to accept the March minutes and reports as submitted. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Melissa, to approve payment of check #16025 through #16046, as attached to the April agenda. Motion carried. The motion also includes payment of the regular April invoices after they are reviewed, approved, and signed by President Eckert or Vice-President Naftzinger. The complete April check register is included with the April minutes.

Recognition of Guests

The guests attending this meeting were: Frank Cataldi, Ron Geiger, Raymond Burkey, and Aaron Brommer.

Complaints/Complaint Forms

The secretary noted that Tom Meadows asked what is being done about his previous complaints regarding uninspected vehicles and property clean-ups.

Aaron Brommer asked why David Pancheri, 315 Market Street, is allowed to park various items on a portion of the alley behind his home. Doug said, if these items are on the borough right-of-way, the home owner should be told to move them. Chip agreed to look into the actual width of the alley and whether or not the items are on the borough portion of the street.

Aaron noted that Mr. Pancheri previously complained about him parking his truck behind his home at 308 Market Street.

Aaron said that he will continue parking his truck behind his garage because he measured the width and believes that he is off the borough right-of-way.

REPORTS

Animal Control – Kyle Schwenk

No report

Mayor

At this time, a motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Melissa, to appoint borough resident Frank Cataldi as Mayor. Motion carried. Frank is a borough resident who is also the Chairman of the Auburn Municipal Authority and has been a police officer for the past twenty years. He will serve as mayor for the remainder of Megan Kimmel's term.

Safety – Jesse Spencer

No report

APRIL 2024 MINUTES PAGE (2)

Fire & Ambulance

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Doug, to accept the reports as submitted. Motion carried. The reports are on file at the borough office.

SEO/Engineer – Chip Pohronezny

Copies of this report were distributed to council-members and the full report is on file at the borough office.

Discussions:

- The residents at 243 Orchard Street did not comply with their agreement to clean up the property after being granted a 30-day extension. A citation will be issued and filed with the District Magistrate.
- Chip agreed to look into what would be needed to repair the bridge on Deer View Drive.
- Doug will ask Terry Shaner to prepare an estimate to fix a culvert in need of repair also on Deer View Drive.

Liquid Fuels Account=\$259,429 -Truck \$96,000 Available for roads= \$153,429

-After meeting with council members, the following road repairs will be slated for the 2024 Liquid Fuels project:

- 1) Seventh Street
- 2) Fifth Street
- 3) Pine Street Gutter Repair
- 4) Front Street
- 5) Second Street Gutter Repair (alternate –will remove if over budget)

Note: Only a section of each street will be part of the road project.

Doug said he feels these streets are the worst and this project should take care of most of the street repairs in the borough.

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to approve advertising for bids for the 2024 Liquid Fuels Road Project. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Melissa, to accept this report. Motion carried

Tax Report – Marlene Naftzinger

March total collected: Real Estate=\$22,351.10 & Per Capita=\$1,078.00

The full report is on file at the borough office.

A motion was made by Melissa, 2nd by Liz, to accept this report. Motion carried.

Sanitation – Melissa Schwenk

-A total of \$3,230.00 was collected and deposited for the month of March.

-All accounts owing over \$500.00 will be sent a certified notice informing them that a lien will be placed on their property if their account is not paid in full by the end of April. It was noted that 14 notices will be sent out by the end of the week. They are the following accounts: 196 Good Family Investors, 151 Accardi, 209 Zook, 169 Yuschock, 280 Krause, 81 Miccicke, 247 Wilson, 100 Kieffer, 48 Zimmerman, 23 Hinkel, 220 Epler, 115 Webber, 299 Whitesell, and 108 Bandholz. There will be several more to be notified by certified mail with a date of May 30th to respond.

-A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to approve the purchase of a software program to keep a more thorough record of all garbage accounts. The program is through Central Square Technologies at a cost of \$1,235.00. Motion carried.

APRIL 2024 MINUTES PAGE (3)

Sanitation cont'd

This is the same program that the Municipal Authority uses. Their billing clerk, David Dries, has agreed to set it up and train Melissa on how to use it. He will be paid an hourly fee for his time.

Municipal Authority

Latest minutes and reports on file – February 2024

Streets & Roads – John Eckert

-Doug asked if the road crew would be able to remove the dead trees on Mill Street. John noted that the trees are on private property and the road crew can't go on private land.

Solicitor – Stanley Burke

-The Yuschock notice letter as discussed at a previous meeting was sent by certified mail

-The sale of the Orchard Street land is being finalized

-Nothing new reported on the appraisal of the abandoned property on Bear Creek Street

-Stan is still researching the request from Jessica Bachman regarding a private cemetery plot on her land for her family's cremation remains.

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to accept this report. Motion carried.

Blue Mt. Recreation Commission – Liz Shaner

No report

SCOG Report

No report (Doug attended but there was not enough members for a quorum)

Emergency Management – Eddie Schwenk

No report

OLD BUSINESS

--(Solicitor) Abandoned property on Bear Creek Street

--(Solicitor) Orchard Street land purchase

--Security cameras (open invoice for labor to install the system)-work not completed

--Ethics forms due May 1st (Jesse, Melissa, Stan)

--Liz agreed to help with the web page (Word Press training scheduled for May 6th)

--Council made a unanimous decision to leave the Municipal Authority members at the current five at this time. The Authority's Chairman, Frank Cataldi, said they have been operating with five members and he doesn't see a need for seven.

--Driveway maintenance letter to be prepared by the secretary (not completed)

--Clean up day May 11th, from 8 – 12 noon (Help ??)

NEW BUSINESS

--A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Melissa, to approve the purchase of a new copier for the borough office at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00. Motion carried.

--A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to approve charging a fee of \$20.00 for a number change on handicapped signs. Motion carried.

--A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to approve Aaron Brommer's request to place a handicapped personalized number sign in front of his home at 308 Market Street. Motion carried. All his information is on file at the borough office.

APRIL 2024 MINUTES PAGE (4)

New Business (cont'd)

--John asked Council-members to consider using a part of the ARPA Funds to help with the cost for roof replacement at the Scout Lodge. He said cost estimates for the roof have been coming in close to \$23,000.00 but they will be looking into getting more quotes for either shingles or metal. Discussion was tabled until more quotes are obtained.

--A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to accept a 24 month proposal from Direct Energy for the fixed price for electricity set at \$0.09978. Motion carried. This rate might have a very minimal change due to when it is actually locked in.

--Frank Cataldi said he working on setting up a CODE RED alert for the Municipal Authority as well as for the Borough if interested. He will keep council members updated with cost, details, etc.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

A work session will be held, if needed, at 6:00 p.m. before the meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Melissa, to adjourn the April 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Brenda J. Fessler
Secretary-Treasurer

