

AUBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 6, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of Auburn Borough Council was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Auburn Borough Municipal Building at 451 Pearson Street.

In attendance were; Council President John Eckert, Vice-President Doug Naftzinger, and Council-Members Jesse Spencer and Mark Wiederhold. Also present were; Engineer Chip Pohronezny, Solicitor William Burke, and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Fessler. Mayor Megan Kimmel and Council-Member Melissa Schwenk were unable to attend this meeting.

President Eckert called the meeting to order and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

November 2023 Minutes and Financial Reports

A motion was made by Mark, 2nd by Jesse, to accept the November minutes and financial reports as submitted. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Mark, to approve payment of check #15862 through #15884, as attached to the December agenda. Motion carried. This motion also includes payment of the remaining December invoices after they are reviewed, approved, and signed by the Council-President or Vice-President. The complete December check register is included with the December minutes and is on file at the office.

Recognition of Guests

The following guests attended the December meeting; John Fessler, Elizabeth Shaner, Ned Beck, Attorney Stanley Burke, and Raymond Burkey.

Ned Beck, 132 Pine Street, asked Council to look into repairing the steel plate next to his home. He said that the area, which was at one time considered an alley, keeps washing out during rain storms. Ned noted that a heavy metal plate was installed years ago but the plate was damaged and never fixed. Doug said that he can get someone to replace the plate as a temporary fix until spring.

Complaint Forms

A third complaint was received regarding non-running vehicles parked on borough streets and alleys as well as the large amount of items on the sidewalk and property at 426 Washington Street. The first complaint from this resident was received on July 27th.

Jesse offered to contact the Pa State Police regarding the vehicles and the owner of 426 Washington Street will be notified of the complaint.

Animal Control – Kyle Schwenk

No report

Mayor's Report – Megan Kimmel

No report

Safety Report – Jesse Spencer

No report

Fire & Ambulance Report

No reports

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SEO/Engineer's Report – Chip Pohronezny

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

Discussions:

Chip noted that his office also received a complaint regarding a sewer pipe problem at 243 Orchard Street. He said that the matter has been taken care of but it was noted that there is no cap on the repaired pipe. The owner will be notified of this issue.

A motion was made by Mark, 2nd by Jesse, to accept this report. Motion carried.

Tax Collector – Marlene Naftzinger

A total of \$265.45 was collected and deposited in real estate tax receipts and a total of \$44.00 in per capita tax was also collected and deposited for the month of November.

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

Sanitation Clerk – Melissa Schwenk

A total of \$11,310.00 was collected and deposited in garbage receipts for the month of November.

Discussions:

John noted that the last full report received with a list of delinquent accounts was in February 2023. Doug said that these reports should be submitted every month and asked the secretary to contact Melissa to let her know that her reports need to be on a monthly basis from now on.

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

Municipal Authority

Latest minutes and reports on file – September 2023

Streets & Roads – John Eckert

In the past month the road crew has been cleaning out storm drains, collecting leaves with the leaf vacuum, preparing the trucks for the upcoming winter, and regular routine work.

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

Solicitor – Bill Burke

There was nothing new to report regarding the purchase of the lot on Orchard Street and the pending appraisal of the abandoned property on Bear Creek Street.

Bill then noted that he has submitted his resignation, with extreme regret, as the borough's solicitor. He said he was recently elected Judge of the Schuylkill County Court of Common Pleas on November 7th and cannot serve as solicitor to any municipality. He thanked council for giving him the opportunity to serve the borough for the past twenty-two years.

He also introduced Attorney Stanley Burke and said that he is willing to accept the position as the borough's solicitor at the same retainer and service fees. He was told that an appointment will be made at the January 2024 reorganizational meeting.

A motion was made by Mark, 2nd by Jesse, to accept Solicitor Burke's resignation. Motion carried.

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

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Parks & Recreation – Mark Wiederhold

Blue Mt. Recreation Commission's October minutes and financial reports are on file at the borough office.

A motion was made by Mark, 2nd by Jesse, to re-appoint borough resident Frank Cataldi to a four year term on the commission's board. Motion carried.

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

SCOG Report

No report

Emergency Management – Eddie Schwenk

No report

Old Business

- a) Abandoned property on Bear Creek Street
- b) Land purchase on Orchard Street
- c) Historical society item values for insurance purposes
- d) Spring road projects-swale at 4th & Market St. / curb repairs next to 132 Pine St.
- e) Invoice from Brandon Frye for the installation of new security cameras.
- f) A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Doug, approving the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado with a snow plow package. The total purchase price as submitted by Whitmoyer Buick-Chevrolet, Inc. from Mount Joy, Pa, is \$96,000.00. Motion carried. It was also unanimously agreed that this equipment purchase will be paid entirely through the borough's liquid fuels account rather than partially through the general fund as previously discussed. The full specifications for this truck are on file at the borough office. A delivery date is expected sometime in the spring of 2024.

New Business

- a) A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Mark, approving the 2024 budget and real estate tax resolution, keeping the 2024 tax rate set at 8.5 mills. Motion carried.
- b) A motion was made by Mark, 2nd by Jesse, to approve the 2024 meeting dates as submitted. The dates will be advertised in the Republican Herald.
- c) The next meeting will be the scheduled reorganizational meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., with the regular meeting immediately following.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Jesse, to adjourn the December 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Brenda J. Fessler
Secretary-Treasurer

