

AUBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL
JULY 3, 2024 MINUTES

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

In attendance were: President John Eckert, Vice-President Doug Naftzinger, and Council-members Jesse Spencer, Melissa Schwenk, and Liz Shaner. Also in attendance were: Solicitor Stan Burke, Engineer Chip Pohronezny, and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Fessler.

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

June 2024 Minutes and Financial Reports

Motion made by Doug, 2nd by Melissa, to accept the June minutes and reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Approval to Pay Bills

Motion made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to approve payment of check #16178 through #16198, as attached to the July agenda. Motion carried. This motion also includes payment of the regular monthly July invoices after they are reviewed, approved, and signed by President Eckert or Vice-President Naftzinger. The complete July check register is included with council's July minutes and is on file at the Borough Office.

Recognition of Guests

The guests attending this meeting were Aaron Brommer and John Fessler. They had nothing to discuss at this time.

Complaints/Complaint Forms

Nothing submitted

REPORTS

Animal Control – Kyle Schwenk

No report

Mayor – Frank Cataldi

--Mayor Cataldi informed council that he has the authority to enforce the borough ordinances regarding vehicles parked on streets with expired inspection stickers, illegally parked vehicles, abandoned cars, etc. Offenders will be given a 30 day notice to take care of the problem or they will be towed. John will be ordering the fluorescent stickers to post on the vehicles. The Mayor was asked to begin enforcing the high grass, weeds, and debris ordinances as there are many properties in violation.

--The mayor noted that the Code Red system is currently up and running.

--He also reported that the junior firefighters recently painted all the fire hydrants around the borough.

--Frank agreed to look into the status of the citation filed by SDE regarding the property at 243 Orchard Street.

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

Safety – Jesse Spencer

No report

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Fire & Ambulance

Motion made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to accept the report as submitted. Motion carried. The full report is available for view at the borough office.

SEO/Engineer – Chip Pohronezny

--A pre-construction meeting regarding the 2024 road project has been scheduled. Doug agreed to attend the meeting along with Chip.

--Council was reminded that the warranty period with the 2023 road project will expire on September 7, 2024.

--The mayor will follow up with the citation at 243 Orchard Street

Motion made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to accept this report. Motion carried. A full copy of this report is on file at the Borough Office.

Tax Collector – Marlene Naftzinger

--June totals: Real Estate=\$2,676.37 Per Capita=\$140.00

Motion made by Doug, 2nd by Jesse, to accept the report as submitted. Motion carried. The full detailed report is on file at the Borough Office.

Sanitation – Melissa Schwenk

--June total collected = \$2,545.00

--(3) accounts, (#151, #196, and #169) were submitted to the Solicitor to begin the lien process. The next group of delinquent accounts will be sent certified mail notices this month and will be discussed at the August meeting.

--Melissa is still working on setting up the new billing system

--An issue regarding a past due balance with account #108 was discussed. Solicitor Burke agreed to send him an official letter regarding the balance.

Motion made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to accept this report. Motion carried.

Municipal Authority

All minutes on file up to May 2024

Streets & Roads – John Eckert

--Bridge repairs at Deer View Drive have been completed

--The old dump truck is in need of some repairs. (to be discussed)

--Doug Dalton agreed to come back with his bucket truck to trim trees in the upcoming months

--No news on delivery of the new truck

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

Solicitor – Stanley Burke

--The paperwork for the sale of the land should be finalized by the end of summer

--An appraiser for the abandoned property on Bear Creek Street has been retained

--Stan agreed to obtain information on the collection services offered by Portnoff and Associates.

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

Blue Mt. Recreation Commission – Liz Shaner

--The minutes and financials from May are available for view at the borough office

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Blue Mt. Rec. Comm. (cont'd)

--Liz noted that she may have found a citizen willing to serve on the board and will update at the next meeting

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

SCOG

Next meeting on September 11th, @ 7 p.m., at Deer Lake Borough Hall

Emergency Management – Eddie Schwenk

No report

OLD BUSINESS

--*Solicitor* – Land purchase – Abandoned property on Bear Creek Street

--Security system was to be completed by the end of June but not finished as of this meeting date (still have an open invoice for the installation)

--Ethics form due from Solicitor Burke

--Doug was quoted a price of \$3,500.00 from S & S for the repair work on the Deer View Drive storm drain and the Bear Creek Street drain pipe. Motion made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to accept the quote of \$3,500.00. Motion carried.

--Still need to draw up an inter-municipal agreement with the Municipal Authority with regard to their use of the Borough's backhoe as discussed at the June meeting

--Frank reported that he will be applying for a grant on the borough's behalf for the purchase of a small Kubota tractor with a backhoe

NEW BUSINESS

--The 2021 through 2023 Fire Relief is complete and on file at the borough office

--A certified letter was received from Comcast regarding the commencement of the franchise renewal process in the borough. A meeting with a representative will be set by Comcast to discuss a renewal agreement.

--John reported that the open pavillion at the Memorial Park had some structural damage after a recent storm and may need to be replaced.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 7 p.m. A work session will be held, if needed, at 6 p.m. before the meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Jesse, to adjourn the July 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Brenda J. Fessler
Secretary-Treasurer

