

SLIPPERY ROCK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Slippery Rock Borough Office, 306 E. Water Street, Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1170
Council Workshop Meeting Minutes for **Tuesday February 2, 2021** from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

President Karl called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Mayor Longo led the Council members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Shawn Pugh performed the roll call. Those present: Russ Karl, Ronald Steele, Gene Allison, Jeff Campbell, Lauren Christmann, Royce Lorentz, Denton Zeronas, Mayor Jondavid Longo, Borough Manager Shawn Pugh, Solicitor Rebecca Black

Citizen Input for Agenda Items Only:

David Hogg (Plain Grove Paving): Mr. Hogg stated that the project that was awarded to Plain Grove paving required more time and material than what was originally accounted for. Plain Grove Paving is requesting that the Boro pay the overage charge. The amount requested is \$4,463.00. A change order had been turned in after the project was completed. Russ Karl requested that Plain Grove Paving put the reason for the overages and the amount in writing and submit it to the Boro Manager. Rebecca Black stated that the Council is bound by Liquid Fuels Expenditure guidelines and must be fair to the other bidder who was outbid by Plain Grove Paving. After hearing Mr. Hogg's explanation and reviewing the numbers, Rebecca Black determined that it is likely that the other bidding company would have had the same issue with overages. Jeff Campbell asked why the change order was not submitted and approved before the project was complete. Mr. Hogg stated that he had made James Grossman aware of the situation and was under the impression that it was approved. Royce Lorentz asked that Plain Grove submit the amount and explanation and that Council will be able to discuss it after having all the information available.

Reports:

Mayor Longo: None

Lauren Christmann: None

Gene Allison: Mr. Allison stated that the Street Department has done a good job with the snow-removal in the Boro.

Jeff Campbell: Jeff echoed Mr. Allison in congratulating the Boro Street Department on doing a good job with the snow-removal in the Boro. He added that once the weather breaks, Council will need to look at what streets need attention in 2021. He stated that when the weather does get better, he will look more closely at the electrical issues in Memorial Park. He will also look at the electricity at the waterfall on the corner of Elm Street and New Castle Street.

Denton Zeronas: None

Royce Lorentz: Mr. Lorentz reported that the curbs on Main Street are crumbling in some places. He asked if that is a Penn Dot concern or the Borough's responsibility. Shawn Pugh stated that he will inquire about it.

Ron Steele: Mr. Steele reported that the Photocells have been installed and the streetlights are working properly. The Boro is awaiting the inspection to finalize the project. Ron asked Shawn Pugh about the grant for Memorial Park. Shawn stated that he will address the Grant with Council in the discussion items.

Russ Karl: President Karl stated that the Borough has acquired FLEET status. This will aid in purchasing vehicles for the Police Department. He added that the Capital Purchases that need completed will have to wait until the Boro receives reimbursement for the ARLE Grant. The last bill has been paid to Bronder and the total has been submitted. The Boro expects the reimbursement within the next 60 days.

Borough Updates:

Streetlights: Bronder replaced the Photocells in the streetlights and they are now working properly.

Police Taurus at IBIs Tech: The Taurus (Police vehicle) is at IBIS Tech. There was a connection issue. It has been fixed. The total cost is \$40.

Financial/Ethical Statements: Shawn Pugh addressed the Council stating that if they had not turned in their statements that they are to turn them in.

Police Explorer: The Explorer is at Chuck Glenn. There was a problem with the radiator. It is expected to be fixed and back in working condition this week.

Discussion Items:

Burning Ordinance: Christian Laskey attended the meeting to discuss the Burning Ordinance in the Borough. Rebecca Black stated that the Borough should check with the Department of Environmental Protection for their guidelines regarding burning within the Borough. Russ Karl stated that the Borough is diverse with some living close to neighbors and some having more land. He added that the requirements such as having adult supervision and a water source present while the fire is burning is too restrictive. Russ stated that the discussion will continue after learning of the DEP guidelines. Ron Steele stated that Council should leave the ordinance the way it is. Denton Zeronas agreed that the Borough will need to check with the DEP guidelines and move forward accordingly without being too restrictive on Boro residents regarding recreational fires. Royce Lorentz stated that recreational fires have become more popular in recent years. His concern is that recreation fires tend to run late into the evening which could cause noise and smoke that may affect neighbors who have their windows open in the summer months. Rebecca Black added that Burning Ordinances are hard to enforce.

Slippery Rock Development is requesting permission to utilize the gazebo and Gateway Parking lot on Saturdays from May 15 through October 23, 8:00am to 12:30pm for the Slippery Rock Community Farmer's Market and Maker's Market: This has been moved to next week's agenda for vote.

Dave Yednak, Dave Haraburda and Jeff Campbell's terms on the Planning Commission are up. All three have indicated they would like to serve another term: This has been moved to next week's agenda for vote.

Yearly Minimal Municipal Obligation Ordinance: This has been moved to next week's agenda for vote.

Heating with coal furnaces within Slippery Rock Borough: Ron Steele stated that the Borough cannot tell people how to heat their homes. Rebecca Black added that due to there being only one building in the Boro heating with coal and the unlikely event that a new build would require a coal burning furnace, it would not be worth the expense to change the ordinance regarding heating with coal in the Boro.

First National Bank vacant lot: There was a discussion regarding what to do with the vacant lot on Main Street. Ron Steele would like to see the lot stay a green space. Most of the Council members would like to sell the lot to get out of the debt, add to the tax roll and gain revenue by selling it to a developer or business. Royce Lorentz distributed a collection of ideas and would

like to see the space used for both revenue and a green space. Denton Zeronas, Jeff Campbell, Gene Allison, Lauren Christmann and Russ Karl would like to sell the lot while maintaining ownership of the parking lot. It has been moved to next week's agenda for vote at Ron Steele's objection.

Memorial Park Electric Grant: There was a discussion deciding to put forth a resolution to apply for the grant. The grant will pay for \$11,072.94 to fix the electrical issue in Memorial Park. If awarded, the remaining cost to the borough will be \$3,572.94. The grant must be applied for before February 18, 2021. It has been moved to next week's agenda for vote.

Citizen Input: None

Council Person's Remarks:

Gene Allison asked if the sign ordinance extended to windows of a resident's home. Rebecca Black stated that signs are permitted in resident's windows. The Sign Ordinance regulates all signs, political or otherwise on property. Temporary signs are permitted but must be taken down 7 days after the event. He also asked about enforcing sidewalk snow removal. Christian Laskey stated that he allows 24 hours after snowfall to have the snow removed from sidewalks. After 24 hours, he will deliver a notice. Jeff Campbell suggested putting a reminder on the Borough website.

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, and with Mr. Karl reporting that Council would not be returning from an Executive Session, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Royce Lorentz presented the motion and Lauren Christmann provided the second. The motion passed unanimously at 8:30pm.