

FLEETWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Date: July 12, 2021 – In-person meeting, held in Café

Roll Call:

Suzanne Pittella Touch

Pete Merkel

Jim Meals

Mark Watkins (Call-In)

Ralph Touch

Colin Boyer

John Rothenberger

Tammy Gore, Mayor

Chris Young, Borough Manager

Doreen O'Neil, Recording Secretary

Andy George, Esq.

Craig Conrad, Public Works Director

Robert Weidner, Highway Commissioner

Steve Stinsky, Police Chief

Also Present:

John Manmiller, Fleetwood Fire Company Chief

Ryan Kern, Barry Isett & Associates

_____, Reading Eagle

_____, Patriot

The borough council meeting was held at 110 West Arch Street, in the cafeteria to allow for social distancing as needed. President Suzanne Touch called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Recording of Borough Meeting

A public notice sign was posted at the cafeteria entrance to notify attendees that the Fleetwood Borough Council meeting was possibly being recorded.

Following roll-call, Doreen O'Neil asked if anyone would be recording the meeting tonight. Colin Boyer stated he would be recording with audio and video. Chris Young stated that he would be recording with audio for borough purpose only.

Police Department

Chief Stinsky provided overview to Council of the June 2021 police report as per attached.

Part-time Officer

Chief Stinsky stated that Brandon Kendall is an officer for Kutztown University and is looking to also join the Fleetwood Police Department. Following the approved motion to hire Brandon, Mayor Gore swore in officer Brandon Kendall. Motion to hire Brandon Kendall as a part-time police officer for the Fleetwood Police Department.

Made by: Colin Boyer

Seconded by: Ralph Touch

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Maxatawny Township Meeting

Chief Stinsky reported that Maxatawny Township has approached the Fleetwood Police to provide part-time coverage for their township. Chris Young prepared report of costs for police coverage in Maxatawny Township. Maxatawny supervisors will be discussing this at their June 28th public meeting and take a vote. If the vote passes, they would be looking for target date of January 2022. This will allow time to hire officers and get a car equipped. Chief noted that Maxatawny Township is similar in size to Richmond Township (approx. 26sq miles).

Ruscombmanor Township

Chief Stinsky noted that the end of 2022 will end the 3-year contract with Ruscombmanor Township for part-time police coverage. Chief will be meeting with the township to get feedback and discuss renewal of contract or if they want any changes.

Traffic Light at Railroad Tracks

Pete Merkel questioned Chief Stinsky if the traffic light is doing the job that PennDOT wanted to resolve. Chief noted that yes it is doing what PennDOT intended.

Large Vehicle Ordinance

Mayor Gore mentioned that she, Ralph, John, Mark and Chief are meeting to discuss and bring back suggestions to Council at the August meeting.

Barry Isett & Associates (BIA)

BIA Report

Ryan Kern was not in attendance. Chris Young mentioned that the BIA report was emailed out to Council. (See attached)

Guests: See attached list.

2 East Locust Street

Representatives from Heights Advisors, Brooklyn, NY were in attendance. They had met with Chris Young, Pete Merkel and others earlier regarding the building at 2 East Locust Street. Their business is to rehabilitate properties. They have done work in Brooklyn, NY, Philadelphia PA, and have some projects in Reading, PA. Council was provided drawings of the proposed plan for this building. The proposed plan is to have 111-units that are 1 or 2 bedrooms or studios. The proposed plan is to have 91-units in the old Fleetwood Auto Body building and 20-units in the building at the corner of South Franklin and East Locust Street. There would be 3-retail units on the ground floor. If approved, the closing date would be August/September. They would expect to have occupancy available in 24-36 months once the project is started. They plan to shop locally for contractors/suppliers. A guest who is on the Authority questioned if any calculations were provided regarding water and sewer hook-ups. It was noted that this will be discussed at next week's Authority meeting.

Chris Young noted two items:

- 1) Caution regarding parking. This property would require 200 parking spaces. The lot on the East side of Franklin Street along Locust Street would allow for 105 spaces, they would need to come to the borough for leasing additional spaces on the Tannery Lot.
- 2) Land Development Plan – Chris reminded Council of other recent apartment units that Mark Koch had represented, and the borough had waived the Land Development Plan, since there were no changes to the land. The land that comes with this property at 2 East Locust Street is not being re-developed.

Motion to waive the Land Development Plan based on the contingency of the site plan approval

Made by: Pete Merkel

Seconded by: Ralph Touch

X Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Legal – Andrew George, Esq.

Sunshine Act Amendment

Andy George reported that the Sunshine Act was amended related to Council meetings and was signed into law June 30, 2021 with an effective date of August 30, 2021. Some of the new requirements are that the agenda must be posted on the borough website 24-hours prior to meeting, and if new issues come up after the agenda is posted, they can be discussed/addressed at the meeting under certain circumstances. The amendments also apply to the Authority.

Park/Pool

Mark Watkins mentioned that the estimated cost for a new band shell and covering over the seating area is approximate \$600,000. The thought of receiving a \$300,000 grant is not going to happen. A grant for \$200,000 may be approved, which would leave the borough having to cover the \$400,000. Mark noted that if change the scope of the project to be just the band shell and bridge (at pavilion #1) would be estimated at \$400,000. If the DCNR grant for \$200,000 is approved, that would leave a cost of \$200,000 to the borough.

Motion to amend the project scope for the DCNR Grant to be for the band shell and bridge. The covering over the seating area would be excluded from the grant application.

Made by: Mark Watkins

Seconded by: Ralph Touch

X Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Water/Sewer

Pete Merkel mentioned that it was previously discussed to raise the water rates in August 2021 and August 2022 to help with the PennVest loan for the water project. Since the water project is being delayed, the plan is to not raise the water rates in August 2021. The new plan would be to raise the rates August 2022 and August 2023. The water funds would cover cost until the loan would take effect. The Authority had passed a resolution to raise the water rates in August 2021. It was decided to discuss the water rate increase at the February 2022 council meeting.

Borough Managers Report – Chris Young

Budget Status

Chris provided documents to Council via email prior to tonight's meeting.

ARPA Funds (America Rescue Plan Act)

Chris provided update of the ARPA Funds. These funds are to cover losses from COVID. The borough is expected to receive approximately \$450,000. The first wave of funds has been received; \$214,781 has been deposited in a separate account. These funds are to be used for infrastructure (water/sewer) and the current water project. The money must be allocated by 2024 and used by 2026. Suzanne Touch asked if this money could be put into an interest bearing account, answer is unknown, but will look into it.

Main Street Fair

The Main Street Fair is scheduled for October 2, 2021 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. They are looking to have West Main Street closed between Franklin Street and Richmond Street during this time frame. Chris mentioned that Chief Stinsky is aware of this request and will prepare the resolution/permit to be submitted to PennDOT.

Motion to authorize Chief Stinsky to prepare the resolution/permit and submit to PennDOT.

Made by: Ralph Touch

Seconded by: Jim Meals

X Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Public Works – Craig Conrad

Craig reported that Public Works has been busy. The paving projects are done, the water project should resume soon as pipes have now been delivered, and the pool fence has been repaired. Craig had participated in one of the Library program with reading a book to the group, Christine Mildner (BIA) and Mrs. Neiman (Fleetwood Science Teacher) also contributed to the program regarding water supply.

Hunting at Watershed

Craig Conrad did not have a chance to talk to the Game Commission yet; but it is up to Council what they want to permit/allow. Russell Anderson had provided an outline of ideas; this document was distributed to Council via email prior to the meeting (see attached).

Items mentioned/discussed:

- Craig mentioned that if no hunting is allowed and it becomes a problem with deer population, may need to bring people in to reduce the herd
- Archery season starts the end of Sept. 2021 and goes to end of year
- Concern of the danger of firearms/muzzleloaders in this area where people walk the trails and houses that surround the watershed property
- Possibly allow 6-8 people for archery season
- Craig noted there is a resident whose property backs up against the watershed property and in the past this resident has gotten a permit to hunt on the property. This resident is willing to help post signage, etc.
- Suzanne suggested that it may benefit to post the rules on website and also post signs as a reminder to those entering the watershed property as to what the hunting rules are and the dates of the hunting season.
- It was mentioned that recently there was a press release in the Reading Eagle regarding the hunting rules for Nolde Forest. We could do something like this as well.
- Craig Conrad will compile a list of rules and allowing 6-8 archery hunters on the property. These rules would be discussed at the August 2021 council meeting.

America 250th

Mayor Gore discussed that the America 250th anniversary (sestercentennial) will be in 2026. In 2018 a plan was put in action for America's 250th, the commission signed a resolution and is asking borough municipalities to sign and join the program. Fleetwood will be celebrating their 150th anniversary (sesquicentennial) in 2023 and this would be a lead-in to America 250th in 2026. Mayor Gore mentioned developing programs for 2026; one possibility would be to nominate a service member to represent Fleetwood and be recognized. Chris Young suggested she send information to the Fleetwood American Legion to review.

Motion to authorize Mayor Tammy Gore to sign the America 250th resolution

Made by: Jim Meals

Seconded by: Ralph Touch

X Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Bills

Current Month – July 12th

Motion to pay the current month – July 12, 2021 bills.

Made by: Pete Merkel

Seconded by: Ralph Touch

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Ratify Bills Paid June 28th

Motion to ratify the bills paid on June 28, 2021.

Made by: Ralph Touch

Seconded by: Jim Meals

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Minutes

Motion to approve the June 14, 2021 borough Council meeting minutes.

Made by: Ralph Touch

Seconded by: Jim Meals

Colin Boyer - Abstain

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:06pm.

Made by: Ralph Touch

Seconded by: Jim Meals

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Submitted by:

Doreen O'Neil, Borough Recording Secretary