

FLEETWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP

**Date: April 11, 2022 – In-person meeting, held in Café
Council meeting is recorded and posted on website after meeting**

Roll Call:

Suzanne Pittella Touch

Pete Merkel

Jim Meals

Mark Watkins – virtual

Ralph Touch

Colin Boyer

John Rothenberger

Tammy Gore, Mayor - virtual

Chris Young, Borough Manager

Doreen O'Neil, Recording Secretary

Andrew George, Esq.

Also Present:

Dale Ulshafer, Police Chief

Craig Conrad, Public Works Director

Robert Weidner, Highway Commissioner

John Manmiller, Fleetwood Fire Company Chief

Ryan Kern, Barry Isett & Associates

The borough council meeting was held at 110 West Arch Street, in the cafeteria. Vice-president Pete Merkel called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

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.

Police Department

Chief Ulshafer provided overview to Council of the March 2022 police report.

Chief provided update on the following:

- Body cams have been ordered
- Officers participated in the bike event held at St. Paul's UCC this past weekend
- Planning has started for a community event on June 12th

Discussions regarding the multiple occurrences of vandalism and arson in the restroom facilities at the Fleetwood Park. Security cameras are installed at the park. The photos from cameras have been helpful in identifying the individuals. Discussion about keeping bathrooms locked all the time except when events are occurring, and instead get port-a-potties. There was mention with the onset of nicer weather and more families, children in the park unfair to the public to have them locked all the time. It was mentioned that the police officers lock the bathrooms around dusk and unlocked around 7am.. Chief Ulshafer noted that the police are doing checks and documenting. Chief explained when there is an incident, video is reviewed and once vandals are identified, they are charged. It was recommended that the park committee check with other communities to see they do in there parks, evaluate and pose ideas to Council of possible ways to prevent future vandalism.

Barry Isett & Associates (BIA)

BIA Report

Attendance of a BIA representative is on an as-needed basis for borough council meetings. The BIA Engineer report was emailed to Council members prior to tonight's meeting. If there is a need to have an engineer present at meeting, Chris Young should be notified to schedule them to be in attendance.

Arro

There was no report received.

Guests: See attached list.

Eagle Scout Project

Logan Detwiler from Troop 183 presented his Eagle Scout project to Council. The project is at the triangle park at Fleetwood Avenue and Beech Street. Refer to attached documentation regarding the project.

Chris Young had met with Mr. Detwiler and Logan to review the three phases of the project.

- Add flower bed, plantings, and mulch at the Fleetwood sign
- Add dog waste bag station (waste bag distribution)
- Replace benches with new pressure treated lumber with Behr sealer and clean existing concrete sides of benches

Logan stated the estimated cost is \$968. Once the plan is approved, he will look for donations from flower greenhouses, Home Depot, Lowes, Weavers, and family will also help with donations. Logan asked Council if the borough would be willing to contribute to the project. There was discussion regarding mulching and maintenance in future. It was mentioned that the mulching would be done on a yearly basis and included in the borough's mulch plan. There were questions regarding maintenance of the flower bed. Logan explained that the mulch would be tapered to the border/grass line. This would allow the mower to cut grass along the edge and eliminate need for weed whacking. Chris Young suggested that possibly the scout troop could adopt the flower bed and they would be responsible for pruning and general care of the plants.

Jim Meals mentioned that Logan could contact the Fleetwood Lions Club for a donation towards his project.

Motion to set aside funds up to \$500 for Logan Detwiler's Eagle Scout project.

Made by: Jim Meals

Seconded by: John Rothenberger

 X **Motion Carried**

 Motion Failed

Water / Sewer Committee

Solar Panels at Sewer Plant

Seth and Dave from Solar Renewable Energy, LLC gave a presentation of the solar project proposed for the ground area at the sewer plant. There would be approximately 2448 panels at a 20° tilt, with the lowest part of panel being 3' off the ground. This will allow ample space for mowing under the panels. The price of this project includes fencing around the panels. The panels would be 40' off the road to meet Richmond Township's ordinance. Dave and Seth reviewed the net-metering PA policy and the virtual net-metering. The Fleetwood Borough would have a contract with Met-Ed stating that Met-Ed will buy back, along with a contract for net-metering rider. Discussion of scenarios, options, and cash flow. Solar Renewable Energy encourages the borough to purchase the system after 6 years. The solar panels are warranted for 30 years for generating power. The inverters that convert DC to AC have a 20 year warranty; in year 21 they built in replacement of all inverters.

The solar project would supply electric for 85% of the borough (24 borough electric accounts). It was mentioned that the solar would not include street lights. There is no meter for the streetlights, the borough pays per light and cannot be compensated for streetlights. The lease payments are less and there would be a savings of \$50,000 for the first 5 years versus the borough paying their regular electric bill. The solar project requires the borough to carry property damage/loss insurance for replacement value of system. Suzanne Touch questioned if the borough can get this insurance if they don't actually own the solar panel system. Chris Young will check on cost of insurance and how it can be added to the borough policy.

It was questioned if this project could support car charging stations. Seth said they don't yet, but are looking at how this may work.

It was mentioned this may go through the permit phase and Richmond Township may come back with exceptions/changes.

Andy George, Esq. mentioned he reviewed the contract and it's ok. George Ayrton stated the Authority has given their okay for the borough to pursue this project. The question was asked to Dave and Seth that if the borough would engage in contract and go for the permit and it does not pass, what the cost to the borough is. They said there would be no cost except that of the solicitor.

Motion to move forward with the solar panel project at the sewer plant with Solar Renewable Energy, LLC.

Made by: Pete Merkel

Seconded by: Mark Watkins

Opposed: Colin Boyer – He noted this could be a good project, but doesn't want to tie hands of Council in future years.

 X **Motion Carried**

 Motion Failed

Chris will check with insurance company and notify Dave/Seth of findings. Dave/Seth will work on getting permits. Craig Conrad mentioned he notified the farmer that he can no longer plant this field area. Seth mentioned the earliest this project would be started is October/November 2022. The project would be done in a year from the time of contract signing and permit approvals.

Borough Managers Report – Chris Young

Bridge / Band Shell

Chris provided update that the pedestrian bridge and the band shell have been ordered. It we are lucky, it's possible the pedestrian bridge may be installed by the carnival in July. This is dependent on the bids coming in for the prep work to install bridge and the timeline.

Locust Street Parking at Apartments

Chris met with Ryan Kern (BIA) the other week to see if a traffic study is needed. Currently there is parking allowed on both sides of West Locust. With the building being converted to apartments and retail (first floor), there are safety concerns. Chris asked Council if they want to eliminate parking on both sides of the West Locust Street for that block. There was discussion of looking to have some handicap parking spaces on one side and a drop-off/ unloading zone in front of building. Council asked Chris to work with Ryan (BIA) on what's allowed, dimensions, and recommendations. Chris mentioned the small set of apartments at 2 East Locust Street should be done by end of 2022.

West Cedar Street Sub-Division

Chris stated there is a sub-division on West Cedar Street right behind the church that was converted into apartments. The owner of the church/apartment building is purchasing two homes on West Cedar Street to refurbish and sub-divide. Chris noted if you look at maps, it shows Cedar Street connecting to South Chestnut Street that is currently undeveloped. The request from the owner is a waiver that if Chestnut Street is ever opened/developed to connect to West Cedar Street, he does not want to be responsible for it. The other option is that council agrees to eliminate the unopened South Chestnut Street between West Poplar Street and West Jackson Street from the map. Russell Anderson noted that if Council grants the waiver request, it is the least expensive option to the borough. Otherwise would need to be surveyed and re-write deeds which could get expensive. It was also mentioned that it's doubtful that South Chestnut in this area would ever be opened/developed since it would be in a flood plain along the Willow Creek.

Motion to grant waiver to Don Fister that if South Chestnut Street is ever developed to West Cedar Street, he is not responsible for it.

Made by: Colin Boyer

X Motion Carried

Seconded by: Jim Meals

Motion Failed

Traffic Light at Railroad Tracks

Pete Merkel reviewed the correspondence that had occurred between Fleetwood resident and PennDOT. PennDOT's response alluded to the fact that the borough owned the light and would be responsible for maintenance. This response was posted on social media and now residents are calling the borough about the light. Chris Young had contacted PennDOT to clarify. The result was that the borough owns the light, but PennDOT requires it; there is nothing the borough can do about the light.

Collective Bargaining Team

Suzanne Touch stated it is time for the police contract negotiations which normally is done by Suzanne and Chris Young. She and Chris will work on this together.

Memorial Day Parade

Suzanne Touch mentioned that the Fleetwood Legion sent letter to borough regarding the plans and parade route for Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 30th.

Motion to approve the parade route.

Made by: John Rothenberger

X Motion Carried

Seconded by: Jim Meals

Motion Failed

Budget Packet

Chris mentioned that he included the budget packet in the email to Council. If anyone has questions let him know.

Public Works – Craig Conrad

The Public Works report was emailed to Council members prior to tonight's meeting.

Craig mentioned that he had gotten some milling quotes for the paving season and due to the high fuel costs, etc, all the costs have come in over the quote threshold. Craig stated he may come back next month asking to advertise those bidding quotes. This may push back the paving schedule a month or so, but not a big deal.

Suzanne inquired if any plans for painting curbs, some of the yellow painting is worn and faded. Craig mentioned he has a contract with Berks County for painting stop bars and R/R crossings. Craig mentioned the borough does not have a machine to paint curbs, but in the past he had borrowed one, so that may be an option.

Bills

Current Month – April 11th

Motion to pay the current month – April 11, 2022 bills.

Made by: John Rothenberger

Seconded by: Jim Meals

X Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Ratify Bills Paid March 28th

Motion to ratify the bills paid on March 28, 2022.

Made by: John Rothenberger

Seconded by: Jim Meals

X Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Minutes

Motion to approve the March 14, 2022 borough Council meeting minutes.

Made by: Pete Merkel

Seconded by: Mark Watkins

X Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:24pm.

Made by: John Rothenberger

Seconded by: Jim Meals

X Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Submitted by:

Doreen O’Neil, Borough Recording Secretary