

FLEETWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP

**Date: September 11, 2023 – 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
 Ralph Touch
 Colin Boyer
 John Rothenberger

Tammy Gore, Mayor
 Chris Young, Borough Manager
 Doreen O'Neil, Recording Secretary
 Julia Adams, Esq.
 Tom Focht, Police Sergeant
 Craig Conrad, Public Works Director
 Other

Also Present:

John Manmiller, Fleetwood Fire Company Chief
 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 6:30pm.

Recording of Borough Meeting

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

Agenda

Motion to amend agenda for September 11, 2023 meeting

Made by: John Rothenberger **Seconded by: Colin Boyer**
 Motion Carried Motion Failed

Motion to amend agenda for additional line item 8F – Local Share Agreement (LSA) for Tribute Park

Made by: John Rothenberger **Seconded by: Colin Boyer**
 Motion Carried Motion Failed

Motion to amend agenda a second time for September 11, 2023 meeting

Made by: John Rothenberger **Seconded by: Mark Watkins**
 Motion Carried Motion Failed

Motion to amend agenda for additional line item 9B – Approve demo of water shed at reservoir

Made by: John Rothenberger **Seconded by: Mark Watkins**
 Motion Carried Motion Failed

Police Department

Sergeant Focht reviewed the police report for August 2023 that was distributed to Council prior to meeting.

Sergeant Focht provided update on the following

- PennDOT has approved the closure of Main Street (between Richmond St. and Franklin St) for the Main Street Fair and additional closure of 662 for Fleetwood's 150th anniversary parade on Saturday, September 30, 2023.
- Discussion of keeping the old 2017 Ford Explorer and getting it outfitted with light bar, etc at a cost of \$3000. The car will not be heavily used, but will serve as an additional car for the police department. Anticipated cost to purchase a new police car would be approximately \$50,000. It was questioned if the \$3000 expense is ok with budget; yes.

Motion to approve outfitting the older Ford Explore with light bar equipment, etc and cost not to exceed \$3000.

Made by: John Rothenberger **Seconded by: Mark Watkins**
 Motion Carried Motion Failed

Barry Isett & Associates (BIA)

BIA Report

BIA report was emailed to Council prior to meeting.

Entech

Entech Report

Entech report was emailed to Council prior to meeting.

Guests: See attached list.

Guest expressed their support with borough council's discussion of a mandatory inspection when a property is sold. Guest provided examples of what they have seen at some borough properties. Colin Boyer suggested to the guest that they file a complaint at the borough office. Another guest agreed with this guest on making sure properties are safe and mentioned that if purchaser of property waives inspection before sale, then the insurance company is accountable and mortgage carrier should also do inspection. It was mentioned that Pennsylvania Realtors are pressuring for this inspection by municipalities to not be done to be fair to everyone. Colin mentioned that what the borough is considering is only an outdoor inspection of a property being sold.

Guest discussed issue with neighboring property regarding weeds, tall grass, etc. They inquired if there was a form online to submit complaint. Guest was told to contact to call or email the boro the information. BIA (engineers) would be contacted to send their codes person out the property. If property is in violation, the neighbor would be sent a Notice of Violation (NOV).

Guest mentioned their property on West Arch was flooded with 20" of water in basement during the storm in July and mentioned options they are looking at to keep water from coming up drains/shower/toilet in basement. They also mentioned that after a regular rain storm, rain water puddles at the corner of West Arch and Chestnut Streets and takes about an hour to go down. Council asked that Craig Conrad look at the drains/water drainage in the area during next rain storm to see why water is not draining.

Guest thought Penn State Health- LifeLion was going to be at meeting tonight to review coverage since Kutztown Ambulance went out of service. She was wondering how the transition had gone when Fleetwood transitioned to Penn State Health – LifeLion. John Rothenberger noted that the transition for Fleetwood to Penn State Health – LifeLion occurred about 7 years ago and went well .

Legal – Julia Adams, Esq.

Inspection Prior to Sale

Drafts are being reviewed at the legal council's office. Andy George, Esq. will send out later this week.

Quality of Life Ordinance

The draft of this ordinance is in progress. Andy George, Esq. will send out draft later this week.

Tannery Lot Parking Ordinance

The draft of this ordinance is in progress. Andy George, Esq. will send out draft later this week.

Streets

25 mph Speed Limit Request to PennDOT

Recap of discussion from last month. Craig Conrad reported that Andy George, Esq. had sent a formal request to PennDOT regarding 25mph speed limit on state routes through the borough. Currently waiting to hear back from PennDOT.

Stop Sign at North Richmond Street and Springfield Drive

Chris Young stated that this inquiry was discussed with Chief Ulshafer and Ryan (BIA). A stop sign cannot be put in to stop speeding. It was mentioned that Ryan (BIA) could do a traffic study at a cost of \$5000, but it will not provide data to warrant a stop sign. There is not enough cross traffic in the area. There will not be any traffic study done for this.

Mayor's Report – provided by Chris Young

The Wall that Heals

Chris mentioned that The Wall that Heals is a Vietnam memorial and on September 19th the transport of the wall will be staged on the road at the cemetery across from the Fleetwood Park before it is transported to Kutztown, PA for their event. Chris noted it will be leaving the staging area at the cemetery at 1:00pm on Sept. 19th.

Fleetwood Park Playground

Robert Gore and Mike Fella did the brunt of the work along with other volunteers to repair the playground damage caused by the flooding in July 2023. The playground is fully repaired and opened to the public.

Borough Managers Report – Chris Young

Budget Summary

Chris reported that the tentative budget for 2024 will be sent out for review and will be discussed at the October meeting. Jim Meals requested that if anyone has any capital projects for 2024 to submit then now.

County of Berks Sponsorship for Recycle

In past years the borough made a \$500 donation for this recycling program. Craig Conrad mentioned that the borough does take items to the recycling center. John Rothenberger noted that he has also taken items to the recycling center.

Motion to make \$500 donation to the Berks County Recycling Center.

Made by: Mark Watkins

Seconded by: John Rothenberger

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Lease of Room 114A in Community Center

Chris reviewed that Krise Transportation (School Bus Transportation) would like to rent Room 114A in the Community Center to use as their dispatch office. An antenna will be placed on roof of Community Center to communicate with bus drivers. Total rental payment for September 12, 2023 thru September 11, 2024 is \$4200.

Motion to accept the lease contract for Room 114A for Krise Transportation.

Made by: Colin Boyer

Seconded by: Pete Merkel

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Parking Request for Tannery Lot

Property owner for 46 West Main Street needs additional off property parking spaces to lease the lower level of this building and has requested rental of 2 spaces on the Tannery Lot.

Motion to lease 2 parking spaces on the Tannery Lot.

Made by: Mark Watkins

Seconded by: Colin Boyer

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Approve CD Investments

Fleetwood Bank CDs

Chris discussed investments in two CDS for 6 months at 4.25% instead of the .02% savings account interest. CD investments would be for the Fire account (\$100,000) and General account (\$750,000).

Motion to invest these monies in two CDs.

Made by: Jim Meals

Seconded by: John Rothenberger

Pete Merkel: Abstain

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

PLIGIT

Chris mentioned it is time to roll over \$500,000 CD with rate of 5.76%.

Motion to rollover the PLIGIT CD.

Made by: John Rothenberger

Seconded by: Jim Meals

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

LSA (Local Share Assessment) Grant for Tribute Park

Chris discussed a grant that can be applied for in the amount of \$349,773.00 with no match required. The grant funds would be used at the tribute park (Fleetwood Avenue and Beech Street) for the Veteran and First Responders Memorial Park.

Motion to approve and sign resolution for the grant application.

Made by: Colin Boyer

Seconded by: Pete Merkel

Resolution: 2023-09-11-00

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Public Works Report – Craig Conrad

Craig Conrad provided Council with the Public Works report prior to meeting. In addition to the following:

- Street paving should be done by end of this week
- The library held an event with the Tigers in the Park program about construction vehicles. About 100 kids participated. Craig read a book, then kids were allowed to sit in the equipment and talk with the Public Works crew about the vehicles. Craig stated that it was a good community event that the kids and the Public Works crew enjoyed.
- The plans/design of fixing the road in the park between Main Street entrance to band shell that was washed out in July 2023 flood is being worked on with October/November time frame.

LSA (Local Share Assessment) Grant for Water Main West Spruce Street

Craig state the grant application is for the replacement of the water main on West Spruce Street in the amount of \$346,818.35 with no match required.

Motion to approve and sign resolution for grant application.

Made by: John Rothenberger **Seconded by: Colin Boyer**

Resolution: 2023-09-11-01

Motion Carried **Motion Failed**

Demo of Water Shed at Reservoir

Craig mentioned there are safety issues with the building on the property. The cost to take down the structure is \$9500. Motion to authorize demo of this structure not to exceed \$9500.

Made by: John Rothenberger **Seconded by: Mark Watkins**

Motion Carried **Motion Failed**

Bills

Current Month – Sept 11th

Motion to pay the current month – September 11, 2023 bills.

Made by: John Rothenberger **Seconded by: Jim Meals**

Motion Carried **Motion Failed**

Ratify Bills Paid August 21st

Motion to ratify the bills paid on August 21, 2023.

Made by: John Rothenberger **Seconded by: Jim Meals**

Motion Carried **Motion Failed**

Minutes

Motion to approve the August 14, 2023 borough Council meeting minutes.

Made by: John Rothenberger **Seconded by: Mark Watkins**

Motion Carried **Motion Failed**

General – Council Comments

Colin Boyer inquired about date of October borough meeting, since Monday, October 9th is Columbus Day. Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 10th**.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:01pm.

Made by: Jim Meals **Seconded by: Colin Boyer**

Motion Carried **Motion Failed**

Submitted by:

Doreen O'Neil, Borough Recording Secretary