

Newport Borough Council
June 4, 2019 – Regular Meeting
Newport, Pennsylvania

President Gerald Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with Borough Council Members Tami Halstead, Carl Roush, John McNaughton, Barbara Leach and Douglas Beatty present. Councilman Richard Delancey was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT – Mayor Mary Hetrick and Secretary/Treasurer Heather Ilgenfritz.

GUESTS – George Weltmer; Luke Roman, The News Sun; Frank Campbell; Greg Shope; Phillip Brath, Barton & Loguidice; Mary Dissinger, Dissinger & Dissinger Law Office.

Council President Robinson commenced the meeting and announced due to the engineer's schedule, the Council was going to move ahead on the agenda for the first item of business – 5th Street Reconstruction project.

OLD BUSINESS

5TH STREET RECONSTRUCTION – NEXT PHASE – OLIVER STREET TO WALNUT STREET - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS –

Phil Brath, Barton & Loguidice, stated the specifications and cost opinion for the project are ready. He discussed the stormwater inlets and proposed removing those to redirect the stormwater out of this area, and permanently out of the sanitary sewer system. There was a brief discussion of the engineer's map, which was incorrectly marked. Councilmen Halstead and Beatty stated the sanitary sewer system had already been separated in this area. There was some further discussion regarding the Add Alternates and whether those would be necessary. Mr. Brath indicated if the prices were too high, and it was not approved, then the Add Alternates would not be done. Cl'm Halstead stated the PIB loan is allocated for this work from Oliver Street to Mulberry Street. Council President Robinson stated that he contacted the State regarding the PIB Loan, and they indicated if Council sends written correspondence with their proposal for consideration of any project changes and use of the PIB monies, they will review it. Robinson also stated the need to complete research on any grant opportunities there may be to separate the stormwater inlets. Mr. Brath stated with the cross pipes in there, it appears that the inlets have not been separated. Cl'm Halstead noted her concern of more water going into the run on Caroline Street which will create a flooding problem. There was some discussion on the flow of water down Caroline to Fickes by the railroad tracks. Halstead also stated the water flowing down Gantt is all blocked and is not flowing into the run by the Water Authority. She said this needs to be dug out. Robinson stated with the amount of rain in recent weeks has been unprecedented. This proposal would take care of 90-95% estimates. Mr. Brath said a reverse crown on smaller streets will help to save money. Cl'm Halstead said the draining problem behind the Weis store and the run-off from Oliver should be further down the hill and the drainage behind the Borough Shed needs fixed. Once that's connected, it should drain out at Oliver so that no additional water is dumped back into the floodplain zone. Cl' Roush, also a member of the Newport Borough Municipal Authority Board, said the sewer has been separated and they had to drill under the railroad. Mr. Brath said if it's separated then it can go right into Oliver. Mr. Brath will check the site next week and move forward to redirect the water to Oliver if connected. Mr. Brath indicated that Add Alternate No. 1 was to complete the stormwater separation from the sanitary sewer, but if that has already been done, it will not need to be awarded. Mr. Brath indicated the lines are clogged and said that's why it's an alternate, but if there is no place to take the water and there is no storm currently on Marsh Street, then it's not necessary right now. However, that was the original plan and he had wanted to show the Council the plan. With that option removed, it would be a savings of \$11,000.00.

Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to put the 5th Street Reconstruction Project out for bid concentrating on Walnut to Oliver with the Bid Package as proposed. Council requested advertising via PennBid and the local News Sun so the project will be ready to award for the July Council Meeting. In the interim, Council President Robinson and Mr. Brath will contact Chris Burkholder, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, regarding completion of a dye test of the lines.

PENNIAN BANK LOAN FOR DOCK STREET REPAIRS - \$53,000.00 - RESCIND RESOLUTION NO. 03-19 AUTHORIZING SMALL BORROWING FOR CAPITAL PURPOSES & REPLACE WITH / ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 03-20 –

Mary Dissinger, Borough’s Solicitor, reviewed the General Obligation Note with Pennian Bank and Resolution that was previously adopted. Notification from Pennian was received that a correction needed to be made in the maturity date, and therefore, a recommendation was made to revoke the previously adopted Resolution No. 03-19 and adopt again under Resolution No. 03-20 with the correct date of June 4, 2019. Cl’m Halstead moved, seconded by Cl’ Beatty to rescind prior Resolution No. 03-19 of May 21, 2019 and replace with Resolution No. 03-20 authorizing the General Obligation Note of \$53,000.00 payable for monthly installments for 60 months at 3.99% interest. The maturity date is June 4, 2024. Motion unanimously carried.

COST ESTIMATE FOR WALNUT ST PAVING FROM SIXTH ST TO FRONT ST- Cl’m Halstead reported that M.F. Ronca & Sons was a little under \$74,000. – lower than originally estimated. She also stated that Alan Zeigler, Larson Design – the Sewer Authority’s engineer, sent an email notifying the Borough that it needs to have an inspector for the paving of the streets. An inspector needs to be on-site June 17th-20th. It was recommended that a Borough Representative be on-site while milling. Ronca has estimated the paving to take approximately four days. Cl’m Halstead stated she is available to do the inspection without charge to the Borough noting that it could be a council member. Council President Robinson stated that he could avail himself as well to do the inspections and with his background could do that work. He stated this type of work can be quite expensive – rough estimate - \$70.00 per hour; however, he would be willing to do it for a nominal amount - \$15.00 per hour. Cl’m Halstead asked what are the wishes of Council as far as compensating Council President Robinson? Robinson stated that he had already completed another project that was previously approved for \$15.00 per hour. Cl’m McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl’m Leach to approve Council President Gerald Robinson as the Borough Inspector for the Walnut Street Paving Project – from Sixth Street to Front Street. Motion passed 5-0. Council President Robinson abstained. Cl’m Delancey was absent.

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING FOR PAVING OF LOCUST ST AND PINE ST (CL’M HALSTEAD) – Cl’m Halstead stated that financially things are looking good. The Borough has secured a loan to repair the damages on Dock Street from the sinkholes and do the paving. Halstead stated that she believes there the Borough should be able to do this paving as well with the use of Liquid Fuels money pending PennDOT’s approval of the project. Council President Robinson stated if the bids come back too high, then Council can toss this paving proposal. Cl’m McNaughton asked how much of Pine Street is being proposed for paving. Halstead replied the sections from Mulberry to Market and Gantt to Fickes, and Caroline to Oliver by the Car Wash. It was noted the condition of the road from Fickes to Caroline is really bad. Halstead requested adding for Council’s consideration, Fickes to Gantt so that Fickes all the way to Caroline will be done. Cl’m Halstead moved, seconded by Cl’m Beatty to authorize advertising for bids for the paving of Pine Street from Fickes to Caroline; Pine Street from Market to Mulberry; and Locust Street from Oliver to Caroline; and, to use Liquid Fuels funds to pay for the paving. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON LED STREET LIGHTING – Council President Robinson reported that he found an LED light bulb style that he thinks will be a fit for the Borough’s street lights. The company he found offers a free trial. There are twenty-six streetlights in town, and he was thinking of ordering thirty to have a few extras on-hand. The cost is approximately \$73.00 per bulb; however, if the Borough were to order thirty the cost per bulb would be approximately \$63.00 each for a total approximate cost of \$1,890.00. He also reminded Council of the PPL rebate of \$30.00 per light if approved. Robinson stated that he was going to have two sample bulbs sent to install so Council can look at both and determine which one is best. He said it would be a substantial savings in electricity to switch these streetlights over to the LED bulbs. It was noted the PPL rebate is 50% of cost up to \$30.00 per bulb. The cost to the Borough would be \$990.00. Robinson said there are about five streetlights currently out in town. If the Borough gets the samples in and installed in a few weeks, the new lighting could be in place this summer. He said the Streets Department will have to unhook the ballasts. That will need to be done and he will contact Dave Miller, electrician, to show them how to do it. Cl’m McNaughton said to wait until Council sees the lights before making a motion. No action was taken.

DISCUSSION ON PROPERTIES & APPLICABLE BOROUGH CODE OF ORDINANCES

- **GARDNER PROPERTY DAMAGED BY THE FIRE** – There was a brief discussion regarding the property at 640 Oliver Street damaged by fire on May 22, 2019. Cl'm Halstead stated the property with the fire is considered a dangerous structure more so than nuisance. Council President Robinson stated that Mary Dissinger had recommended giving the owner thirty days to be lenient. It was noted the owner of the property did not have insurance. Cl'm McNaughton stated the Borough must know that they are doing something and are making an effort to move forward with demolition/cleanup within the thirty days. Halstead stated this was a catastrophic event for the family as they lost the entire house. Cl'm McNaughton stated the location of the property on the hillside is going to be difficult for the contractors to get in there with heavy equipment. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to have the attorney draft a letter to the Gardner's to commence demolition of the property within thirty days and substantial completion within sixty days. Motion carried 5-1 with Cl'm Leach opposed. Cl'm Delancey was absent.
- **FRONT STREET PROPERTY (400 BLOCK NEAR WATER AUTHORITY)** - Council President Robinson stated that he thinks the Council should take action on this property as being a nuisance property. The grass is so high now it can't be mowed with a lawn mower. Cl'm Halstead said that she did some investigating, and the taxes are not paid and there are back payments to the Water Authority – late over a year, which has been referred to Attorney Adam Britcher. He sent a notice to the owner that a lien has been placed on the property. Mr. Britcher will let the Borough know if the letter is returned to sender. Robinson stated he is not willing to wait for that, but certainly Cl'm Halstead could follow-up on it. Cl'm Halstead said let's wait to see if the individual/property owner is even still in Perry County. Halstead suggested following with the Attorney on the Front Street property and he can let the Secretary know what he finds out, and she can forward the information to the Council. Robinson noted the situation with 52 S. Street and Dissinger's response to the Borough in declaring these properties a nuisance. He said the Borough should be doing this and going through the process to declare them a nuisance.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to approve the meeting minutes of May 7, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Newport General Fund Account balance June 1, 2019 was \$333,155.83. Outstanding bills presented for payment of \$5,354.60. Estimated income for the balance of June of \$8,000.00. Estimated expenses for the balance of June of \$27,189.74 will leave an estimated balance June 30, 2019 of \$306,611.49. The Liquid Fuels Account balance June 1, 2019 was \$127,622.92. Outstanding bills presented for payment of \$1,613.54 will leave a balance of \$126,009.38 in the Liquid Fuels Account. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS – Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to pay the outstanding bills in the amount of \$5,354.60 from the General Fund Account and \$1,613.54 from the Liquid Fuels Account.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Hetrick reported the Borough does not have a Code Enforcement Officer. She stated that she made several attempts to reach the candidate whom Council had voted to extend the employment offer to, and he has not returned her calls. However, he did leave a message with the Borough Secretary that since the time he had interviewed with the Borough for the Code Enforcement position, he has accepted another employment offer.

Mayor Hetrick also reported that she presented the Community Service Award on May 29, 2019 to Jozie Brajkovich during a ceremony at the Newport High School. Additionally, the Life Center has extended an invitation to her for the Annual God and Country Day on June 30, 2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Cl'm McNaughton reported the Streets Department will be painting the crosswalks again and the paint sprayer is currently being serviced.

Cl'm Beatty reported the quote from R. Scott Maxwell Construction for the repair of the damage to the Borough's porch is \$740.00. Cl'm Beatty contacted Justin Palm to discuss the quote and the damage.

Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to approve a QuickBooks workshop training session by JDK Solutions for the Borough Secretary at a cost of \$125.00. Motion unanimously carried. Mayor Hetrick recommended closing the Borough Office during the training session so there would not be any interruptions, or she offered to come into the office to answer the phones during this time.

Secretary Ilgenfritz gave a brief overview of the Communications Report to the Council.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl'm Roush moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Ilgenfritz
Secretary