

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Jan. 7, 2019

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Michael Dulaney
James Johnson
Samuel Lyons
James Marshall
Fred Mays

Members Excused: Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Harmony Motter, City Finance Director
Jim Wetzal, Fire Chief
Kevin Anundson, Police Chief
Charles Gibbons, Code Enforcement
Deb Eckelberger, Development Director
Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary & Community Development
Sarah Titley, Venango Newspapers, Inc.
Chris Rossetti, Explore Venango
Patrick Owoc, Venango County Housing
Ryan Rudegeair

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 1

Mr. Marshall moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Mr. Dulaney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 2

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the Dec. 3, 2018 Public Hearing and the regular meeting of Dec. 3, 2018, as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 3

Mr. Dulaney moved to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Mays seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES

None.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS -- Resolution No. 4

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for a wooden sign at 1261 Elk Street, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

MID-BLOCK CROSSING PROJECT BID AWARD – Resolution No. 5

Ms. Jamieson explained that a single bid was received for the replacement of the two traffic signal poles at the mid-block crossing in the 1200 block of Liberty Street. The bid was from M & B Services, LLC of Clarion in the amount of \$152,192.96. This bid exceeds the \$109,870 in funding for the project from a PennDOT ARLE grant, County Liquid Fuels, and an earlier PennDOT Multimodal Grant by \$42,323. Ms. Jamieson noted that the work must be completed no later than Sept. 23, 2019 and recommended approval of the bid, noting that funds are available in the City's Capital Fund account to cover the shortfall. Mr. Johnson moved to approve a contract with M & B Services, LLC, of Clarion for the Mid-Block Crossing Project in the amount of \$152,192.96. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

STREET SWEEPER BID AWARD – Resolution No. 6

Mr. Dulaney moved to approve the purchase of a used Elgin Whirlwind 2017 street sweeper for \$163,500 from A & H Equipment of Bridgeville, along with a three-year warranty for an additional \$17,800. The City previously rented this street sweeper for a month for \$16,000 from A & H Equipment, which provided the lone bid on this procurement. Mr. Mays seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Minus the \$5,100 trade-in value for the City's current street sweeper, the net price of \$158,400 will be shared by the Franklin General Authority, which will contribute \$37,500 from both the water and sewer funds. The City will contribute \$42,650 from the General Fund and \$40,750 in Liquid Fuels funds.

SET ZONING CHANGE PUBLIC HEARING DATE – Resolution No. 7

Mr. Gibbons explained that Venango County is interested in purchasing the former office building of Harrington Machine at the intersection of Hillside Avenue and Chestnut Street for conversion into a four-unit apartment building, which will require a zoning change. The area where the building is located is currently zoned for industrial -- not residential -- use, and the county asked that the zoning be changed to accommodate the residential use. The Franklin Planning & Zoning Commission reviewed the request and recommended that the zoning of that area -- including 39 parcels, of which 29 are residential, eight are vacant and two are commercial -- be changed to Transitional Residential Commercial (TRC). Mr. Gibbons advised that a TRC designation would make the existing residential and commercial uses within the area conforming uses and would also resolve a conflict between the Industrial designation and the more recent designation of the area as part of a wellhead protection zone, which prohibits any industrial uses that could contaminate the City's water supply. Council agreed to move forward with the process for proposed changes to the zoning ordinance, which requires posting and notification of neighbors, a public hearing on the matter and two readings before Council. Mr. Baker moved to hold a public hearing on a requested zoning change at 7 p.m. Monday, March 4, prior to Council's regular March meeting. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion to set the hearing date, which passed unanimously. Mr. Spaid indicated Council may undertake the first reading

of the proposed amendment at its February meeting.

PARADE AND PARK REQUESTS – Resolution No. 8

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Dulaney seconded a motion to approve the following requests:

- February 7-9, 2019 • Fountain Park • Franklin on Ice • City of Franklin & Franklin Fine Arts Council.
- July 20, 2019 • Fountain Park • Pole Vault in the Park • High Standards Vault Club
- August 3-4, 2019 • West Park Street and Fountain Park • Organ Grinders Rally • DeBence Antique Music World

Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS

Manager

Ms. Jamieson advised Council that the Street Department is shifting gears from leaf vacuuming to winter operations but will continue to pick up bagged leaves. The department has added on a second shift for winter road maintenance.

She asked Council members for their thoughts on the issue of people using metal detectors and digging in the City's parks. She said many now use full-sized shovels instead of hand trowels. Mr. Marshall said personally, he does not have a problem with it. Ms. Jamieson reported that part of the problem is that electric wires are located underground throughout the parks, and PA-1 calls must be made when digging is done. Mr. Baker said perhaps the City could require a permit for such activity, which would at least provide a way to keep track of such digging and a way to contact the individuals if necessary. Mr. Spaid and Mr. Gibbons said they are working on an ordinance regarding excavation in public rights of way, and they agreed to give some thought to digging in the parks as part of that process.

Ms. Jamieson advised Council that a downtown business asked the City to consider enacting a municipal noise ordinance. Such an ordinance would exempt areas designated by the City from a PA Liquor Control Board noise regulation that prohibits a licensed establishment from providing amplified music or other entertainment that can be heard beyond the licensee's property line. She noted that entertainment can be an important part of an active and vibrant downtown and asked Council if it would like City staff to look further into the matter. Council indicated City staff should do so. Ms. Jamieson said she would provide Council with a sample noise ordinance at its February meeting.

She indicated that architect Amos Rudolph is putting together a concept plan for possible improvements to the Miller-Sibley Recreational Complex. From that, City staff will seek to come up with an action plan, containing projects and possible funding sources, for presentation at Council's February meeting.

Solicitor – Resolution No. 9

Mr. Spaid presented Council with copies of the Resolution and the Certificate as to

Collections and Expenditures for a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note, Series 2019, from First United National Bank in the amount of \$450,000 at 2.35% interest. Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Mays seconded a motion approving the resolution, which passed unanimously.

Mayor – Appointments

None.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker

- Said he had been invited to attend a Unity Day Ceremony in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at the New Life Family Worship Center at 100 East Atlantic Ave., and he extended that invitation to Council.

Mr. Dulaney

- No report.

Mr. Johnson

- Said the Oil Region Alliance’s Heritage Advisory Committee recently held a meeting at the FICDA facility and was very pleased with its reception by Ms. Eckelberger and her staff.

Mr. Lyons

- Said he had been approached by someone who asked for a greater police presence at the intersection of 13th and Liberty streets to help deter drivers from running the lights to get through the intersection. Chief Anundson said he would see what he could do.

Mr. Marshall

- Said he would not be running for re-election due to health reasons. He said if possible, he would like to finish out the year, which is his 29th year on Council. He said former police officer and mayor, Bob Heller; former city manager Bill Gabrys; former finance director Cheryl Carson; and former police chief Robert Cardy had an impact on him during his 50 or so years with the city, and he praised Mayor Baker in his role.

Mr. Mays

- No report

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Jamieson said Council’s bi-annual meeting with the FICDA board is tentatively scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, in FICDA’s training room.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary

