

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 2, 2014

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
Samuel Lyons
James Marshall
Jennifer Morris
Ryan Rudegear
Garnet Wood

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: E. William Gabrys, City Manager
Tracy Jamieson, Deputy Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary
Paula DiGregory, Young Lungs at Play
Mark & Deborah Pattee, 420 Fifth Street
Debbie D'Elia Oaks, Franklin Public Library
Charles Patterson, 444 Buffalo Street
Skip Gravatt, Gravatt Painting & Services
David R. Lord, General Authority Chairman
Beth Graham Stumpf, 102 Laurel Drive
Russ Campbell, General Authority
Sean Kerr, Oil Region Soccer Alliance volunteer
Brian McNulty, 648 Forest Lane
Jennifer Butchart, Venango Newspapers, Inc.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 54

Mrs. Fletcher moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 55

Mr. Lyons moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 5, 2014, as presented. Ms. Morris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 56

Mr. Lyons moved to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Rudegear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES

Franklin Heights Playground - Mr. McNaulty was in attendance to ask the status of the Franklin Heights Playground. Mr. Gabrys explained that the playground was deemed unsafe because the fall surfaces kept washing out and there are currently no monies available at this time to replace the broken equipment that had been removed. Unfortunately, this playground was not eligible for CDBG funding since it was not in a low-income area. However, several options were suggested including the possibility of a corporate sponsor taking over the playground and Mrs. Fletcher adding that private donations were received for the Third Street Playground.

Oil Region Soccer Alliance Request - Mr. Kerr, a volunteer with the Oil Region Soccer Alliance, asked the City if it would consider allowing the Alliance to use land, near where the former Franklin Hospital used to be, for a soccer field. He explained that the Alliance would do the field planning and construction, and the materials would be donated or paid for out-of-pocket. Mr. Kerr will meet with Mr. Gabrys and Terry Ruditis, Street Department Supervisor, to discuss this matter. Councilman Lyons also offered his assistance.

Franklin Public Library - Mrs. Oaks advised Council the Library has started its Summer Reading Program and also invited the Council to visit their new butterfly garden. She reported that three meetings would be held between the Franklin, Oil City and Cooperstown Public Libraries to discuss how to better serve the communities, how to improve the services they presently offer, the future of libraries, and to answer questions and concerns of elected officials and the public at large. They will also explore different funding and operational models for the libraries that will help these institutions remain vital parts of our communities and sustainable well into the future. She invited the Council to attend any of the following one hour meetings: June 17 @ Noon in Oil City • June 18 @ 2 PM in Cooperstown • June 19 @ 10 AM in Franklin.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Resolution No. 57 - Mr. Rudegear moved and Mr. Wood seconded a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for a patio sign at 1411 Liberty Street, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 57 - Mr. Gravatt, explaining that he had arrived late for the HARB meeting on May 27, advised that he was under pressure by the new property owner, Clarion Community Bank to finish the painting of 1324 Liberty Street prior to their opening. He presented the application, along with color swatches to the Council. He noted the body of the house, which is currently yellow, would be painted SW-6092 Lightweight Beige; the trim, which is currently dark yellow, would be painted SW-6094 Sensational Sand; the house accent, which is currently red and white, would be painted SW-6447 Evergreen and SW-7006 Extra White. Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for painting the structure at 1324 Liberty Street in the colors presented. The Council, feeling the colors presented would be softer and more conducive to the Historic District, passed the motion unanimously.

PAULA DI GREGORY PRESENTATION

Ms. Di Gregory, Tobacco Programs Coordinator for the NW PA Tobacco Control Program, was in attendance to explain the "Young Lungs at Play" Program. The purpose of the program is to eliminate childhood exposure to second-hand smoke and tobacco litter. The program would provide free signs should the City decide to initiate the program with an ordinance against tobacco use in public recreational facilities. She explained that several other local municipalities and school districts have either joined or are looking into the program, which would prohibit smoking in public parks, playgrounds and ballfields, etc. She supplied a sample ordinance for the City to review. Mr. Gabrys will meet with City Staff to discuss the program. Mr. Spaid will then be supplied with the locations and an enforcement policy to have an ordinance ready for review at the July Council meeting.

FINAL READING - BILL NO. 3 - TRAFFIC ORDINANCE FIFTH STREET - Resolution No. 58

Mr. Spaid read the title of Bill No. 3, "Traffic Ordinance Fifth Street," into the record. Mr. and Mrs. Pattee were in attendance to oppose the change; however, after it was explained to them that no parking spaces would be lost, they withdrew their opposition. Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to approve Bill No. 3, Traffic Ordinance Fifth Street," on Final Reading. Motion passed unanimously.

WILEY AVENUE BRIDGE REPAIR BID AWARD - Resolution No. 59

Mrs. Jamieson reported that one bid had been received from Shingledecker's Welding, Inc., in the amount of \$55,415, for the Wiley Avenue Bridge Repair Project. She explained that this would only arrest the most severe bridge deficiencies and hopes this project will stop the water infiltration to prevent more deterioration from occurring. She noted that, unfortunately, it will not be known what damage has actually occurred until the roadway top is removed and the City will probably need to consider further rehabilitation in the future. She advised that Taylor Engineering has reviewed the bid and found it to be reasonable and would recommend its award. She reminded the Council that this project is being partially funded with a \$25,000 PA Historical and Museum Commission grant, with the City's responsibility being \$30,415.

Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Wood seconded a motion to award the Wiley Avenue Bridge Repair Bid to Shingledecker's Welding, Inc., in the amount of \$55,415. Motion passed unanimously.

PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 60

Mrs. Fletcher moved and Ms. Morris seconded a motion to approve the request from the County of Venango to use Bandstand Park for their annual picnic on July 25, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager

- Will need an executive session to discuss litigation.
- Reported that after the street department received the rented street sweeper, they ran two shifts and got most of the streets swept. Mr. Gabrys reported that Upper St. Clair had recently replaced its street sweeper at a cost of \$275,000. He was presently in talks

with them about the possible purchase of their old sweeper, which appeared to be in fairly good condition with many more years left on it. He advised they were asking in the \$40,000 range.

- Resolution No. 61 - Reported the Fire Department received \$109,440 from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to upgrade the SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) units. The City's match would be \$5,760 and, should the Council agree, the monies would be allocated from capital funds. Mrs. Fletcher moved and Ms. Morris seconded a motion to allocate the necessary funds from the capital funds. Motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Manager

- Mrs. Jamieson asked whether Council would be interested in pursuing a PennDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Grant, which would be used for intersection upgrades in the Downtown (including handicapped accessible ramps and replacement of crumbling pavers). She noted the grant would require a 30% match. Mrs. Jamieson advised the grant was due June 30. Council gave Mrs. Jamieson permission to apply for the grant and authorized all appropriate signatures needed for the application.

City Manager

- Resolution No. 62 - Reported that under Penn DOT's Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Program, a grant is being offered, which could upgrade e-packs at five different intersections and add in the video detection camera at the 13th Street & Atlantic Avenue intersection. A match is not required, but is encouraged, so the Council may wish to consider committing \$1,000-2,000. Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to apply for the grant with a match commitment. Motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor

- Would need an executive session to discuss litigation.
- Reported that the Time Warner contract has been executed. He also informed Council that, when the FCC forms are received regarding the purchase of Time Warner by Comcast, the provider will be known as Charter, rather than Comcast, in Pennsylvania.

Mayor • Appointments - none.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Wood

- Inquired about a program whereby municipal police officers would be permitted to use radar. Mr. Marshall explained that the bill is still in committee. Mayor Baker suggested letters be sent in support.

Mr. Marshall

- Noticed that the stamped crosswalks at the 13th & Liberty Street intersection had not lasted as long as they had hoped. He also noticed that the crosswalk on Liberty Street from West Park to Daffin's needs painted.

- He also asked that “up & down arrows” be placed on No Parking & No Parking Here to Corner signs to make them more visible, noting Applefest® visitors in particular.

Mr. Rudegear

- Reminded Council that he and Mayor Baker would be attending the PA Municipal League Annual Conference and hoped to bring back helpful information for the City.

Mrs. Fletcher

- Endorses the purchase of a sweeper by the City, noting that she has heard complaints about the job the rented sweeper did this year. It was determined the sweeper used did not have the floating head like the City’s old one.
- Asked if the City should consider adopting an ordinance like Oil City recently adopted concerning residents maintaining their properties. Mr. Spaid advised the City already has adopted the International Property Maintenance Code, which addresses these issues.

Mr. Lyons

- Asked the status of the 13th Street Paving Project. Mrs. Jamieson advised that it should be starting soon and that the milling & paving would be done after the ADA curb cuts are installed on the cross streets.

Ms. Morris

- Commented on how much better the JM lot was looking since it had been mowed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No.63

Mr. Marshall moved to enter into executive session at 8:17 PM to discuss litigation. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 8:40 PM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Resolution No. 64

Mr. Rudegear moved to approve the amendment to the Restauri Agreement reflecting some date changes. Mr. Wood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT - Resolution No. 65

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Mr. Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary