

September 22, 2016
COUNCIL MEETING

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a brief invocation, the Apollo Borough council meeting was called to order by Council President John Kautz at 7:00 PM in the Apollo Borough Municipal building council chambers.

Present: Council members John Kautz, Mark Greenawalt, Diane Bradshaw, Cheryl Swank, Denny Gabrielli, and Nancy Walker were present. Cindee Virostek was absent. Solicitor Tim Miller was absent. Mayor Held was present.

Public Comments: Rev. Karen Graham from Kingdom Come Ministries discussed Davey Tree Service's donating the fir tree to her ministry including a one year warranty. This tree will be planted down by the bridge memorial, and they would like to have a public tree planting ceremony. They are currently waiting for a tree to be released from the grower. A ceremony will be scheduled once the tree is planted. After it is planted it will become the responsibility of the borough. They would like to discuss with council placing a memorial of some kind.

Rose Burkett announced the AAEC sponsored Chili cook off, and that the Christmas in the park event will be the last event the AAEC will be having in Apollo. There will be no more. She also expressed her concerns about the Halloween traditions in Apollo being changed in 2016, and would like council to change the trick or treat night back to a weekday evening, and the parade to an evening during the week also. She presented council with a petition she states was compiled at Fox's Pizza, and contains over 200 signatures of individuals that agree with her opinion.

Heather Jones suggested that she does not see anything wrong with changing things, and made a suggestion of a "trunk or treat" which some communities have been doing in lieu of going door to door for trick or treat.

Ashley Stiffey stated that her daughter was the one who asked council last year to change trick or treat to a Saturday so that it wasn't on a school night. She feels her daughter has been treated unfairly on social media, and she hopes council does not change it again for this year. She stated it was time for the next generation to make their own traditions.

Susan Cummings stated that she wants the trick or treat changed back to an evening so that the decorations and the lights on porches will be seen, and that there should be a larger break in between the parade and the trick or treat.

Dr. Kautz thanked everyone for their comments and stated that council would take them under consideration.

Engineering Report:

Rich Craft reviewed his report with council. He noted that bids are out for flow monitoring by KVVWPCA, which will determine the new sewage rates for each community. PW has been checking the sewage inspection ports during rainfall events to verify compliance. There have not been a lot of sustained rainfalls recently.

Rich briefly discussed a proposed building plan of approximately 5000 sf. He will have more information for the next planning committee meeting on October 13 at 6 PM. He would like to add a bike plan to that agenda also.

A motion was made by Nancy Walker, and seconded by Diane Bradshaw, to approve paying Olsen invoices from the general fund in the amount of \$1811.21. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time Cheryl Swank addressed council regarding a potential street paving plan. She provided council members with a hand out that included a portion of the borough code regarding a special road fund tax,

section 1304, as well as information on the property tax mills from other local communities. She asked council for a vote to allow Rich Craft to look at a plan and what it would cost to pave the streets in Apollo. After discussion, Cheryl Swank made a motion to allow Rich Craft to proceed with and conduct a full study of what it would cost to repair curbs, and repave the streets of town, including upgrades to handicap intersections, and including a time frame for implementation. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mark Greenawalt, and seconded by Nancy Walker, for the Finance Committee to investigate what would be involved for a 5 mil increase in taxes designated for a special road tax fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Cheryl Swank, and seconded by Nancy Walker, to approve the meeting minutes from August 25, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report: The Mayor reported on his representation at the Drake's log cabin re-dedication. He read his Proclamation and presented it to the borough for inclusion in the minutes.

The Mayor also reported that he was asked by Armstrong County to represent them at the Southwestern Pennsylvania elected officials retreat in Station Square on September 9th on the impact of the heroin epidemic on municipalities. A board of about 15 members conducted the session, including a member of the President's Cabinet.

He was also asked by Don White to speak before a panel on September 20th, he gave testimony before a legislative subcommittee from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania on the subject of law enforcements need to combat the heroin epidemic, and to give insight into RAID's influence on the region.

The Mayor discussed retaining the older police vehicle, and painting it to make it an undercover car; Lenape V0-Tech gave the borough a quote to paint it all black for \$250.00 by mid-October. A motion was made by Nancy Walker, and seconded by Diane Bradshaw, to authorize the agreement with Lenape to paint the car, and have Sgt. Jarred Kier sign the contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Increasing probationary rates for police officers was discussed. Police work is dangerous, and most other communities in the area start at higher rates.

The camera system in the plaza has helped solve some investigations of break-ins.

A motion was made by Diane Bradshaw, and seconded by Cheryl Swank, to release Christopher Fabec from his probation and terminate his employment with the borough because he has not given the borough the patrol hours we need. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: Absent

A motion was made by Mark Greenawalt, and seconded by Nancy Walker, to pay the solicitor's invoices in the amount of \$825.00 from the general fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Borough Manager Report: After discussion regarding the garbage contract bids, a motion was made by Diane Bradshaw, and seconded by Nancy Walker, to withdraw bids for garbage contract (as previously agreed to via email), and agree to extend the current contract with Copney Disposal for one year to 9-30-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2017 MMO information for the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System was presented to council, and will be forwarded to PMRS for the Apollo Borough Police Pension Plan (03-003-3 P), and the Apollo Borough Pension Plan (03-003-3 N).

Copies of a proposed service contract for 2017 with Hoffman Kennels at a cost of \$100 per month were distributed to council. A motion was made by Mark Greenawalt, and seconded by Diane Bradshaw to enter into this agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Council has no objections to Donna Zukas's request to hold the 18th annual Fight for Life 5K walk/run on Saturday, November 19, 2016.

There will be an Open House at the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority to celebrate the newly expanded facility on Sunday, October 30, 2016 from 1 PM to 4 PM. Please let the Borough Manager know if you plan to attend, so she can RSVP on behalf of the borough.

At 8:16 PM council was asked to make a decision regarding the request by some residents to change the Halloween events dates and times. Council President asked the audience to leave the room. At 8:20 PM council returned to session after realizing that this recess would be perceived as an executive session, and that type of session was not appropriate for the subject matter they intended to discuss. No motions were made, and no action was taken by council. Mark Greenawalt informed the public in attendance that there were no motions to change anything, and that for 2016 council would stand by the decision they made in November 2015 regarding the Halloween events.

Planning Committee Report

Cheryl Swank – Chairman

Public Works & Streets Committee Report:

Mark Greenawalt – Chairman

Public Safety & Public Service Committee Report:

Diane Bradshaw – Chairman

Diane spoke briefly about the agility agreement meeting with PennDOT. No motion for action was made. Copies of the agreement will be sent to Denny, Cheryl, and Mark for further review.

Council received a request from the Public Safety committee of the Borough of North Apollo to meet with Apollo regarding providing police coverage for North Apollo. Council has no objections to preliminary meetings regarding this issue. A motion was made by Cheryl Swank, and seconded by Dennis Gabrielli, for the Public Safety Committee to meet with North Apollo as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Property Committee Report:

Denny Gabrielli – Chairman

Finance Committee Report

John Kautz – Chairman

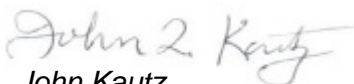
The finance committee will continue to meet and develop a proposed budget for 2017.


Approval of items for payment as follows (MTD September 2016):

Garbage Fund – \$27,598.00
General Fund (includes payroll) – \$15,126.94
Liquid Fuels Fund – \$3,534.67
Sewer Fund – \$17,947.17
Sewer Separation Fund - \$2,395.03
Parking Fund – \$26,094.82
Total – \$92,696.63

A motion was made by Cheryl Swank, and seconded by Mark Greenawalt, to pay all bills, including payroll. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mark Greenawalt, and seconded by Nancy Walker to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.


John Kautz
Council President


Cynthia McDermott
Borough Manager