

ARCHBALD BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Brian Gilgallon. A moment of silence was followed by The Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call, Burke, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont, Gilgallon were present. Mrs. Owen and Mayor Barrett were present via telephone.

President Gilgallon announced that Council met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and real estate.

Community Development and Economic Committee Report

Dave Moran gave a report from CDEC updating everyone on their latest meeting. They are moving forward with the dog park project and they are still looking for a site. Mr. Gallagher and Mrs. Healey met with Larry Newman, Diamond City Partnership, to get ideas for the downtown area. Paul Macknosky will attend their next meeting to help put their ideas together for the area between the bridges. They also discussed the community garden project being placed on Filbert St. next year.

Public Comment

Gene Cholish, 313 Columbus Dr., Archbald, spoke about a drainage problem on his recently purchased commercial property at 601 Main St., Eynon. The issue is a water pipe running onto his property that stems from a storm drain on the opposite side of the road. It comes underneath the road and drains onto the property. He has spoken to the State, met with four people on September 17th, 2021 who informed him that it is a Borough problem to fix even though it is a state road. The Highway Drainage law was mentioned. He would appreciate if someone from the Borough would take a look at the problem so it can be resolved.

Dave Moran spoke with KBA and they will look at it. He also mentioned talking to Brian Daughton at Marty Flynn's office.

Nicole Kobylanski, NEPA Pet Fund and Rescue and Katrina Coviello, Cat Coordinator, NEPA Pet Fund and Rescue spoke about being contacted to help with a solution for the feral cat problem in the borough. They explained the TNR process the use to help control the colony populations. The cost is \$35.00 per cat to have them trapped, neutered, spayed and vaccinated. They are then released back to where they were trapped. They reported their success with the non-profit organization.

Ms. Simon asked if their goal is to aid and rescue one cat at a time or how many they rescue at one time. They are expanding the amount of cats they trap with the more help they have.

Ms. Simon asked, after they are released how is the spraying and odor problems kept under control? They explained that the spraying problem and odor usually ends after spaying.

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Mrs. Owen asked, how do they determine between a feral cat and house pet? They answered you can tell by the behavior. A feral cat will not approach people and a house pet usually does. They also talk with neighbors to find an owner, check for chips, if none are found, they will still collect and fix the cat and return to where it was trapped.

Mr. Ossont asked what liability there is to taking someone's pet. They responded there is none because they are trapping on properties that allow them to trap. If the cat is on that property there is nothing they can do. They also inform the neighborhood of what they are doing. They also talked about a contract they have with Jessup that has been successful.

Mr. Mancuso asked where the colonies in Archbald are located. They knew of four, two mentioned were the Trailer Park and Beech St.

They informed council that one cat can have up to one thousand kittens in a lifetime. The Beech St. property had an injured cat which got their organization involved. The owner refused the veterinary help they offered.

Mr. Moran asked how the help from the Rescue would fit with the current Feral Cat Ordinance. Mr. Ossont replied he didn't have the Ordinance with him but he believes as long as they register the TNR contract and Council approves, they would be fine.

Mr. Joe Vladika, 172 East St., Eynon directly across the street from General Dynamics. He stated employees were allowed to park on the SLIBCO lot which is now closed. Since then, employees have been parking on East St. taking up residential parking. He would like to see signs along the street that state, "Residential Parking Only". He also said there have been tractor trailers parked in front of houses, idling at 3:30 am waiting for the plant to open. Employees are not parking in the 600-spot parking lot owned by General Dynamics. He is concerned about the street parking making the street basically a one way. He has concerns when it comes to snow plowing. He spoke with the plant manager and human resources about the issue and it still continues.

Council members mentioned a permit parking program.

Mr. Turlip mentioned it is on the agenda tonight.

Chester Fritch, 182 East. St. complained of speeding from employees coming and going. He fears his daughter will be hit when walking on her street.

Chief Trently explained the rules of setting up a speed trap in that area.

Mr. Moran asked if having NO PARKING signs would help. Mr. Vladika said it would make it worse.

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Mr. Gilgallon mentioned NO PARKING at certain times. Mr. Vladika said it wouldn't help with snow removal and feels he has never seen it so bad. He thinks the plant manager should enforce the employees to use employee parking. The manager told him he tried and was told the United Auto Workers Union has a clause in their contract stating they can enter any entrance to the building. So, most use the front door which is closest to their cars parked on East St.

Ms. Owen suggested the Borough write a letter to General Dynamics asking to have their employees use the parking lot in back of their building. Solicitor O'Connor stated no, they cannot.

Solicitor O'Connor asked if they were to do something with the parking situation, whether regulating or permit parking, would the employees have parking provided.

Mr. Vladika stated yes, they do and he believes if they leave their firearms home, they would park in the lot.

He has been blocked from entering his property and he is going to purchase signs to mark his driveway.

Chief Harvey stated as a former employee of General Dynamics, they had this problem years ago. The plant manager, neighbors and the union worked out the parking problem to be good neighbors put into place they were not allowed to park on that side of the street. The usage of the front entrance was meant for people to be dropped off or picked up, not to park. He said if management does not help, contact their Corporate Office.

Mr. Moran asked Mr. Turlip to contact the manager at General Dynamics.

Mr. Ossont does not think the speeding machine will work on that hill.

Mr. Turlip asked if they want No Parking, Residential Parking or Permit Parking signs.

Solicitor O'Connor suggested speaking with the manager to resolve the issue first.

Unfinished Business

1. Senior Housing Committee – United Neighborhood Centers Update
2. Sturges Paving Project – Start date: October 25, 2021
3. Fire and Emergency Services Study – On going
4. Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit Ordinance
5. Knox Box Ordinance
6. Mandatory Numbering of All Buildings
7. Commercial Institutional Recycling Seminar – November 9, 2021
8. 2022 Borough Calendar

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New Business

1. Traffic Control Measure – No Parking on East Street
2. Grant/Project Updates
3. Santa Train
4. 2022 Budget
5. 2022 Tax Anticipation Note
6. 2022 Summer Camp Program
7. Lackawanna County Job Fair, PNC Field, October 28, 2021, 12-4 PM
8. Municipal Building Committee

Council Members Reports

Mr. Burke reported Hricak-McAndrew Post 869 is hosting a Turkey Dinner, October 31st, 12:00-4:00 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 and include a variety of desserts and basket raffles. He is also looking into a spring fishing derby.

Mr. Mancuso reported the DPW are out collecting leaves. Leaf vacuuming starts November 1st and will pick up for 2 weeks. Brown bags are finished and will be picked up one last time the week of December 6th.

Mr. Ossont stated they have been working on the budget. They are going to have a tentative budget ready for the November meeting and are hoping to finalize for the December meeting. He had a question from a neighbor about water on 4th Street. Don Totino had a temporary fix that may help the problem.

Mr. Moran had already spoken on his report and had nothing else

Ms. Simon reported the issues with the Santa Train this year are some towns are participating and some are not. Archbald falls in the middle. The towns are worried the ones participating will be over crowded due to the other towns not participating. The Santa Train Committee suggested the train just going by without stopping. A decision needs to be made soon as to what they plan to do in Archbald. A motion will be made tonight.

Ms. Owen gave an update on the Safety Meetings that are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am. Tom Conigliaro, Joyce Insurance, spoke on certifications. Rocco Genevese was a guest speaker from Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation who spoke on the safety of Lyme Disease.

Ms. Owen thanked Nancy Edmunds, Brian Dulay and Clyde Brown for putting the Stop the Bleed kits together. She thinks people will recognize the borough truck if they were marked with a sign. She brought up painting the fire hydrants and how the little things make a big difference. She mentioned the flower pots and benches as well as the clocks make the town look nice.

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There is neutral color paint left over from the clocks to use. She spoke to Chief Harvey who said it is ok to paint the hydrants. She went on to speak about a pioneer, a trailblazer. A woman who lost her husband at the age of 47. She raised two boys, steering them into the military, that later became two successful gentlemen. Mrs. Owen gave a description of Marion Langan-Munley who lived on Spruce St. and stated her accomplishments. She mentioned she was astounded by Mrs. Munley's accomplishment of discrimination in the rate of pay due to sex because they fought for this in the 60's, 70's and are still fighting for it in the year 2021. She stated Mrs. Munley was a humble person who didn't have a car to drive to Harrisburg. She did not have a secretary and she worked from home. Mrs. Owen would like to continue the dedication and memorial that was done at Courthouse Square, Scranton. She would like to continue this because she raised two successful boys here, Judge James Walsh and Attorney Robert Munley. They also have two homes in Archbald and raise their children here. She thinks it would be nice for the Borough Council to do in her name.

Mayor Barrett said if they do the Santa Train, Maribeth Cawley and Pat Munley will volunteer to be Santa and Mrs. Claus. They will also volunteer for any Lions event. Chief Trently got compliments on the great job Officer Fenton is doing at the Valley View School. She stated the Chalk Painting Contest will be judged on Saturday, October 23rd. She is happy the officers are doing something out in the public for the taxpayers.

Mr. Ossont had questions about the painting of the fire hydrants. Chief Harvey said the hydrants within the Borough do not have to be painted certain colors for pressure.

Ms. Simon asked who owns the hydrants.

Chief Harvey said Pennsylvania American Water Co. He spoke with Mr. Corrigan from the water company and he doesn't have an issue with painting them.

Solicitor O'Connor stated he would like something in writing from PA American Water Co. stating they are ok with the hydrants being painted.

Clyde Brown suggested painting them a color that can be seen.

A volunteer firefighter stated looking into NFPA 291 prior to painting.

Mr. Turlip asked if the town clocks were working. Mrs. Owen stated the Main St., Eynon clock light is working and the time is not. The Wayne St., Archbald clock, the light is not working and the clock is not working. Mr. Turlip will have Mike Zielinski look at it.

Mayor Barrett mentioned having the Neighborhood Association come up with drawings and suggestions prior to painting to give everyone an idea of what they plan to do. She had the Boys Scouts ready to paint them years ago and they had a problem with the color they wanted.

Mr. Moran asked about repairs on the Train Station.

Mr. Turlip said they looked at replacing the decking with concrete but they would have to get new pricing than what they got in the spring.

Motions

Motion by Simon second by Ossont to approve the September 20, 2021 Regular Council meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Simon second by Burke to approve the September 2021 HNB General Fund bills totaling \$410,622.22, checks from the Pike Street Park Project account totaling \$3,053.50, checks from the Local Share Grant Account - Archbald Borough Veterans Monument Park totaling \$48,780.00, checks from the NBT General Fund totaling \$1,828.37, checks from the Fire Escrow account totaling \$3,700.00, checks from the Radzelovage Park Project account totaling \$2,790.00, and checks from the Betty Street Swing Project account totaling \$10.00 for a total of \$470,784.09. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Simon to accept Reports – Treasurer, Building Inspector, Tax Collector’s Report, Mayor’s Report, and Planning Commission. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Mancuso to adopt an Ordinance requiring occupancies within the Borough of Archbald to have a Knox Box Rapid Entry Key Box System. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Simon second by Owen to enter into an agreement by and between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, Governor’s Center for Local Government Services and Archbald Borough to conduct a feasibility study of the Fire and EMS Services. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Simon to approve Duda Actuarial Consulting calculations of the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Archbald Borough Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$164,407.00. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Mancuso to approve Duda Actuarial Consulting calculations of the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Archbald Borough Non-Uniform Pension Plan in the amount of \$48,427.00. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Burke authorizing solicitation of proposals from financial institutions for a 2022 Tax Anticipation note in the amount of \$650,000.00. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Simon authorizing the saw cut, excavation, curb, backfill and sealing on Daystrom Ave. in the amount of \$124,256.00. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

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Motion by Simon second by Mancuso to have the Santa Train, yes or no. Mrs. Owen asked whether or not they have the Santa Train, if they can hand out candy bags. Mr. Gilgallon informed her it was not the motion on the floor. Roll call Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon voted no. The motion did not pass.

Motion by Simon second by Ossont to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

ARCHBALD BOROUGH:

Michele Bianchi, Borough Secretary

Brian Gilgallon, President of Council

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