Laceyville Borough Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

342 Church St Laceyville, PA 18623

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council President Kristy Fassett.

Present: Kristy Fassett, Tari Trowbridge, Jeff Shotwell, Phillip Brewer, Lisa Mapes, Jaye Butler, Jaime Lopez, ShellyAnn Shotwell, and Warren Howler.

**Secretary Minutes** from the November 7, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved, 1st Phillip Brewer, 2nd by Jaime Lopez, with no changes recommended.

**Treasurer’s Report**

1. Lisa reported that there is YTD interest of $188.36, on the 6-month CD with Community Bank.
2. Lisa is still working on getting EQT & Equinor set up with the new Gas Royalty Money Market account. Phil offered to assist Lisa with this process.
3. If Lisa needs to transfer funds to General Checking to cover regular operating expenses, she will transfer funds from the General Savings account.
4. Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented made by Jaime Lopez, 2nd Tari Trowbridge.

**Community Events**

1. Christmas Event. ShellyAnn reported that everything went well for the Christmas event that occurred on December 2, 2023. However, need to consider moving the event to the second Saturday in December. The event raised $600 from vendor fees and $100 from the raffle. Most vendors did well. The Grinch, Santa and the books that were handed out all went well also. ShellyAnn will put the event into the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau (EMVB) pamphlets.
2. Next Event. Considering a chili cookoff.

**2024 Budget**

1. Water Budget. Received new contract from Sekula Environmental Services (Tom Sekula). The rate has increased from $105/month to $115/month. Therefore, on the 2024 Water Budget the Backup Operator Salary was increased from $1,260 to $1,380. The offset to this change will be a decrease to the Capital Improvement Fund from $38,971.90 to $38,851.90.
2. General Budget. Kristy noted that the Ambulance expense was reduced to $4,000. There was a delay in invoicing the Ambulance services in 2023, which resulted in increased expenses.
3. Motion to approve the 2024 Budgets as presented and with the changes as noted, 1st Tari Trowbridge, 2nd by Phillip Brewer.

**Water**

1. Kristy reported that the Solicitor is working on the Ordinance to increase water rate by $.001, as approved at last month’s meeting. Lisa will prepare correspondence to be put in with the January invoices with notice that the increase will be reflected in the March 2024 invoices.
2. Jaye reported that he continues the flushing on Franklin Street.
3. Jaye reported the water samples are all coming back good.
4. There was one water shutoff, because of the sewer shutoff list that was received at the last meeting.
5. Lisa and Jaye sent out 9 notices to delinquent water customer accounts. As of the meeting date, Lisa has received one of these payments. Lisa and Jaye will continue to work with water customers on outstanding balances.

**Streets**

1. Kristy stated that the Christmas lights downtown look good.
2. There are 2 pole lights that are out in town.
3. Jeff shared that the Christmas tree by the monument was donated by Rutt’n Bucks Outfitter.
4. Trash Cans. Lisa and Kristy shared their experiences with the trash cans downtown and the dumpster. The 2-yard dumpster, now located at the end of the Laceyville Borough parking lot, is from Dependable. Kenneth Mapes, is emptying the trash cans downtown, and at Donovan Park, every other week and placing the garbage in dumpster at the Borough lot. Residents are putting personal garbage in the trash cans located downtown. Kristy suggested reducing the number of trash cans along main street to prevent some of this. It was agreed to remove the trash can in front of the Antique Shop. Also remove one with the broken door in front of the Fire Company Banquet Hall door, then slide a trash can down the sidewalk to replace it. This will reduce the number of trash cans downtown from 8 to 6. It was agreed to pay Kenneth Mapes $50 for emptying cans in November and continue to pay the same at the end of each proceeding month.

**Mayor’s Report**

1. Jeff reported that the speed sign is not working again, and he will take care of it.

**Sewer**

Nothing to Report

**Parks**

1. Jeff reported that the pavilion roof project will be put off until Spring.
2. Kristy is still checking with Wyoming County to see if there is available grant money that can be used towards Donovan Park expenses.

**Correspondence**

1. Laceyville Borough received a request from Wyoming County Assessor’s Office to confirm there is no change in millage and Borough will have no increase in taxes for 2024. The Borough millage currently at 22.1 and other at .5 for total of 22.6. Millage will remain the same and no increase in taxes for 2024. Signatures were provided on the document and Lisa will return it.
2. Sekula Environmental Services contract is for $115/month in 2024. This contract was signed by Kristy and Lisa will return it.
3. Laceyville Borough received $94.13, on December 1, 2023, from PA Department of Transportation for State Police Fines/Penalties.
4. Lisa received notices from Direct Energy. Some of the accounts that are in contract with Direct Energy, as the generation supplier, are due to expire at the end of December 2023. Lisa will contact Direct Energy and ask that ALL contracts be cancelled, and services moved back to Penelec.
5. Received information from Paradigm for Pipeline Emergency Response Training. Kristy recommended that Lisa send the information to Courtney Salsman to see if Fire Company might be interested in these trainings.

**New Business**

 Nothing to Report

**Old Business**

1. Wiles Memorial. Jaime will contact Eric Kukuchka to see what is needed from Laceyville Borough at this time to get the monument started, although it will not be laid until later in the Spring.
2. Kristy reported that she and Lisa are still working on the phone transfer from Verizon to Blue Ridge.

Motion to Adjourn at pm 8:07pm was made by Jaime Lopez, 2nd by Phillip Brewer.

 An Executive Session was held immediately following adjournment of the regular meeting.

Next meeting, Tuesday, January 2, 2024, will be a Reorganizational Meeting immediately followed by a Regular Meeting, both will be held at the Borough office, 342 Church Street Laceyville, PA 18623.

Minutes recorded by Secretary, Lisa Mapes