

## Minutes- Regular Council Meeting

November 6, 2023

Council President Clint Warnick opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Stephanie VanTine, Rich Macura, Chad Westerman, Jacob Whitlock; Mayor Zack Gent, Borough Manager Zach Filous Code Enforcement Officer Mike Greiser, Solicitor Matt Kalina, and KLH Engineering Rob Horvat. Council Member Josh James was absent.

The regular Council Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Minutes- Motion was made by Rich Macura to approve the September 11, 2023, Regular Council Meeting minutes. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chad Westerman. Motion Carried.

Borough Manager Report- Motion was made by Stephanie VanTine to approve the Borough Manager report. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> Chad Westerman. Motion Carried.

Public Safety Report- Motion was made by Chad Westerman to approve the Public Safety Report. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jacob Whitlock. Motion Carried.

Police Report- Motion was made by Chad Westermanto approve the Police Report. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Macura. Motion Carried.

Invoices- Motion was made by Rich Macura to approve the invoices. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephanie VanTine. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report- Motion made by Stephanie VanTine to approve the treasurers report. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Macura. Motion carried.

Mayor Report- Mayor Zack Gent wanted to thank the police for their efforts in Ford City with house fire. Possibility of getting involved with land bank for blighted properties. Mayor Gent believes losing 50 percent tax for 5 year is better an no taxes at all. Thanking Borough Manager for getting Budget completed on time.

Planning Commission Report- None

Solicitor Report- Nothing to report.

Citizen Comments- Phillip Tack, from Orphans of the Storm wanted to discuss possible funding. Orphans of the Storm placed 731 animals placed last year. New building for will have shelter for lost animals and offers low cost for fixing and shots. Raised \$4.2 million for new building, but still need \$800,000. Asking for \$1 dollar donation for every person in town, 1700 roughly. President of council states that that he believes this program should be volunteer based. Freeport has already experienced a tax increase and sewage increase. Council President asks council to motion topic for agenda next month. No motion placed. Willing add Orphan of the Storm to website to push people to donate.

Public Works- Robert Horvat (KLH) has no change on LSA Grant Application. Working with USDA to submit clearance for US Fish and Wildlife. Had to submit new permit to Dep for permit to start construction. Did not need 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultant for long eared bat issue. Finalizing all paperwork to move forward. Need notice to proceed issued from State. Stephanie VanTine motion to approve resolution to apply for 2024 Local Shared Account Grant. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chad Westerman. Motion carried. Chad Westerman motion to approve Dirt and Gravel Road Grant to address drainage issues in Laneville. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephanie VanTine. Motion carried.

Public Safety, Property, & Ordinance- No update on Blighted Properties. Re-Zoning the Central Business District to include 508 Franklin was handled in separate public meeting. Stephanie VanTine motion to amend the agenda to approve a motion to sell 67 Main Street. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chad Westerman. Motion carried. Discussion and Approval of hiring tree trimmers tabled. Discussion and Approval of surveying Washington Street Alley for partition and sale. No motion made. Discussion and Approval of allowing off street parking at 521 Franklin Street. Meet with Borough Manager to review and decision will be made at December Meeting.

Parks, Recreation, & Community- Stephanie VanTine motion to approve Halloween Carnival dates 2024, Field reservation October 6-14 | Event October 11-13. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Macura. Motion carried. Stephanie VanTine motion to approve Freeport International Baseball Invitational dates 2024, Field reservation July 22-27 | 5K Run July 27 | Fireworks July 27. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chad Westerman. Motion carried.

Finance- 49 Delinquent Sewage/Rubbish Accounts. \$2.25 dollars of delinquent income collected by Sharp Collections. Rich Macura motion to approve advertising the 2024 budget for December meeting. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chad Westerman. Motion carried. Chad Westerman motion to approve raising Boat Dock fees to \$400 for 2024. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jacob Whitlock. Rich Macura opposed; motion passed. Rich Macura motion to approve raising garage rates to \$150 per month for 2024 season. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephanie VanTine. Motion carried. Council asks to update lease agreement. Rich Macura motion to approve raising parking spots rates to \$25 a month for commercial and \$20 month for residential. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephanie VanTine. Motion carried.

Electronics, Web- No report at this time.

Personnel- Stephanie VanTine motion to approve contracting RA Service trainer to help streamline accounting software not to exceed \$600 dollars. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jacob Whitlock. Motion carried.

Stephanie VanTine motion to adjure at 6:53 pm. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chad Westerman. Motion Carried.