

**Minutes  
West Middlesex Borough  
Council Meeting  
September 19, 2023**

**Call to Order:** The West Middlesex Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Borough President Mr. Eric Lucich.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Council Present:** President: Mr. Eric Lucich conducted the meeting. Vice President Mr. Dave Moyer, Mr. Bill Novak, Mayor Stacey Curry. Absent: Mr. Tim Webster and Mr. Robert Lark.

**Others Present:** Attorney Robert Tesone, Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, Streets Department Senior Laborer Mr. Bobby Cochran, Fire Chief: Rich Garrett, Mr. Ray Lucich, Ms. Thelma Barnes, Mr. Dave Babcock, Ms. Jeanie Fulford, Mr. Harry Kornbau, Mr. Andrew Johnson, Mr. Brian Harmon

President Eric Lucich Informed all in attendance that an Executive Session was held right before this meeting to discuss: Union Negation and Personnel issues.

**Public Comments: Mr. Dave Babcock:** Mr. Babcock who owns property at 3501 and 3507 Sharon Rd. voiced his concerns with the ditch in front of his properties. He is not sure if it is his responsibility or Penn Dot to maintain the grass. He was told in the past by Mr. Lark that the borough cuts it 2 x a year. Once in the Spring and Once in the Fall. But it has not been done as of yet this year. Bobby Cochran reported that Penn Dot has scheduled for edging and ditching in that area, but was not sure when exactly that would take place. Mr. Eric Lucich added he believes it is Penn Dot responsibility. They have taken responsibility for work that will be completed down in front of the school. He will inquire into the name of the contact person for that project, for more information concerning the issues in front of Mr. Babcock's property. **Mr. Andrew Johnson:** Mr. Johnson lives at 11 9<sup>th</sup> Alley. He voiced his concerns to the Council concerning all the storm-water flooding in his alley. It is like a river coming. He is concerned for his foundation. He has a video of the last storm that he would like to share with Council. He will give his email to Paula to reach out to him to send the video. He had asked if the alley could be paved. President Lucich informed him that we are unable to pave the alley because all of the sewer lines run under the alleys. Millings need to be put down and tampered to help with the flooding issues. Bobby Cochran reported that he placed millings about 2 weeks ago. Eric commented that they do need to be tampered down. Mr. Johnson is concerned the water is going to blow out his foundation. Mr. Lucich said we have a meeting scheduled with our engineers, and that this issue will be added to the list of areas of concerns. Ms. Jeanie Fulford: Ms. Fulford reported she lives at Penn Ave. She was told to stop using the meter on her well a while ago, and her sewer bill has always been 37.50. She recently received a call from Paula that because she uses well water her bill should be the flat rate of \$50. She feels because she lives alone, she is not using as much water as a family of 4 or more. She does not feel that is fair. Paula explained the reason for the change in her account. There are two ways of calculating billing for the Sewer accounts. All accounts have two charges on their accounts. Everyone has the Debt Service of \$27.40. Then those who have city water, the second charged is calculated from the water report. Everyone with well water, their second charge is the same: Monthly Charge of \$22.60. All residents with well water pay a flat rate of \$50 per month. Attorney Tesone explained that the engineers came up with that formula over 20 years ago. He stated that her billing should have always been \$50 from years ago when this formula was

designed. Eric added that he is not aware if it is a possibility to allow residents that have well water to have a meter, but it would be presented to the Sewer Authority for more information.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Novak, and seconded by Mr. Moyer to accept the Minutes from August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Work Session and August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council Meeting. All in Favor, No opposed. Motion Carries.

**Street Department Report:** Mr. Bobby Cochran Read the Streets Department Report. **Penn Ave:** Bobby Reported he placed about 5-6 tons of cold patch to Penn Ave. He also contacted Penn Power about the utility pole, but later found out it was a Verizon pole where there was a hold near the pole. He said that they back filled the hole and placed sand bags on top. President Lucich questioned how they can place back fill in the hole because a sewer pipe is right under the pole. Bobby reported they were able to near the sewer pipe. About 2 feet away. As of right now, that is working. Bobby also reported he cut down limbs on Penn Ave **West Middlesex Estates Pump:** Bobby reported he contacted V-System concerning the delivery of the pump. He was told mid or end of September. He said he was told when he ordered the pump it would be 6-7 or 8 weeks and we are within that time frame currently. Inspection: Bobby reported today while making a path on Hogback for the inspection to be conducted tomorrow, he lost power. Two lines were ripped out. He had to have it towed back to the garage. Mayor Stacey questioned about the light pole on North Street. He reported the pole is on back order. President Eric Lucich asked if he got the trees trimmed back far on Penn Ave. He had received a call from the Bus Garage stating we may have to replace mirrors due to damage from the tree limbs. Bobby reported he trimmed them way back.

**Police Department Report:** Chief Newton was unable to be at the meeting. Mr. Moyer reported on behalf of Chief Newton. The Report was put in the packets for Council. He summarized the report. He also reported the parade went well, no issues. Mr. Lucich added there were some issues with setting up the parade. Mayor Stacey Curry added that She with the Help of Mr. Novak and Jacob, they did the set up to the best of their ability. It was a learning experience due to none of them doing it in the past. Mr. Lark usually is the one who organizes everything. She just happened to call the school 4 days before the parade, and that is when she found out she would be in charge. Mr. Moyer added that Chief Newton did want to bring to attention to the Streets Department concerning a couple trees that needed trimmed back. He forwarded that information onto Mr. Novak also.

**Fire Department Report:** Chief Rich Garret read the Fire Department report. Mayor Stacey commented on the 9/11 Memorial out front of the Fire Hall: Looks Great!

**Treasurer's Financial Report:** A motion was made by Mr. Novak, and Seconded by Mr. Moyer to accept the Treasurer's Financial Report. All In Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carried.

- 1. Department of Environmental Protection Inspection:** The inspection is scheduled to be held September 20<sup>th</sup>. That is what Bobby was preparing the area for. Mayor Stacey reported that Shenango TWP was preparing their area for the inspection, and the worker who was cutting grass, cut all the wild flowers that were planted this year.
- 2. Joe Beer License Transfer:** Secretary Paula Luca informed Council an email was received concerning the License for Joe Beer. She forwarded the email on to Attorney

3. Tesone for more information. It was not clear if he was renewing his license or transferring it. It was determined it was a transfer from Joe Beer to Good News Holdings LLC. That is Tyler Babcock. Paula reported as of today, the transfer is still pending. It was also reported that he will probably be selling the piece of property that he had originally purchased to move his business.
4. **Penn Ave:** President Eric Lucich added to the report already given by Bobby Cochran. There is more than 1 giant sink hold on the side of Penn Ave. There are several issues:
  1. The area of the Verizon Pole.
  2. Issues with the Busses and Fire Trucks traveling down Penn Ave. The mirrors on the Busses may need to be replaced, plus because they can't get off the roads, fear of hitting someone.
  3. Received a call from Life Force: issues transporting a patient on Penn Ave. Mr. Novak asked if the Sink Holes should be added to the Sewer Authority Agenda.
5. **New Business wanting to Come to West Middlesex Borough:** Secretary Paula Luca updated Council on calls received with Business wanting to come to West Middlesex. No discussion.
6. **Seth Anthony:** Paula updated Council that Seth had overpaid Taxes and are requesting the extra amount be returned. Motion was made by Mr. Moyer to refund the overpayment to Mr. Anthony, and Seconded by Mr. Novak. All in favor, no opposed. Motion Carries.
7. **Concerns from Residents:** Mayor Stacey Curry updated Council with Concerns from Residents that were posted on Facebook.
  1. Unhappy that we don't have a play ground for the kids of the Borough.
  2. Dream Works: Cars blocking sidewalks. Dangerous intersection. No issues with the business, just the cars. Mr. Moyer added, he saw the post. He has never heard a complaint about Dream Works, and he encourages them as a business in our community. It was suggested by Ray, this business was in town for a long time, and we want to keep them in West Middlesex. Suggest to speak with Dream Works to use the parking lot across the street. As a public safety concern.
  3. Concerns about Agreement with Spectrum: Charter Communications prohibits other companies coming into the Borough. Attorney Tesone believe the agreement is with COG.
  4. An issue with Code Enforcement. Mayor Stacey the Door Hangers will help with that issue.
  5. Residents are not aware of the Rails to Trails- Bikes are permitted to use it.
  6. A lot of residents did not know Kiwanis Park existed, or where the Gazabo is.
  7. Street issues
  8. Police Protection. Mr. Moyer added that any complaints with the Police Department- they need to call the Police Dept directly so they call is logged.
  9. Grass Cutting.
  10. Kiwanis Park being closed so long. President Eric Lucich reported on the repair of Kiwanis Park and What is our responsibility or Shenango TWP responsibility. Waiting for a quote from Martuccio. President Lucich suggests that a Q&A be added to the FB page for more concerns going forward in the future. Good way to address issues from the Residents.
8. **Costars Generator:** Information needed on quotes on a 48-kilowatt Generator. Mr. Moyer added that Laverty is interested in giving a quote. Mr. Moyer will call Laverty and ask them to come down to see what we need.

9. **MMO Report:** A copy of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System report was submitted to Council to review, and accepted.
10. **Email from Sweet Child of Mine:** Paula updated Council on the issues with the Parcel of Land. Still working on who is responsible for cutting the grass on the Parcel of Land. Sweet Child of Mine previously was doing it, but will not be maintaining it going forward.
11. **Update from Richardson Inspection** concerning 9 Penn Ave and 741 Wheatland Road. President Lucich Read the Report from Richardson Inspection. A copy of the most up to date Sewer Account was given to Attorney Tesone concerning the Braho Sewer Account to put a lien on the account. Attorney Tesone suggest we Amend the Ordinance of the Property Management Code.
12. **Resolution 7/2023 Berkheimer Tax Authority.** Resolution to add Secretary/Paula Luca to be approved to be added to the account. Attorney will update the Resolution to add Paula Luca Borough Secretary. Motion by Mr. Moyer to approve the resolution and seconded my Mr. Novak. All in favor, no opposed. Motion Carries. Attorney Tesone also added that he will also draw up Resolution 8/2023 Teamsters Contract. Motioned my Mr. Moyer and Seconded my Mr. Novak. All in favor, No opposed. Motion Carries. An amended Agenda will be posted.
13. **Request for Change in Office Hours:** New Office Hours effective Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> will be 7:00am -3:00pm. Closed for Lunch 12-00-12:30. Mr. Moyer motion to approve new office hours and seconded my Mr. Novak. All in Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carried. **Request for Person Day** for Secretary Paula Luca approved for Friday October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Moyer motioned to approve the personal day, seconded my Mr. Novak. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries. **Request for more hours** for help with Budget and Reports Due. It was questioned by Mayor Stacey, if there was a need to pay two people are needed. With all the extra hours that have already been paid. Secretary Paula Luca added, she did not want to step on any toes, but felt that the hours with Tammy Garrett would be the most beneficial. 10 hours approved for Tammy Garrett. Mr. Moyer motioned to approve 10 hours with Tammy Garrett, Seconded my Mr. Novak. All in favor, no opposed, Motion carries.
14. **Discussion on when to remove Desiree Richardson from Banking and Signing Checks.** It was discussed to wait until the Re-Organization of Council to do everything at one time. At that time a letter will be presented to the Bank of all the changes needed.

Mayor Stacey updated everyone of the additional funding made available by Senator Michelle Brooks for the Community Pool. Mr. Lucich brought up concerns on what is being done to make more profit with the pool. More was discussed and Mayor Stacey said these items are all on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Moyer gave an update from the Shenango Valley Animal Shelter. They are in need of additional help. Also spoke about securing funding for the new facility. If you know of anyone looking for work of this nature to encourage them to apply. The minimum age to apply is 18.

Secretary Paula Luca brought to the attention from the Methodist Church a request to ring the church bells every Once or Twice every Sunday Morning. The Council encouraged this.

Paula also updated on a call received from Tri County requesting a citation issued for residents with past due garbage accounts. The council was not aware about this. Also, a question if a resident has to have their service.

Mr. Novak Motion for adjournment and seconded by Mr. Moyer. All in Favor, No Opposed.  
Motion Passed.

Adjournment: 8:35 pm