

**MINUTES WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH
ZOOM AND REGULAR WORK SESSION**

JULY 14, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: President Cyndi Gilkey, Vice-President Eric Lucich, Robert Lark, Ron Preston, Stacey Curry and Mayor Debra Larouche.

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Sandra Ricci (via Zoom), Tax Collector Cheryl Babcock, Street Department Laborer Scott Haddox, Fire Department Chief Rich Garrett, Fire Department President Adam Garrett and Ray Lucich.

Cheryl Babcock addressed Council regarding Per Capita Taxes and prices (which she was notified of only a few weeks ago). Mrs. Babcock said Mr. Preston signed the documents needed regarding the handling of Per Capita Taxes compared Berkheimer's Per Capita Taxes. Council, Mayor and Mrs. Babcock discussed further. Mrs. Babcock said she will present written notification to be placed in the upcoming Newsletters for resident's information. Mayor Larouche suggested a Landlord Ordinance for the landlords to give a complete list of whoever is in their buildings. Mrs. Babcock said that since residents move in and out all of the time regarding taxes, that would be extremely time consuming to continually update. Mrs. Babcock said she will supply Mayor Larouche with information for her to post on the FaceBook page.

Mr. Haddox addressed the Kiwanis Park area for grass cutting and stated that residents should not be cutting the grass there. Mr. Haddox said it takes away from his working hours if someone else cuts the grass. Ms. Gilkey said a letter was previously sent to said residents. Mr. Lark suggested having Attorney Tesone charge them with trespassing. Ms. Gilkey stated they cannot tell anyone that they cannot frequent the park as far as trespassing, but that she will talk to Attorney Tesone to see if he would submit a letter if Council was in agreement and would not need a vote on, everyone was in agreement. Mr. Haddox and Council discussed Braho's property and DeCiancio's property regarding weeds and grass.

Mr. Preston addressed the Kiwanis park rest rooms with the possibility of pumping out and filling in. Mr. Preston said there was no Company willing to do the job presented. Council and Mayor discussed the situation and Eric Lucich said he would take care of the situation. Mayor Larouche stated she would also work with Mr. Lucich.

Mr. Preston said that Jeff Richardson's office made a mistake on Braho's Criminal Complaint documents and typed in Wheatland Borough instead of West Middlesex Borough. They will have to re-file with no charge to the Borough. Ms. Gilkey and Mr. Lark said apparently Mr. Richardson is not reviewing the files before presented to Court. Council requests that Jeff Richardson notify the Borough of Court Cases before the after the fact. Ms. Ricci will contact Mr. Richardson to request this information.

Mr. Lark addressed street and storm drain repairs issues along with plans and specification requirements. Mr. Lucich, Mr. Lark and Mayor Larouche discussed these issues further. Mr. Lark said he would get more information to Ms. Ricci to scan and email to Council Members.

Council and Mayor discussed alternate Zoning Board Members for the Borough with suggestions. Mayor Larouche requested that letters be sent to the Zoning Board Members to see if they are still interested on being on the Board. Ms. Ricci said she would send out letters to Tim Webster, Barb Lipinski and Linda Bollinger.

Mayor Larouche suggested a full time Grant Writer for the Borough. Mayor Larouche stated she would like to see it done professionally and said she would like to invite the Grant Writer to a Work Session Meeting to speak with him. Council and Mayor Larouche discussed further.

Ms. Gilkey addressed the American Act Grant Application that she applied for and is still pending. She said every Municipality was running slowly due to high volume applicants and slow systems. Ms. Gilkey stated it was very time consuming and frustrating at times and jokingly stated she would rather pay the sizeable amount of money to the Borough instead of having to complete the application. Ms. Gilkey also obtained the SAM Number for the Borough for future references.

Ms. Gilkey addressed quotes/bids to connect the video/television system in the Municipal Hall and asked if anyone wanted to reach out to Bill Novak on this subject. Ms. Curry said she would speak to him.

Ms. Gilkey addressed portable speed signs regarding information from Hermitage who sent her emails on this subject. Ms. Gilkey will present this information at the regular council meeting on July 20, 2021.

Mr. Lark addressed properties in the Borough up for Private Tax Sales and Liens.

Ms. Curry addressed the cement located in the Municipality Parking Lot and would get more information from Sidley's. Ms. Gilkey said they could proceed with this project if under said amount since it was already voted on previously.

President Cyndi Gilkey announced there will be an Executive Session after Adjournment.

Adjourned: 7:30 p.m.

Executive Session

