

## West Middlesex Borough

### Council Meeting

September 17, 2024

**Call to Order:** The West Middlesex Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 pm by Borough President Mr. Tim Webster.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Council Present:** President: Mr. Tim Webster, Vice President: Mr. Robert Lark, Mr. Bill Novak, Mr. Robert Ranking, Mr. Dennis Bollinger. Mayor Stacey Curry

**Others Present:** Attorney Robert Tesone, Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, Streets Department Senior Laborer, Bill Schwartz, Police Chief Jason Newton, Fire Chief Rich Garrett, Seth Anthony, Barb Lipinski, Mr. Harry Kornbau, Mr. Ray Lucich, Mr. Jeff Hogue.

Mr. Webster updated all that an Executive Session was held on August 7<sup>th</sup>, August 14<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> for Personnel Matters. And also, September 11<sup>th</sup> for Legal and Personnel Matters.

**Public Comments:** Mr. Garrett offered a Thank You to the Borough for the use of the Hall for the funeral dinner due to the fact that the Kedron Lodge was already booked. Seth Anthony questioned Council if they were interested in a sewer maintenance Contract. Mr. Webster added that it will be discussed at the next workshop meeting or possibly the next sewer authority meeting. Mr. Jeff Hogue brought to the attention of the Council that the Rt 18 Catch Basin is still in need of a catch basin grid. PenDOT has only placed a steel plate. Mr. Webster will reach out to PenDOT. Mr. Lucich added: In the future, near the school, they will be putting in another line and another catch basin on the south side of the school entrance. This project will be done when they do the road project.

**Penn Ave Bid Opening:** Mr. Webster updated all that we had a lot of interest in the Penn Ave Project, but the Borough only received one bid. The bid was opened and Mr. Webster read the bid: The Bid was received from Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. The bid is in three parts: 1. Superpave/Asphalt \$47,712.50. 2. Select Borrow Excavation: \$57,387.50 and 3: (Optional) Asphalt Prime Coat \$3,370.00 = Grand Total: \$60,767.50. Attorney Tesone reviewed the Bid and the Bond. A motion was made by Mr. Lark that we received the bid for the Penn Ave Project, Seconded by Mr. Rankin. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion that we received the one bid package. It was discussed that we will not adjourn this meeting, but it will be recessed until a later time to allow PenDOT to review the bid.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Lark to Accept the Minutes of August 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 Special Meeting, August 14<sup>th</sup> Work Shop Meeting, and August 20<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Seconded by Mr. Novak. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

**Police Report:** Chief Newton read the Police Report.

**Fire Department Report:** Chief Garrett read the Fire Dept. Report. Mr. Lark asked Chief Garrett if they have any information concerning the letter that they had sent to the Hermitage Fire Department? Mr. Garrett replied they have not heard back as of yet.

**Treasurers Financial Report:** Secretary/Treasure Paula Luca read the Treasurer's Report. A Motion was made by Mr. Novak and Seconded by Mr. Bollinger to accept the Treasurer report and approve the paying of the monthly bills. All in favor, No opposed. Motion Carries.

**Executive Session:** The Council exited the meeting for an executive session for Legal Issues.

**Motion as Per Executive session:** A Motion was made by Mr. Lark on behalf of Borough Council. The Council directs Attorney Tesone, Solicitor of the Borough Government and the Borough Sewer Authority, to file with the Mercer County Court of common Pleas via the office of County Prothonotary Tonya Williams, an appropriate legal response to the complaint filed against the Borough by the Shenango Township Municipal Authority on Thursday August 29, and served on Monday September 9<sup>th</sup> 2024. Seconded by Mr. Rankin. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

**Approval of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System:** Obligation MMO Worksheet. A Motion was made by Mr. Lark to accept the completed worksheet, Seconded by Mr. Novak, All in Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carries.

**North Street Pump House Valve:** The Council did receive a new quote for the check valve needed for the North Street Pump House. The new quote is \$650.30, plus cost of the gaskets and bolts. It will take about a week to come in. Mr. Lark made a motion to purchase the New Valve for the North Street Pump House, Seconded by Mr. Rankin. All in Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carries.

**Ditch Clean Up on Sharon Road:** Mr. Tim Webster read an email that was received form PenDOT concerning who is responsible for the ditch in Rt. 18. The Borough is responsible to maintain the ditch. Bill Schwartz reported to Council that the ditch has already been cut and maintained.

**Update on Muncibid:** Secretary Paula Luca updated Council that an account for the Borough has been set up. Mr. Bollinger Made a Motion to have the Back Hoe, Road Roller, Air Compressor and old zero turn placed on Muncibid to be sold, Seconded by Mr. Novak. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries. The Council will determine an amount that they would like to be added as a reserve.

**Request concerning Per Capita Tax and Real Estate Tax:** Mr. Rankin made a motion to move the Per Capita invoices to be mailed at the same time as the Real Estate Tax Billings, beginning next year, Seconded by Mr. Lark. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries. Mr. Lark Made a motion to Waive the Real Estate Tax for this year for the business at 3 Short Street Seconded by Mr. Webster. All in favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

**Liquid Fuel Request:** A Motion was made by Mr. Novak, and seconded by Mr. Bollinger to have Secretary Paula Luca Reach out to PenDOT and request a 5-year repayment plan. All in favor, No opposed. Motion Carries.

**Aqua Water Update:** Mr. Bollinger gave an update to the Council concerning Aqua Water. No new information at this time. Secretary Paula Luca added, copies of the original paperwork with more information will be in the Council Mailbox's Tomorrow.

**Sympathy Cards:** Mr. Bollinger presented to the Council a suggestion that the Borough sends out cards for local residents. Mr. Webster stated that he feels this is a wonderful Idea, however he has some problems if possibly someone gets missed. He feels that this would be an act that each Councilmen can do on their own.

**Code Officer:** Mr. Bollinger presented to the Council information concerning the Borough to act on their own for Code Violations or Building Permits. Mayor Stacey Curry added information also. Mr. Webster is concerned with inspections to projects. There will be more discussion on this topic. Chief Newton questioned the status on a demolition order for Penn Ave. There was a discussion on organizing an appeal board allowing Borough to move forward with this problem.

**Computer Printer for Borough Garage:** Mr. Bollinger presented to the Council the need for a printer at the Borough Garage. Mr. Webster added, the Reason we do not have a printer in the garage is because we do not have internet. He added, the Streets Department has a smart phone that can be used for research needed. Anything that needs printed can be emailed to the Borough Office to be printed. Or Bill can use the computer in the mayor's office.

**Halloween Hours and Costume Parade:** Mr. Lark made a Motion and Seconded by Mr. Bollinger that the Halloween Hours will be October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:00-6:00 followed by a costume contest at 6:30 to be held behind the gazabo in the parking lot of the Community Hall. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

**American Rescue Fund:** Mr. Lark reminded all that a contracted commitment needs to be reported by the end of the year. The project does not have to be completed at that time, just reported. Items of interest: Kiwanis Park, Storm Sewer Issues, Rt. 18 Ditch, Rt 18 & Chestnut Street, and also Penn Ave.

**COG Report:** Mr. Lark updated all on the LSWM Community Pool and the Operations of the Bucket Truck.

Mr. Lark made a motion to Table the Bid received for the Penn Ave Project upon approval of PenDOT, seconded by Mr. Novak. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

**New Items:** It was decided that at the October and November Workshop meetings, the Projected Budget will be on the Workshop Agenda. An advertisement will be placed in the Herald.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the New Animal Shelter will be held on Saturday. Mr. Rankin is not able to attend. Mayor Stacey and Secretary Paula Luca will attend to represent the Borough.

Mr. Lark made a motion to recess this meeting until Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 at 6:00 pm to either accept or reject the Penn Ave Project. Seconded by Mr. Novak, all in favor, No opposed. Motion Carries.

The Meeting is Recessed until October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm