

West Middlesex Borough

Council Meeting

December 17, 2024

6:30 pm

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 Rankin, Mr. Dennis Bollinger & Mayor Stacey Curry.

Others Present: Attorney Tesone arrived late, Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, Streets Department Senior Laborer Bill Schwartz, Fire Chief Rich Garrett, Mr. Ray Lucich, Barb Lindsay, Thelma Barnes

Public Comments: None

Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Lark to Accept the Minutes of November 13, 2024 Work Shop Meeting, and November 19, 2024 Council Meeting, Seconded by Mr. Bollinger All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries. Special Meeting November 26, 2024. Mr. Webster abstained due to not being present at the meeting. A Motion was made by Mr. Lark, and Seconded by Mr. Novak to accept the Minutes from November 26th. All in favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

Police Report: None

Fire Department Report: Chief Garrett Read the Fire Report from November and December. Chief Garrett also updated all of the Donation of the Fire Truck from Mr. Scotty Campbell that was presented this past Friday and Accepted with great Appreciation.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca read the Treasurers Report. A Motion was made by Mr. Lark, to accept the Treasurers report, Seconded by Mr. Bollinger. All in Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carries.

West Middlesex VFD and Hermitage Fire Department Letter of Intent: A Motion was made by Mr. Novak to move forward and submit a letter of intent for a study of a Merger between WM VFD and Hermitage Fire Dept, Seconded by Mr. Rankin. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

Property Maintenance/Non-Compliance: A Motion was made by Mr. Rankin to contact Richardson Inspection and also the Department of Health for the property located at 9 Penn Ave, Seconded by Mr. Bollinger. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

Sewer Back up from September 24, 2024: Attorney Tesone was asked to send a letter to the property owner in connection to September 24th explaining that according to his legal advice, the Borough was not responsible due to the fact that the Borough was not aware that there was an issue in that area. The home owner had submitted his invoices to his insurance company; however, it was not covered.

Haywood Street Logging Project: Mr. Hubbard had asked Council to inspect the finished logging project that was completed on the property off of Haywood Street and near the Cemetery. He is requesting to pull his bond. A Motion was made by Mr. Novak to have Mr. Hubbard not pull the bond until the final gravel is placed and a final inspection can be made, Seconded by Mr. Bollinger. All in favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

2025 Meeting Dates: Mr. Lark made a motion to place the advertisement of the condensed list of all of the Work Shop, Council and Sewer Authority Meeting Dates and Times for 2025 to be published in the Herald. Seconded by Mr. Bollinger, All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

2025 Budget: Ordinance #1 of 2024: General Real Estate Tax Levy: Mr. Webster announced that the Proposed Budget is based on a Real Estate Tax increase of 4 mills. The last tax increase was 2010. What has happened because of that, the Borough has dwindled the fund balance. A Motion was made by Mr. Lark to Adopt the 2025 Proposed Budget with the 4 Mill increase that was discussed, presented and posted. Seconded by Mr. Bollinger. A Roll Call Was Taken:

Mr. Webster: YES

Mr. Lark: YES

Mr. Novak: YES

Mr. Rankin: YES

Mr. Bollinger: YES

Mr. Lark made a motion to pass Ordinance 1 of 2024: A Real Estate Tax Increase of the Borough total Mills from 25.167 to 29.167 Total Mills, Seconded, by Mr. Bollinger: A Roll Call Was Taken:

Mr. Webster: YES

Mr. Lark: YES

Mr. Novak: YES

Mr. Rankin: YES

Mr. Bollinger: YES

Additional Information: Mr. Webster updated all, that the Borough received a copy of a letter that was sent to the DCED, from Representative Parke Wentling showing support and asking for consideration of the total amount requested of the LSA Grant that was submitted by the Borough for our Street Repair Project.

Mr. Webster suggested that at our next Work Session Meeting, we include an executive Session for a meeting with the Council and all Borough Employees to discuss the Budget and expenses for 2025.

Council was updated of an issue that occurred at the North Street Pump House on Monday. It caused an issue when the Borough had to send a bigger gush of sewage to Shenango Twp. The DEP was in town and stopped at the pump station to inquire on the issue. He will be submitting a report with his findings.

Bill Schwartz updated the Council on the situation of the lights on the bridge. PennDOT sent an electrician to see what the issue may be. More information on the lights will need to be researched.

Mr. Lark informed Council that there will be a meeting tomorrow, December 18th with GPI at noon. Scheduled is to look at WM Estates, North Street Pump Station, and Garfield Street Extension at the O'Neill Coffee Company.

Mr. Webster updated all that Mr. Tiger Barris has been issued the Building Permit and the project will get started soon.

A motion was made by Mr. Novak and Seconded by Mr. Rankin for Adjournment.

Adjournment: 7:10 pm.