

Renovo Borough Council
128 5th Street, Renovo, PA 17764
August 11, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Renovo Borough Council was held on this date starting at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers, 128 5th Street, Renovo, PA. The meeting was called to order by Council President Ann Tarantella with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. The following Council Members were present; R. Balchun, David Knauff, Patricia Rauch, John Simon and Mayor Thomas Tarantella. Also in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Davis, and Police Chief Richard Simpson.
Absent: William Fornwalt III, Kristy Serafini-Brooks

PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by R. Balchun to accept the minutes as written for the July 14, 2021 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS

Administration-\$4288.12/Building-\$3342.48/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$363.75/Police-\$1570.55/
Streets-\$8502.48.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by D. Knauff to pay the bills presented if the money is available. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

GALLERY

Gail Lutz expressed appreciation to Council for the improvements to the landscape of Renovo Borough over the past few years. Ms. Lutz continued to read from a prepared letter she had written and asked that her remarks be part of the minutes. She spoke on the recent rally held at the 16th Street Park which was to provide information to the public concerning the emissions of the proposed power plant. Ms. Lutz was disappointed in the actions of the elected officials and feels they should have stood between the two groups as a bridge and that it is their job to serve all citizens not just those who agree with them. A full copy of Ms. Lutz letter will be attached to the approved minutes.

Maureen Ruhl spoke for the "Residents for a Healthy Renovo". She stated to Council that you don't have to be for or against the power plant. She has an option number three if Council would like to hear it, she would be glad to lay out her plan to them. Ms. Ruhl also stated that each of them is being documented in a book that she is writing and she has also been contacted about movie rights.

Justin Lynn, who grew up in Renovo, presented several scientific studies to Council concerning the emissions from the proposed power plants particularly PM10. Some of these studies he stated came from John Hopkins university. He spoke to Council about issues with other comparable power plants and numerous health issues that have been documented. Mr. Lynn feels that the proposed power plant will be in too close of proximity to the residents in Renovo Borough and surrounding communities. He asked if anyone on Council is going to personally profit directly or indirectly from the power plant. President Tarantella stated that no one on Council is going to profit personally from the plant. Councilwoman R. Balchun asked Mr. Lynn several questions related to his presentation. She has read all the studies and stated that the stacks on the proposed plant are going to be built higher since we are in a valley. She also stated that DEP and EPA has done numerous studies and has deemed it safe.

Sue Cannon asked for imagery of the proposed power plant. Ms. Cannon stated the plant is now bigger than first proposed. She has concerns for the long-term affects to her children and grandchildren from the emissions from this plant. Ms. Cannon stated they are going to push for a meeting with DEP to voice their concerns.

A representative from Williams Pipeline wanted to thank the Renovo Borough for helping get the vehicles moved on 14th Street so that their trucks could make the turn to get to the water filling station on 15th Street. Council may consider to make this street one-way if problems continue with parked cars.

Ron Stevens from the Renovo Fire Department stated they did not receive any donation from Renovo Borough last year and they are hoping the borough will provide them a donation this year. Mr. Stevens stated that the Fire Department backs up the Police Department and that together they are basically the

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Emergency Response team. He feels the borough needs more police officers. The Fire Department has done recent training in responding to pipeline and natural gas accidents. He asked Council to make sure they are invited to any meetings concerning the proposed power plant and emergency response. He would like a public meeting set up with Renovo Energy Center to discuss the progress of the proposed power plant and hopefully get rid of rumors that are circulating.

Kari Kepler, who is the Grants Administrator for Clinton County, explained to the Gallery the zoning map of the Renovo Borough. She explained that Council worked on updating the zoning map. The industrial site across the tracks is zoned Industrial. Ms. Kepler stated that from this point Council's job is done. They don't control who or who isn't allowed to put a business in the industrial zone. Land Development has to be approved by the Clinton County Planning Department. She stated that the last conversation she had with Renovo Energy Center (REC) is that the project is not fully funded yet but when it is they plan on having a public meeting. Ms. Kepler also spoke about the agreement with REC that was worked on with residents of the Renovo Borough concerning the landscaping and décor of the proposed power plant. REC is also granting \$150,000 to the borough once the project commences for the police, fire, BMC and anything else the Renovo Borough will have increased needs for. As stated on the REC website they will be cleaning up the contaminated soil on the Industrial site before any construction commences. REC will also be doing restoration projects at two local streams in the area.

Ms. Kepler, Council and the gallery spoke back and forth with questions and concerns regarding the proposed power plant.

Kari Kepler who is on the Renovo Water Authority Board explained to the gallery the purpose of the water filling station on 15th Street and the benefits to the Authority. She invited anyone to come to a Water Authority meeting if they have any other concerns or questions.

CORRESPONDENCE

Code Inspections, Inc. provided Council with the monthly report for June, 2021.

Gwin Dobson & Foreman Inc., engineers for the WCCMA asked Council to consider granting them American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that the Renovo Borough received to replace the raw sewage pumps at the wastewater treatment plant. The proposed cost of replacement is \$90,000 and they are asking if any of the ARPA funding is available to assist in funding this project.

The PA State Flaming Foliage Festival, Inc. sent Council a request for an ad placement in their 2021 Program Book. The ads run from \$15 for 1/8 of a page to \$110.00 for a full page.

Council received a request from the Bucktail Boy's Booster Club for a donation for the Tip Off Tournament on December 10 and December 11, 2021.

Girard sent Council the 2021 second quarter statement for the Police Pension Plan and a copy of the quarterly invoice which is paid out of the Plan.

Jim Laird of LAIRD, LA, pllc sent Council illustrations of tree planting mitigation at Paddy's Run in Memorial Park. These trees will replace trees that will need to be removed at Brewery Run to install the new proposed ATV connector trail.

Solicitor Stuart Hall sent Council a copy of the Brief filed for the 14th Street appeal.

Charles Struble gave notice to Council that he is resigning from his temporary position as of Friday, August 13, 2021 to accept another position.

The Sandy Run Property Owners Association provided Council with their annual meeting minutes from the May 1, 2021 meeting. The next annual meeting is May 7, 2022.

The Renovo Borough Water Authority sent Council the minutes from the June 15, 2021 meeting.

The WCCMA sent Council the minutes from the June 2, June 16, July 21 and July 26 meetings.

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MAYORS REPORT

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration-R. Balchun read the current bank balances in the borough's accounts.

General Fund Checking- **\$97,308.51** (after payment of the bills)

General Fund Street Maintenance Saving- **\$6057.26** (.16 int)

Highway Aid Checking- **\$5423.09**

Highway Aid Savings- **\$64869.31** (\$3.18 int)-\$10,000 to ck for bills

Retirement Fund- **\$15.23**

PennDOT Projects Account-**\$50.38**

DCNR Peer Grant-**\$2549.09** (\$.06 int)

Clinton County Community Foundation Grant-**\$1937.50 (\$10,800 less \$8862.50, 75% down)**

ARPA Covid Relief Grant-**\$63,063.20**

July Real Estate Tax-**\$10,865.77**

July Earned Income Tax-**\$2053.62**

Police/Fire Committee-Chief Simpson stated he is advertising for a part-time police officer but there are no applicants yet.

Building Committee/Health & Sanitation- Nothing to report.

Streets/Park Committee- P. Rauch stated that the tractor trailer is still parking on Erie Avenue.

Ordinance Committee- Officer Foley and the Committee met on July 6th to review the Quality-of-Life Ordinance and to discuss enacting a Firework Ordinance. A proposed Firework Ordinance was presented to Council for review. Officer Foley would like to find out through the solicitor what can be done for some of these blighted properties.

Joe Marino, who was in the gallery, asked what could be done about people living in repository properties that don't own them or filling these properties with garbage? Mr. Marino was pretty vocal about action needs to be taken against these occupants. Mr. Marino asked about unlicensed and uninspected vehicles sitting on the streets for months. Officer Foley stated that it is a process and can take time to get these vehicles removed.

Grants Committee- K. Kepler announced that the county got two and a half million dollars in rental assistance money for anyone that needs help.

There is a grant available for police body cameras that she has given to Chief Simpson.

There was a meeting with PennCore Consulting to discuss filling out an application for the PennDOT Transportation Set-Aside grant for a sidewalk and curb project. The borough recently completed a \$40,000 design of this project through a previous Set-Aside grant.

Bucktail Medical Center has been provided funding for Broadband through the county.

K. Kepler asked for Council to approve filling out a USDA application for a walking trail from Memorial Park to Cross Fork and from Memorial Park to Little Italy. There will be no cost to the borough.

K. Kepler has met with Seda-Cog about the St. Clair water line replacement and paving. The deadline for that grant is in February. The Economic Development Administration also has three billion dollars in grant money to assist communities. She stated the borough can apply to both. The borough will need to start gathering support letters in the near future.

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K. Kepler is now on the ATV Task Force Committee and represents Clinton County. If anyone has any comments or questions, they can come directly to her.

STEP now has \$250,000 available for home rehabilitation and the county kicked in \$100,000 through the Affordable Housing program. Contact STEP for more information.

K. Kepler reported that to get a permit to put the ATV connector trail in Brewery Hollow they will have to replace any trees that they remove. The proposal was to put these trees near Paddy's Run but Council agreed that is not an ideal spot since there is a lot of overgrowth there already. She suggested to put these trees in Sandy Run along the watershed.

WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

K. Kepler noted that the 4th and 9th Street water line replacements project is taking place now through CDBG funding. Once this is complete the Renovo Borough has received funding through CDBG to pave 9th Street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by J. Simon to pass Resolution 6-2021 declaring intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved on December 16, 2008. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by J. Simon and seconded by P. Rauch to have PennCore Consulting complete the Transportation Set-Aside grant pre-application at a cost not to exceed \$1000 for sidewalks and curbs on 3rd, 11th, 12th and upper 9th Street. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff to replace the K9 seating in the 2021 Ford Interceptor at a cost of \$1229.44. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by J. Simon and seconded by R. Balchun to place a full-page ad in the 2021 PA State Flaming Foliage program book at a cost of \$110. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously with P. Rauch abstaining due to personal conflict.

Council discussed the request from WCCMA for funding towards the replacement of raw sewage pumps at a cost of \$90,000. WCCMA requested funding from the American Rescue money that the Renovo Borough received. This request was tabled until more information can be gathered.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by P. Rauch to leave the tree mitigation site for the ATV trail permit to K. Kepler, PennCore and Jim Laird to find the best possible site. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Council discussed the 14th Street situation with water tankard trucks. Since the problem has been solved for now Council will see how it works before considering making it one way.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by J. Simon to accept the resignation of Charles Struble. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by D. Knauff and seconded by P. Rauch to hire a temporary employee for the Streets Department from August 30 to October 29, 2021. A voice vote was taken motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by R. Balchun to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Marsha Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
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