

Renovo Borough Council
128 5th Street, Renovo, PA 17764
December 13, 2023

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; Rhonda Balchun , William Fornwalt III, Patricia Rauch, Kristy Serafini-Brooks and John Simon . Also in attendance were, Mayor Gene Bruno, Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Davis and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Sporny.
Absent: David Knauff

PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by R. Balchun to accept the minutes as written for the November 8, 2023 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS

Administration-\$3723.61/Building-\$920.24/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$528.34/Police-\$4887.25/
Streets-\$6027.65

A motion was made by a W. Fornwalt III and seconded by R. Balchun to pay the bills presented if the money is available. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

GALLERY

Claudia Bottsford, owner of Pushing Posies, spoke to Council concerning parking in front of her flower shop. There is limited parking on her street for her customers who are mostly grab and go customers. She asked Council if it would be possible to put a limited time parking sign in front of her shop. The Mayor will speak with Officer Drollinger to see what the signage should contain.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by J. Simon to grant a limited time parking space at 148 12th Street in front of Pushing Posies with all costs to be covered by Ms. Bottsford. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance Officer David Walker spoke to Council concerning the home on 8th Street that has been deemed uninhabitable due to the roof collapsing. Mr. Walker stated the owner of the home appeared before the Magistrate and is in talks with a neighbor who would like to obtain the property and demolish the structure.

Mr. Walker updated Council on other Ordinance violations within the borough.

MONTHLY CORRESPONDENCE

Hoy Inspection Services LLC provided council with November's monthly report.

Solicitor Stuart Hall sent Council a copy of the Petition filed on September 5, 2023 by the Clinton County Tax Claim Bureau regarding the September 27, 2021 and September 26, 2022 tax sale.

The Renovo Borough Water Authority provided Council with a letter requesting the reappointment of Diane McKinley and William Fornwalt III to another five (5) year term. Their current terms will be expiring on December 31, 2023.

The Western Clinton County Municipal Authority provided council with the minutes from their November 1 and November 15, 2023 meetings.

MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor informed Council that Walt Whistleman has fixed the issue with spouting with a property on Huron Avenue. All charges have been dropped against him.

Mayor Bruno stated that all three (3) garages that are collapsing on 11th Street need to come down. The Magistrate has extended the deadline to April for the demolition.

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The Mayor informed Council that he met with representatives from Senator John Fetterman and Robert Casey's offices concerning the Bucktail Medical Center. The Mayor took them to various businesses in town as well as the hospital.

Mayor Bruno informed Council that the Mills Park complex has been sold. The buyers plan on fixing them up and turning them into apartments.

The Mayor stated a Zoning Hearing Board meeting was held on December 12, 2023 concerning Tracy Bruno's plans to build residential housing on the lots on 3rd and Huron Avenue. This lot is zoned Commercial but she was granted a variance to build residential housing on these lots. He stated they are currently working with the Planning Department for a Land Development Plan.

Mayor Bruno stated that he and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Ashely Sporny attended the DCNR grant training that was held at the Piper Building.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration Committee-R. Balchun read the account balances. She encouraged everyone to watch the budget as funds are low this time of year.

Police/Fire Committee-Nothing to report.

Building Committee/Health & Sanitation-Nothing to report.

Streets/Park Committee- Nothing to report.

Ordinance Committee- Nothing to report.

Grants Committee-A \$5000 grant was put in to PIRMA for a fire and burglar alarm for the Municipal building. The grant needed to pertain to liability and loss for insurance purposes and was limited to \$5000.

WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

The Authority is still waiting for the state to approve paperwork before the water merge can take place with South Renovo and Chapman Township.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by W. Fornwalt III to adopt the 2024 proposed budget that was duly advertised. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by J. Simon to adopt Resolution 17-2023 fixing the tax rate for Real Estate Assessment Tax at 11.01 mills for 2024. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to lay off Charles Goodling for the winter season effective January 1, 2024 until March 31, 2024 but he may be called in for inclement weather or any other borough need. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by J. Simon and seconded by R. Balchun to appoint Baker-Tilly as the auditor for the 2023 borough accounts. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to advertise the Reorganization meeting for January 2, 2024 at 6:00 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by J. Simon and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to advertise the regular Council meetings for the second Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 pm for 2024. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by W. Fornwalt III approving Girard Pension services to commence monthly pension benefits to Robert M. Kelly who is vested under the Renovo Borough Police Pension Plan. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to approve the transfer of Leon Tarr's Non-Uniform Pension Plan from the borough's name into his own name as approved by Foster and Foster Consultants. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Council went into Executive Session at 7:12 pm for personnel issues.

Executive Session ended at 7:40 pm.

The secretary was asked to send a letter to Grant Advisor, Kari Kepler asking if she could prepare a monthly grant report for future meetings. Council would also like to be aware of any grants they could apply for and anything they can do to help. If there is nothing to report for that month then just let Council know that there is nothing new to report.

Council discussed the Hazard Mitigation Grant for 14th Street. All the property owners on 14th Street have signed the voluntary participation paperwork for the buy out of their homes except for Jenean Mace. Several letters have been sent to Ms. Mace asking for her participation as the grant requires all the property owners to participate. Ms. Mace responded with several requests of her own before she would agree to sign the paperwork.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by J. Simon to have Seda-Cog send another letter to Jenean Mace with the stipulation that Renovo Borough will hire a professional mover to pack up the contents of her 14th Street home and pay for six (6) months of storage contingent upon receipt of her signed voluntary participation paperwork. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by P. Rauch to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Marsha Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
Renovo Borough Council