

Renovo Borough Council
128 5th Street, Renovo, PA 17764
July 8, 2020

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, David Knauff, Patricia Rauch, and John Simon. Also in attendance was Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Davis. Absent; Kristy Serafini-Brooks, and Mayor Thomas Tarantella Jr.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by R. Balchun to accept the minutes as written for the June 10, 2020 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS

Administration-\$2540.15/Building-\$785.88/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$275.01/Police-\$3270.58/
Streets-\$6597.79.

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

Councilman J. Simon had a complaint from Mike Hand about two properties on 14th Street. One property owner has over four (4) foot tall grass that needs cut and one property owner did not board up their structure after the fire that occurred in 2019.

Council will check with their solicitor to see if after proper notice to the property owners if the borough can take care of these complaints. There is a question of action due to a pending appeal by some of the 14th Street row home property owners that their structures are unsafe.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Wayne Township Landfill notified Council that the Residential Tire Collection Event for September 11 and 12 at the recycling center in Wayne Township has been rescheduled. Municipalities will be allowed to bring in tires for their residents. A manifest must be completed for each resident with a limit of twelve (12) tires per household free of charge.

The Department of Transportation is asking the borough to inspect all traffic poles on state and local routes and record any structural deficiencies. This request is in response to a recent traffic signal pole that failed and fell onto the roadway in another county.

The Clinton County Commissioners announced the opening of the 2020 community Development Block Grant Program. All applications are due to the Grants Administrator by Friday, July 31 by 5:00 pm.

Comcast sent Council notification of changes to channel lineups and packages. Comcast also announced they will be extending free internet service to new internet essentials customers for another sixty (60) days.

The Renovo Borough Water Authority sent Council the minutes from their May 19, 2020 meeting.

The Western Clinton County Municipal Authority sent the minutes from the May 6, May 20, June 3 and June 17, 2020 meetings.

MAYORS REPORT

Nothing to report.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration Committee- R. Balchun reviewed the current balances in the Renovo Borough bank accounts as of July 8, 2020 and taxes received in June 2020:

General Fund Checking- **\$55,462.54** (after payment of the bills)
General Fund Street Maintenance Saving- **\$4805.22** (.20 int.)
Highway Aid Checking- **\$3835.71** (\$5000 transfer from savings for bills)
Highway Aid Savings- **\$60,835.19** (\$3.86 int. & \$5000 transfer to checking for bills)
Retirement Fund- **\$14.57**
PennDOT Projects Account-**\$50.36** (\$.02 int.)
DCNR Peer Grant-**\$9147.50** (\$.38 int.)
TC Police Car Grant-**\$10,000**

June Real Estate Tax-	\$10,036.69
June Earned Income Tax-	\$8239.62
June LST Tax-	\$1980.87

Police/Fire Committee-Nothing to report.

Building Committee/Health & Sanitation-W. Fornwalt has complaints about items on the sidewalk within the borough blocking passageway and wanted to know if the Ordinance Officer could take care of this.

Streets/Park Committee- V. Tarantella provided Council a memo verifying that he inspected the traffic light poles and found no issues. In the memo he suggested that the steel support poles be scraped and painted due to surface rust. The secretary will also provide Lecce Electric the PennDOT request to inspect the poles when they come to do their annual inspection and maintenance.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by R. Balchun to have the Streets Department scrape and paint the traffic light support poles to take care of surface rust. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance Committee-Officer Foley reviewed with Council changes to the Open Burning Ordinance, the Storage of Junked, Unlicensed and Uninspected Vehicles Ordinances, and the Quality of Life Ordinance. The Ordinance Committee would also like to see an Ordinance adopted dealing with aggressive solicitation. These changes and suggestions will be sent to the solicitor for review. Once changes are made and finalized these Ordinances can be advertised for adoption.

Grants Committee-Grants Advisor, Kari Kepler informed Council that a public meeting will be held by Zoom on July 9, 2020 at 9:30 am concerning the 2020 CDBG grant application process. She suggested that someone from Council attend this meeting.

The borough plans to submit a CDBG grant to pave 9th Street since the water lines will be replaced this year. The secretary will contact the borough engineer to provide an estimate for this project.

K. Kepler also talked about the CDBG Covid-19 money that will be available in three (3) phases. Phase one (1) is for-profit business assistance. The other two (2) phases have not been released yet.

K. Kepler informed Council that there are several other grants in process including the County Relief Block Grant which will provide assistance to municipalities, non-profits and tourism establishments.

The TA grant has been submitted to the Commonwealth Financing Authority by STV Engineering. The borough will probably not hear anything on this until the end of the year or beginning of next year.

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K. Kepler notified Council that there is rental assistance through the Housing Coalition for those needing help with rent. This assistance is income based.

WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

The Water Authority has been awarded the H2O grant in the amount of \$3.5 million. They will now have to seek funds through PennVest or other sources for the \$7 million dollar consolidation project. This project will consolidate Renovo, South Renovo and Chapman Township water authorities.

The CDBG grant money will soon be released to replace the water lines on 4th and 9th Street.

The Renovo Borough Water Authority needs permission from Renovo Borough to construct a water filling station on 15th Street. Williams Pipeline will then purchase water from the authority and Williams Pipeline have agreed to bond the road. The trucks will go up 14th Street, travel down Erie Avenue, turn down 15th Street, fill up at the station and then exit 15th Street.

A suggestion was made by Councilman J. Simon to make 14th Street temporarily one way after the filling station is constructed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council discussed the water filling station on 15th Street. This was tabled from last month's meeting to see if there was any other possible location to put it. After discussions with the Renovo Borough Water Authority board members it was Council's consensus that the 15th Street location was deemed the best option.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by R. Balchun to approve the Renovo Borough Water Authority installing a water filling station on the Renovo Borough's Fifteenth Street right-of-way on the east side of the street. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Council discussed a grant opportunity for a comprehensive blight plan for up to \$25,000. Grant Advisor K. Kepler suggested we talk with the borough's engineer to see if they could give us an estimate for the plan proposal. She will contact them to see if they would be able to give the borough the needed quote before the application deadline of July 31, 2020. A Resolution will need to be submitted with this grant.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by W. Fornwalt III to sign Resolution 11-2020 resolving to apply for a Blight Remediation Program grant up to \$25,000 to be used for a Comprehensive Blight Plan. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

President Tarantella informed Council that she attended the conference on July 7, 2020 concerning the 14th Street row homes appeal by Zoom. The court made no decision at this time. The appeal will be rescheduled no earlier than forty-five days from July 7, 2020.

Council discussed having the borough engineer give the borough an estimate for the demolition of the 14th Street row homes for future grant opportunities.

A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by P. Rauch to have PennCore Consulting provide an estimate for the demolition of the 14th Street row homes. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

President Tarantella informed Council that Corporal Jeffries would like to know how much Council would charge him for K9 Jordan if Corporal Jeffries decided to leave the Renovo Police Department. He would like to take K9 Jordan with him if that is an option.

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President Tarantella stated Council had two (2) choices. One option is to retire the dog and sell him to Corporal Jeffries for \$1.00. Once the dog is retired, he can no longer be used as a K9. The other option is to take the cost of the dog based on a seven (7) year average K9 service life and base the cost on how many useful service years the dog has left. K9 Jordan was obtained in 2018 at an original cost of \$9900. The borough was later issued a refund of \$1950 due to the age of the dog at the time of purchase. At this point K9 Jordan has been in service for approximately two (2) years and six (6) months. Council concurred if Corporal Jeffries left the department any time soon the cost of the dog would be approximately \$5000.

A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by J. Simon to have Mayor Tarantella inform Corporal Jeffries that if he plans on leaving the Renovo Police Department in the near future the cost to purchase K9 Jordan would be \$5000. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by P. Rauch to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Marsha Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
Renovo Borough Council