

Renovo Borough Council
128 5th Street, Renovo, PA 17764
October 14, 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, Kristy Serafini-Brooks, John Simon and Mayor Thomas Tarantella Jr. Also in attendance was Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Davis.
Absent: David Knauff and Patricia Rauch.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to accept the minutes as written for the September 9, 2020 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by J. Simon to accept the minutes as written for the September 21, 2020 special meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS

Administration-\$2721.38/Building-\$793.46/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$491.94/Police-\$2719.39/
Streets-\$5714.28.

A motion was made by 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

Deb Pedokus, the Renovo Borough Tax Collector, presented to Council an invoice for her tax collector certification courses in the amount of \$50.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clinton County Solid Waste Authority sent Council a copy of the Clinton County Waste Management Plan for final review. All comments must be received by October 19, 2020.

The 2020 Commonwealth state aid for the Volunteer Fire Relief Association of \$4410.72 was direct deposited on September 22, 2020. These proceeds must be paid within sixty (60) days to the fire company that provides service to the Renovo Borough.

The 2020 Commonwealth General Municipal Pension System State Aid was direct deposited on September 29, 2020 in the amount of \$11,770.40. Act 205 requires the allocation be deposited into the pension plan within thirty (30) days of receipt.

The Greater Renovo Area Heritage Park sent a request to Council to close Erie Avenue on October 14 at 6:00 pm for a Homecoming Parade sponsored by them. A bonfire will follow at 16th Street Park with the Renovo Fire Department in attendance.

The Clinton County Department of Emergency Services are in the process of updating the way response plans are processed in the 9-1-1 Center's Computer Aided Dispatch system. The Department is requesting that each Fire Chief submit a new copy of their respective response plans. There will be an upcoming meeting to discuss these response plans and as elected officials Council is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Comcast sent notice of upcoming programming changes and upcoming regional sports network courtesy adjustments.

The Renovo Borough Water Authority sent Council the minutes from the September 2, 2020 meeting.

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The Western Clinton County Municipal Authority sent the minutes from the September 2 and September 23, 2020 meetings.

MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor informed Council that Corporal Jeffries has been using the Dodge Charger as well as the K9 equipped Crown Vic while on duty. He asked Council if they wanted to continue to let him alternate with the Dodge Charger since it is not equipped as a K9 vehicle with a hot and pop box.

Council was in consensus that Corporal Jeffries should only be using the Crown Vic that is equipped as a K9 vehicle unless it is out of commission for repairs. Council would like to see Corporal Jeffries continue to only use the K9 equipped Crown Vic to save wear and tear on the Charger and the new Cruiser when it arrives. It will also save on having to clean and upkeep three (3) vehicles due to the K9.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to have Corporal Jeffries strictly use the already equipped Crown Vic as the police K9 unit. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Tarantella informed Council that Corporal Jeffries took K9 Jordan to the vet upon finding a couple of lumps on him. The vet gave K9 Jordan antibiotics to see if they clear up. Corporal Jeffries paid for the visit and the antibiotics and doesn't wish to seek reimbursement.

Council discussed inquiring with the vet to make sure it is not something more serious. Mayor Tarantella volunteered to call the vet to check further on the condition of the dog since the K9 is the Renovo Borough's property.

The Mayor stated he has received some concerns over the caving in of the creek bank to the road near the spring in Brewery Hollow. He stated the streets department may have to install gabion baskets to control the situation temporarily. Grant's Advisor Kari Kepler stated there may be grants available if a more costly fix is needed.

Mayor Tarantella requested an Executive Session for personnel matters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

R. Balchun read the account balances as of October 14, 2020 and the taxes received in September.

General Fund Checking- **\$53,647.61** (after payment of the bills + Oct. Delinquent Tax)
General Fund Street Maintenance Saving- **\$5805.75** (.14 int)
Highway Aid Checking- **\$6798.60** (\$10,000 from savings less bills)
Highway Aid Savings- **\$50,844.57** (\$2.49 int & \$10,000 to checking)
Retirement Fund- **\$3147.63** (\$11,770.40 from state less \$8637.34 for 1st-3rd Qtr checks)
PennDOT Projects Account-**\$50.37** (.01 int)
DCNR Peer Grant-**\$2548.44** (\$.23 int less \$6600 for invoice #1)
TC Police Car Grant-**\$10,000**
Family Dollar Building Sale-**\$75,179.37** (\$850 refund on commission fees added)
Covid Relief Grant- **\$47,767.30** (\$50,000 less \$2250 Cameras)

September Real Estate Tax \$ 6787.86
September Earned Income \$ 8743.04

R. Balchun reported that the Administration met and they have presented Council with a preliminary budget. She asked Council to let her know if there are any questions or concerns. The Administration Committee will meet again to finalize the budget for Council's consideration for the November 11th meeting.

Police/Fire Committee-Nothing to report.

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Building Committee/Health & Sanitation-W. Fornwalt has concerns with garbage and debris on a couple homes on Huron Avenue.

Streets/Park Committee- There have been a few complaints about residents feeding pigeons at the apartment building on the corner of 3rd Street and the Masonic Temple by the roadway. It is causing a hazard for drivers when they come upon them and there have been some that have been hit by cars. Council will send letters to the owners of those buildings requesting that they ask their residents to cease the feeding of the pigeons before a more serious accident occurs.

The secretary informed Council that Renovo Disposal sent the Renovo Borough a \$100 donation towards playground equipment.

Ordinance Committee-Nothing to report.

Grants Committee-K. Kepler reported that the Renovo Borough received their Covid Relief Grant in the amount of \$50,000. This funding must be spent by December 31, 2020. She also reported that the Covid Small Business Grant will be reopened due to few qualified applicants during the initial application period.

K. Kepler stated that the Clinton County Community Foundation Grant opens on October 15 and will be accepting applications until December 15. Council discussed applying for cameras for the Parks within the borough. There have been issues with playground equipment being destroyed and they feel it will be a deterrent for further vandalism and any other crimes once the public knows the cameras are installed. The system will also allow internet service for future events in the Parks.

K. Kepler and M. Davis attended a teleconference with Alice Trowbridge concerning the extension of the Peer Grant. The original expiration of the grant was December 31, 2020. The grant will be extended to December 31, 2021 to allow A. Trowbridge the time required to complete the "Conceptual Riverfront Master Plan" project. The group will move forward with Zoom meetings and she will draft a master site plan and present to Council for adoption.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to extend the Peer Grant expiration until December 31, 2021 based on the recommendation of Alice Trowbridge mentor for the Peer Grant project. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

K. Kepler explained to Council that once the master plan is finalized the borough will not be able to apply for any grants until the title issues are cleared up concerning the riverfront properties. She asked Council's permission to have Solicitor Stuart Hall research one of these titles.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to have Solicitor Stuart Hall research the deed of one of the Ontario Avenue property owners. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

K. Kepler reminded Council that the Rapid Rehousing is available from the Clinton County Housing Authority for any remaining property owners residing on 14th Street.

WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council discussed the corrective deed of Loise Street. Since they did not have clarity on the properties in question they tabled this matter until they can research it further.

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Council did not proceed with the purchase of the two repository properties on 149 Fourth Street and 215 Champlain Avenue due to the quotes for the demolitions coming in higher than anticipated. Council will continue to seek estimates for these properties for possible future demolition.

Council discussed the drainage issue on Ontario Avenue. They don't feel that the engineer or contractor will help remedy the situation. The secretary suggested they contact LTAP, the Pennsylvania Local Technical Assistance Program. They will send technicians out to offer free advice and assistance with roadway issues. The technician could also offer advice with the Brewery Run issue. She will call and set up an appointment to have LTAP meet with the Streets Department.

NEW BUSINESS

Victor Marquardt, Building Code Officer, called in to update Council on the 14th Street appeal. He stated that the Judge affirmed the decision of the Renovo Borough's Board of Appeals. Mr. Marquardt stated the residents on 14th Street have thirty (30) days to appeal to the state level. He will begin issuing citations to the property owners where there are still people residing. If there is no appeal within thirty (30) days he will begin boarding up the homes.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to approve Heritage Park's request to partially close Erie Avenue on October 14, 2020 for a Homecoming Parade starting at 6:00 pm with a bonfire to follow at the 16th Street Park. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to approve the closing of Erie Avenue between 5th and 6th Street on October 31, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm for Heritage Park's annual "Trunk-or-Treat" event. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Council went into Executive Session at 7:33 pm for personnel matters.

Executive Session ended at 8:11 pm.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Marsha Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
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