

MINUTES
BROOKVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday August 16, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.

The Brookville Borough Council met in the large conference room on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. with the following in attendance:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Richard Beck
Karen Allgeier
Randy Bartley
Todd Gumphier
David Taylor
Lucy Ames
Sarah Gallagher

STAFF

Manager Dana Rooney
Police Chief Vince Markle
Fire Chief Chris Henry
President of the
Brookville Volunteer Fire
Company – Eric Sweitzer
Public Works Director –
Jonathan Rhoades
Code Enforcement Officer -
Vince Markle
Recorder Christine Gunning
Solicitor Jim Dennison

VISITOR/MEDIA

Justin Felgar
Alex Nelson
Dave Richards
Arthur McKinley
Bob Lewis

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-President Karen Allgeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Second Vice-President Randy Bartley moved to approve the minutes of the July 5th meeting as submitted; seconded by Member Sarah Gallagher. Motion carried 6-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- A. Approval of Expenditures** – The current bills were presented for approval. Vice-President Karen Allgeier asked if there were any additions or questions, and there were none. Member Sarah Gallagher moved to approve July 19, 2022 and August 16, 2022 accounts payable as submitted; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.
- B. Fund Level Financial Statements** – Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated you have the Fund Level Financial Statement Summary, and if there are any questions, please let a member of the Finance Committee know.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. Dave Richards

1. **Brookville Trail** – Dave Richards asked for a letter of support from the Brookville Borough Council for the Brookville Trail Hub. Manager Dana Rooney stated she would take care of it.

2. **A Street** – Dave Richards asked if anything has been done on A Street. Manager Dana Rooney stated this was pushed out to the Public Works Committee. Public Works Committee Chairman Randy Bartley stated the committee needs to look at this more and discuss it. Public Works Committee Chairman Randy Bartley stated to do it right, it will require some major decisions. Public Works Committee Chairman Randy Bartley stated we are grappling with the problem.
- B. **Arthur McKinley – Greenberg Cadillac Museum** – Arthur McKinley stated the Greenberg Cadillac Museum in Brookville is open this Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Arthur McKinley stated we are hoping that Brookville Borough Council and other people support this. Arthur McKinley stated it is opening one weekend a month through October, and donating any donations to the beautification of Brookville. Arthur McKinley stated it is a great asset to the town, and it is the largest collection of Cadillacs in the world. Arthur McKinley stated it is a great museum, and they would like to get young people involved.

REPORTS:

Chief of Police

- A. **Statistics** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated in July the Brookville Police Department had 157 calls for service, wrote 248 citations, 265 warnings, and 195 parking tickets. Police Chief Vince Markle stated there were 6 felonies, 8 misdemeanors, 2 drug arrests, 1 302 commitment, and 5 PoliceOne trainings.
- B. **Officer of the Month** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated Officer Jaime Rinker was Officer of the Month.
- C. **Training** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated Officer Jaime Rinker is currently at standardized field sobriety testing, which is a three-day course.
- D. **Uniform Crime Reporting** - Police Chief Vince Markle stated in our uniform crime reporting that we get from the state from January of 2001 to July of 2022, they broke this up from January of 2021 to July of 2021, and the comparison was January of 2022 to July of 2022. Police Chief Vince Markle stated you will see under violent crime we had a one hundred percent increase, and an 83.33 percent of clearing these crimes. Police Chief Vince Markle stated we have evidence at the crime lab right now, and he believes once we get that evidence back, we will have a one hundred percent clearing of violent crimes in our Borough. Police Chief Vince Markle stated under the nonviolent crime, in property crime, we had a 28.57 percent decrease over the last year, with a crime clearing of one hundred percent. Police Chief Vince Markle stated currently, we are averaging one arrest every 3.23 days, where in the past, we were arresting someone every 2.62 days. Police Chief Vince Markle this is information from the state. Police Chief Vince Markle stated our officers are doing a great job, and the crime rate is going down in our town.
- E. **Incidents** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated he wanted to let you know what his officers are going through. Police Chief Vince Markle stated on June 18th we had an individual threaten suicide by cop in our town, and we never really had that before. Police Chief Vince Markle stated the officer on duty that day did an outstanding job, and we got the individual help, and nobody got hurt. Police Chief

Vince Markle stated on July 3rd an individual made threats that if he had a gun, he would shoot everybody at a party. Police Chief Vince Markle stated on July 5th we arrested an individual from the state of New Jersey who made threats to kill both officers that night, and the appropriate charges were filed. Police Chief Vince Markle stated on July 20th we had an individual who had homicidal ideations to kill everyone, and I am sure you read about that one, at the Flying J. Police Chief Vince Markle stated my officers did an outstanding job that day, that it did not cause our town to be totally turned upside down. Police Chief Vince Markle stated on July 29th his secretary asked him to call a lady regarding a duty to warn. Police Chief Vince Markle stated he called the lady and she said she had to let him know that a certain individual has homicidal thoughts of strangling him to death, and when he sees him, he is going to tear his throat out. Police Chief Vince Markle stated that is brand new. Police Chief Vince Markle stated these are the kinds of things we are dealing with in our community, and it is new to us because our town has not experienced this type of violence in a long time. Police Chief Vince Markle stated we have the proper men and women in place to deal with it, and keep everybody in our town safe.

- F. Veterans Administration Office - Meter Cover Request** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated the Veterans Administration (VA) contacted them, and wanted a parking spot because they have a vehicle that is extended in length, and they cannot pull into a certain spot. Police Chief Vince Markle stated they were wanting to know about a parking meter, and he asked that it be put on the agenda for Council to make that decision if we want to put a bag on a meter, or have them use the spots they have used. After some discussion, Manager Dana Rooney stated in an email she received and forwarded to Police Chief Vince Markle, the question was presented that they have a VA health appointment driver who would need a metered space. Manager Dana Rooney stated for example, they were asking if they could have a meter cover to identify a parking space for a particular time slot, and it was for one meter being used by a vehicle driver. Manager Dana Rooney read this is normally not an issue, as we have the drivers park their cars in the VA parking space, but one of our gentlemen has a truck, and it does not fit in this space. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated this is about a person who works for the VA Office that has a truck. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated he thinks if it was a VA vehicle, it would be different. Vice-President Karen Allgeier asked what is the will of Council? After some discussion, Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated he recommends making no motion and letting it die, and Council Members in general agreed.

Fire Chief – Fire Chief Chris Henry introduced Eric Sweitzer, the President of the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company, and read his written report (attached). Fire Chief Chris Henry stated the fire whistle blows sometimes randomly. Fire Chief Chris Henry stated our communications company has been looking into this for two years, and cannot figure it out. Fire Chief Chris Henry stated short of replacing the system, which would cost thousands of dollars, they decided to let the communications company continue trying to figure out why this is happening.

Public Works

- A. Report** – Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated they are working on the Fetzer Street Project that we got the grant for right now. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated they are finishing up mowing on the flood control, and they are going to dredge as long as weather allows. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated Wilson Excavating will be working for another four weeks on that gas project on Madison Avenue. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated they got the section on Madison Avenue done, and they will do the White Street section next, but they got called out on an emergency line in Sigel, and he does not know when they are coming back. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated Terra Works is out of water pipe, but they are going back to put taps in, so they can still work. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated Allegheny Contracting is putting a new main in on Richards Street.
- B. Jenks Street/Valley Street Snow Agreement** – Manager Dana Rooney stated we have the Jenks Street and Valley Street Snow Agreement, which is signed every five years. Manager Dana Rooney stated this is a standard agreement with the state, in which the state pays the Borough to maintain Jenks Street and Valley Street. Manager Dana Rooney stated the amount they pay us goes up slightly every year, over the course of the agreement. Manager Dana Rooney stated we need a motion to approve this, and also to sign a resolution, which if you approve it, will be Resolution 585-22 which states Council approves the agreement that you are signing as well. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley made a motion to approve Resolution 585-22, the Jenks Street and Valley Street Snow Agreement; seconded by Member Todd Gumphier. Motion carried 6-0.

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Officer Vince Markle read his written report (attached).

Committee Reports

- A. Personnel Committee**
 - 1. Executive Session** – Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames requested an executive session for some personnel issues with action expected.
- B. Stormwater Committee**
 - 1. Executive Session** – Stormwater Committee Chairman Randy Bartley requested an executive session for stormwater issues with possible action.

Solicitor

- A. Repository Sale Bid** – Solicitor Jim Dennison stated the Borough received a repository sale bid for the property at 93 Pine Street. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated Ryan Young has placed a bid in the amount of two hundred and fifty-one dollars. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated this item is recommended for approval. Member David Taylor made a motion to approve the repository

sale bid received from Ryan Young in the amount of two hundred and fifty-one dollars for the property at 93 Pine Street; seconded by Second Vice-President Randy Bartley. Motion carried 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Borough CD** – Member Lucy Ames stated a Borough CD matured on August 5th with a balance of \$300,900.68 plus interest to be paid upon maturity. Member Lucy Ames stated the three local banks; S&T Bank, First Commonwealth, and Farmer's National Bank have submitted quotes for six-month and twelve-month CD terms. Member Lucy Ames stated the highest interest rate at this time is PLGIT Prime, with a rate of two point two seven percent. Member Lucy Ames stated she recommends transferring the entire matured CD funds to the PLGIT Reserve Prime Account. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley made a motion to approve transferring the entire matured Borough CD fund to the PLGIT Reserve Prime Account as presented; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.
- B. **Subdivision Plans – Boyd and Marlene Kerr** – Planning Commission Chairman David Taylor stated Boyd and Marlene Kerr made a request for a subdivision on Hastings Street. Planning Commission Chairman David Taylor stated it is a very small subdivision where they are just moving a line a small number of feet in order to accommodate a garage that is already on the property. Planning Commission Chairman David Taylor stated the Planning Commission approved that subdivision, and is sending it on to Brookville Borough Council for approval tonight. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated we need a motion to approve the subdivision plans for Boyd and Marlene Kerr. Member Lucy Ames made a motion to approve the subdivision plans for Boyd and Marlene Kerr; seconded by Member Todd Gumpher. Motion carried 6-0.
- C. **Subdivision Plans – Mike Griffith Rezoning** – Planning Commission Chairman David Taylor stated an individual had asked to have the rezoning of one lot on the south end of Allegheny Boulevard down below Jack's Boot Shop to develop storage facilities there. Planning Commission Chairman David Taylor stated he consulted with Solicitor Jim Dennison, and they agreed it would be spot zoning, and the Planning Commission voted to turn down this request.

ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

- A. **Mayor Richard Beck** – Mayor Richard Beck thanked everyone who came tonight and participated, or came just to listen.
- B. **Member Sarah Gallagher** – Member Sarah Gallagher thanked Police Chief Vince Markle, the Street Department, and the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company for everything they did to help the Laurel Festival. Member Sarah Gallagher stated she was very pleased with everything. Member Sarah Gallagher wished reporter Alex Nelson a happy birthday.

- C. **Member David Taylor** – Member David Taylor stated he echoes what Member Sarah Gallagher said, and he thinks we are blessed to have an excellent staff, and not every municipality can claim that. Member David Taylor stated we are putting in an application for a Keystone Grant for the suspension bridge in the Fish for Fun area, and he worked with Manager Dana Rooney on scenarios, and he sent back to her some revisions to those scenarios for that grant application, so that will be in the works. Member David Taylor stated we had two meetings today with MKSK, the landscape architect who is under contract to do the master plan for Longview Park and for Main Street. Member David Taylor stated we had a good discussion, and they will be back probably in September for a public meeting to discuss both of these projects in a public forum. Member David Taylor stated last month the Planning Commission discussed that we had a demolition on Pickering Street of a property that was apparently demolished without a permit. Member David Taylor asked will the owner get fined? Solicitor Jim Dennison stated no, we had been pushing to get this torn down for many years, then we found out there is a permit, so we do not think it would be fair to fine him. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated he did get the permitting needed, so the job is completed, and everything is fine. Member David Taylor stated PennDOT will be hanging a sign on the memorial bridge for Bud Hetrick down by Giant Eagle, and a ceremony will be held later this month.
- D. **Member Lucy Ames** – Member Lucy Ames thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting. Member Lucy Ames thanked Police Chief Vince Markle, Fire Chief Chris Henry, Fire Company President Eric Sweitzer, and Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades for everything that they do. Member Lucy Ames congratulated Manager Dana Rooney on her new baby, and stated they are glad everything turned out o.k. for both of them. Manager Dana Rooney stated thank you.
- E. **Member Todd Gumph** – Member Todd Gumph stated he has been to the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company since they have made improvements, and it is probably the nicest in the tri-county area. Member Todd Gumph thanked Police Chief Vince Markle for keeping us safe, and Fire Chief Chris Henry, and Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades for everything they do.
- F. **Second Vice-President Randy Bartley** – Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated he thinks our town is well served by its department heads and the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated Chief Markle, I would like to go back to your report for a minute. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley asked you said we have one hundred percent clearance in two categories? Police Chief Vince Markle stated yes, with the uniform crime reporting, they break it down to violent crime and nonviolent crime property crime. Police Chief Vince Markle stated with the nonviolent crime property crime, we had a one hundred percent clearing for residents in the town. Police Chief Vince Markle stated with the violent crime, we are at eighty-three point three three percent, and as soon as we get stuff back from the crime lab, we will be arresting that individual, and it will be one hundred percent. Second Vice-President Randy

Bartley asked Police Chief Vince Markle to explain to everyone what that means, that you cleared all those cases. Police Chief Vince Markle stated the guys turn in a report, and he tells them to go back out and do follow ups until we get results. Second-Vice President Randy Bartley stated that is outstanding police work. Police Chief Vince Markle stated thank you, and it is his guys that are the ones who are responsible.

- G. **Vice-President Karen Allgeier** - Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated kudos to everybody again. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated we have got a town that knows that if you come here and try to commit a crime, you are going to get caught, and she likes that. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated we have to go into an executive session at this time, and there will be action when we return from executive session. Vice-President Karen Allgeier asked the media if they had any questions.

MEDIA COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATION:

- A. **Reporter Alex Nelson – Bridge Ceremony** – Reporter Alex Nelson asked when the ceremony is for the memorial bridge for Bud Hetrick. Reporter Justin Felgar stated August 30th at 1:30 P.M.
- B. **Vice-President Karen Allgeier – Jake Brake Signs** – Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated at the top of West Main Street and at the top of East Main Street there have been signs installed that are truck alerts that say, for noise reduction, please use jake brakes sparingly. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated those signs were put up to try to curtail the noise coming down those two streets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Brookville Borough Council entered an executive session at 7:49 P.M. to discuss personnel issues with action expected, and stormwater issues with possible action. Executive session ended at 8:18 P.M. with the following action taken:

- A. **Equipment Operator** - Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames made a motion coming from the committee to ask for authorization for the hiring of an equipment operator. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated since this motion is coming from committee, no second is needed. Vice-President Karen Allgeier asked all Council Members in favor of this motion coming from committee to say ‘aye’. Motion carried 6-0.
- B. **Advertise for Civil Service Exam** – Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames made a motion coming from committee asking for authorization to advertise for the next civil service exam for the Brookville Police Department. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated since this motion is coming from committee, no second is needed. Vice-President Karen Allgeier asked all Council Members in favor of this motion coming from committee to say ‘aye’. Motion carried 6-0.
- C. **Hire a Police Officer** – Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames made a motion coming from the committee asking for authorization to proceed with an agreement to hire a police officer prior to their attendance to the police academy. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated the Borough is implementing a

program where they will pay the part-time salary of \$17.34 per hour to people who pass the civil service exam and need to attend the police academy. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated so the Borough will pay this person while they attend the police academy, and their tuition. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated when they come to work for the Borough, if they work for a period of five years, they do not have to reimburse anything, but if they only work the first year and leave, they have to reimburse a percentage of those costs, and it goes out twenty percent each year. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated we are implementing this to hopefully get more candidates for the job, and have a better hiring process this time. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated since this motion is coming from the Personnel Committee, no second is needed. Vice-President Karen Allgeier asked all Council Members in favor of this motion coming from committee to say 'aye'. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Member Lucy Ames moved to adjourn; seconded by Member Sarah Gallagher. Motion carried 6-0 at 8:23 P.M.

Borough Manager