

MINUTES
BROOKVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, July 5, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

The Brookville Borough Council met in the large conference room on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. with the following in attendance:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

STAFF

Manager Dana Rooney
Fire Chief Chris Henry
President of the Brookville
Volunteer Fire Company -
Eric Sweitzer
Public Works Director -
Jonathan Rhoades
Recorder Christine Gunning

VISITOR/MEDIA

Justin Felgar
Alex Nelson
Scott North
Jamie Popson
Bob Lewis
Dave Richards

CALL TO ORDER:

President Phil Hynes 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:

Member David Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the June 20th meeting as submitted; seconded by Member Lucy Ames. Motion carried 7-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- A. Approval of Expenditures** – Member David Taylor moved to approve the accounts payables for July 5th as submitted; seconded by Vice-President Karen Allgeier. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Fund Level Financial Statements** – President Phil Hynes stated you have the Fund Level Financial Statement Summary, and if you have questions, the appropriate people are here.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. County Commissioner Scott North - Pennsylvania Great Outdoors (PAGO) Decertification** – County Commissioner Scott North stated he appreciates the opportunity to be here on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. North stated he is interested in answering questions about the county's effort in the direction of tourism, specifically, as you may know, the county voted last week to decertify Pennsylvania Great Outdoors as our tourist promotion agency. Mr. North stated the reason this involves you, is that the statute requires when a decertification takes place, that it go to the boroughs and townships for a vote by resolution, so we sent to each municipality a sample resolution with a cover letter explaining what we want to do and why. Mr. North stated in short, the county

believes that we can do a better job with the hotel tax money. Mr. North stated the county levies a five percent tax on lodging facilities and functions within the county. Mr. North stated in real dollars in Jefferson County, last year that brought in an excess of two hundred and fifty thousand to two hundred and seventy thousand dollars. Mr. North stated the county keeps a four percent admin, and the rest goes to PAGO, and again, this is by statute. Mr. North stated the commissioners are responsible for levying, collecting, and distributing this tax. Mr. North stated they would like to take this inhouse, and we think we can take that money and focus it on Jefferson County. Mr. North stated we would have more funds available for our grant programs. Mr. North stated the resolution is for Council's consideration, and they would appreciate Council's support. President Phil Hynes stated this is certainly an important issue, and we do try to cooperate with the county commissioners on most everything, but in all fairness we want to meet with Pennsylvania Great Outdoors and see their side of this, and if we have other questions, we will circle back to you, and then come to a vote on it. Mr. Hynes thanked Mr. North.

B. Dave Richards

1. **Class of 1972 Legacy Gift** – Dave Richards stated at our fiftieth reunion last year, the Brookville Area High School Class of 1972 wanted to come up with a legacy gift. Mr. Richards stated they decided on two historical plaques; the old high school and Dan Smith's. Mr. Richards stated they have been ordered and paid for. Mr. Richards stated they raised thirteen hundred dollars for it. Mr. Richards stated they would like them installed before July 19th, and wondered if the Borough would do the installation. Mr. Richards stated one plaque will be right outside the front door of Buff's Ice Cream, and one plaque will be installed right beside the Paul Darling monument at North Side Park. Manager Dana Rooney stated Council approved the Borough installing the plaques at a previous meeting. Mr. Richards thanked Council.
2. **Brookville Trail Hub** – Dave Richards thanked Manager Dana Rooney and Brookville Borough Council for their cooperation with the Brookville Trail Hub. Mr. Richards stated they officially applied for the grant to do the feasibility study. Mr. Richards stated they raised the money for their matching contribution, so they had that money on hand, and they should hear back from them in the fall. Mr. Richards stated based on the request for proposal, they are looking at a cost of seventy thousand dollars for the scope of work.

REPORTS:

Chief of Police – No Report

Fire Chief – Fire Chief Chris Henry read his written report (attached).

Public Works - Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated Hager Paving will be in next week to finish the paving, and they will be back later in the year to do the tar and chip roads. Mr. Rhoades stated they almost have two of the three projects that they got

the grants for wrapped up. Mr. Rhoades stated the playground at Memorial Park hopefully will be close to completion at the end of this month.

Code Enforcement – No Report

Committee Reports - None

Solicitor – President Phil Hynes stated Solicitor Jim Dennison is not here, so Manager Dana Rooney will give his report.

- A. **Fire Tax Credit** – Manager Rooney stated Solicitor Jim Dennison sent out the email regarding the Fire Tax Credit to Council, and if you have questions about it, you should email him.
- B. **Master Gardeners Lease for Memorial Park** – Manager Rooney stated she will reach out to Penn State regarding the Master Gardeners lease for Memorial Park.
- C. **Philip Taylor House Lease** – Manager Rooney stated we are working our way through the Philip Taylor House lease. Manager Rooney stated we should have the History Center in there with escape rooms shortly.

Borough Manager

- A. **New Address Request** – Manager Dana Rooney stated we received a request from the county and the property owner for a new address. Manager Rooney stated it is currently addressed as 104 Mabon Street, and the request is to change it to 104 Mabon Street, apartment one and 104 Mabon Street, apartment two. Manager Rooney stated she recommends denying it, otherwise we would be going against our own zoning ordinance. Manager Rooney stated Low Density Residential (LDR) does not allow for apartments. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to table this topic until the next meeting; seconded by Member Lucy Ames. Motion carried 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Depot Street Parking** – President Phil Hynes stated Depot Street, with our coordinated effort with Redbank Valley Trails, has always had a problem with parking. Mr. Hynes stated Redbank Valley Trails has the funding to widen and redo the Depot Street parking area. Mr. Hynes stated it is a Brookville Borough street. Mr. Hynes stated he is just bringing it up to see if anyone on Council has any objections to working with the Trail Association. Mr. Hynes stated we do not want to do anything until we get an engineering study. Manager Dana Rooney asked do we want to release a Request for Proposal (RFP)? Mr. Hynes stated he knows the Trail Association is in favor of it. Vice President Karen Allgeier asked if the Trail Association is in favor of paying for it, and Mr. Hynes stated yes. Mrs. Allgeier made a motion to send out an RFP regarding widening and redoing the Depot Street parking area; seconded by Second Vice-President Randy Bartley. Motion carried 7-0.

ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

- A. **Mayor Richard Beck** – Mayor Richard Beck thanked Scott North for coming to the meeting, and stated he gave us a lot of good information. Mayor Beck thanked everyone else that came to the meeting tonight.
- B. **Member David Taylor** – Member David Taylor stated there is a national organization called The Place Making Institute, which is a planning organization. Mr. Taylor stated he has been invited to be on a faculty with them in October in Newport, Rhode Island talking about Brookville's downtown, and he is also going to talk about the Marlin Opera House as a planning challenge.
- C. **Member Lucy Ames** – Member Lucy Ames thanked our guests and the community for coming to the meeting tonight. Mrs. Ames thanked Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades, Police Chief Vince Markle, Mayor Richard Beck, Fire Chief Chris Henry, and Manager Dana Rooney for everything they do.
- D. **Second Vice-President Randy Bartley** – Second Vice-President Randy Bartley thanked Dave Richards and the class of 1972 for their community spirit.
- E. **Vice-President Karen Allgeier** – Vice-President Karen Allgeier thanked everyone for the flowers they sent, and stated she watched the Laurel Parade on her phone in the hospital.
- F. **President Phil Hynes** – President Phil Hynes thanked the commissioners for presenting their information, and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight. Mr. Hynes asked the media if they had any questions.

MEDIA COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATION:

- A. **Alex Nelson – Memorial Park** – Reporter Alex Nelson asked when everything is done at Memorial Park, will there be an official opening of the park? Manager Dana Rooney stated yes, they will do a big press release and make a big announcement for it.
- B. **Swinging Bridge Grants** – Reporter Alex Nelson asked if they are just waiting to hear back regarding the grants for the swinging bridge. Manager Dana Rooney stated yes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-President Karen Allgeier moved to adjourn; seconded by Second Vice-President Randy Bartley. Motion carried 7-0 at 7:50 P.M.

Borough Manager

