

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2022**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Russ Stump
Darryl Wessner

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Thomas Fickinger, Council President
Leroy Bates, Vice-President
Skip Butler
Elaine Holley
Devin Lymaster
Mandy Miller, Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer
Willard Shiffer, Mayor
Shane Hobbs, Solicitor

ABSENT:

Rodney Hiester
Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem

Council President Fickinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with all members of Council being present with the exception of Rodney Hiester and Leonard Clark. A quorum was established.

○ PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1):

1. **Russ Stump:** Mr. Stump gave an update on the canal. He wanted to thank Len Clark and the Borough workers for helping with pulling trees from the canal and any help they have asked for with the upkeep and maintenance of the canal. Mr. Stump stated the two aerators in the canal were damaged due to fishing line and were not cost effective to repair. The Historical Society has purchased a bubbler that will lay on the bottom of the canal to keep oxygen flowing through the water for any fish in the canal. He also stated help is needed to put up the Christmas lights and asked council to reach out to any organizations they think may be interested in helping. Council further discussed.

○ SCHEDULED VISITORS:

2. **Darryl Wessner:** Mr. Wessner stated that with our franchise agreement with Comcast, he feels Channel 6 and Channel 8 should not be dropped from our area. He then stated he spoke with Len Clark and PennDOT regarding no parking on South Tulpehocken Street between Wood Street and Maple Street to avoid any accidents that may be caused by cars parking on that side of the road. The new optometrist office will be opening in approximately six months and he stated he will have adequate parking behind the office so there should not be a need for any parking on that side of the street.
3. **HH&L:** None.
4. **NEFD:** Lee Strubhar read over June monthly report for NEFD and stated the fire company will be attending an upgraded class on vehicle rescue next month. Mr. Strubhar also stated NEFD could help Russ Stump and the Historical Society with any small tasks at the canal if needed.

○ SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. **S. Tulpehocken Street-No parking:** Council discussed having no parking on S. Tulpehocken Street between Wood Street and Maple Street. Leroy Bates motioned to prohibit parking on S. Tulpehocken Street from Wood Street to Maple Street, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by council.
2. **35 E. Moyer Street:** Solicitor Hobbs is in contact with Marty Sowers of Light Heigel & Associates regarding this property and will do further research into the next steps for the Borough if an interested buyer offers to purchase the property.
3. **66 E. Pottsville Street:** Council further discussed this matter and Solicitor Hobbs will continue to work on this.

○ MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Sgt. Mozurkevich read over the monthly Police Report.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed the Quality of Life and properties of concern.

○ COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

● EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Dumpster Ordinance:** Ordinance 466 was discussed by council. Leroy Bates motioned to adopt Ordinance 466, Dumpster Ordinance, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **Schuylkill Chamber Energy Renewal:** Assistant Secretary Miller stated our contract will be up for renewal June 2023 and we received the current rates to lock in for the new contract. Council will have to decide how many years they would like to do. Council further discussed and decided to table until September.

- **Resolution #05-22 Chevy Equinox:** Skip Butler motioned to adopt Resolution #05-22, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by council.

- **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER): None.**
 - **Executive Session:** Leroy Bates motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Elaine Holley.
Council returned from Executive Session at 7:18pm stating they discussed personnel matters.

Leroy Bates motioned to enter into a second Memorandum of Understanding with Pine Grove Area School District to hire a second School Resource Officer, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

- **ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER)**
 - **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the July 14, 2022 Regular Meeting, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
 - **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for July, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
 - **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

- **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
 - **Streets/ Water Report:** Report is in everyone's folder. President Fickinger gave everyone an update on the drain repaired on S. Tulpehocken Street.
- **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
 - L. Bates stated that Swopes Valley timbering was completed and the Black Creek area will be next.
- **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):**
 - President Fickinger discussed a meeting he attended regarding dredging Sweet Arrow Lake. He stated that a walking path could one day extend from Lickdale to Sweet Arrow Lake.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER): None.**
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):**
 - President Fickinger stated the last day of the pool is on Friday, August 12th. Elaine Holley mentioned about some complaints regarding early closures due to lack of staff. Assistant Treasurer Miller stated that some of the lifeguards also work at other pools which was part of the staffing issue. President Fickinger said he would write an article for the next Evergreen issue regarding the need for lifeguards and how to become certified as a lifeguard. Council further discussed.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Health Officer Fees:** Council reviewed the updated fees for Health Officer Lew Moyer which will go into effect January 1, 2023. Council further discussed.
- **Electronic Recycling Event:** Leroy Bates motioned to have the Electronic Recycling Event on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 from 3:00pm – 5:00pm at Veteran’s Memorial Drive, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.

○ **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** None.

○ **PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:** None.

Leroy Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.


Mandy L. Miller, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer