

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2024**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Lee Strubhar-NEFD
Sgt. Beau Yarmush
Earl Kreiser
Aidan Aungst
Ron Aungst

Rebecca & Mark Peiffer
Lisa & Bill Jorda
Stephen Rada
Connor Rada

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Leroy Bates, Council President
Elaine Holley, Vice President
Kyler Burke, Pro-Tem
Devin Lymaster
Debra Thompson
Willard Shiffer, Mayor
Melissa Dyer, Borough Manager
Shane Hobbs, Solicitor

ABSENT:

Skip Butler
Aimmee Reilly

Council President Bates 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 Skip Butler and Aimmee Reilly. A quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1): None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- **S.R. 125 Water Line:** Solicitor Hobbs stated no response on the certified letter. It has been two weeks.
- **82/110 S. Tulpehocken Street:** Solicitor Hobbs stated 108/110 S. Tulpehocken Street is in litigation and will be filing a motion to have the owner served. Solicitor Hobbs stated 82 S. Tulpehocken Street did have a magistrate hearing and the owner will be working with Marty Sowers to get the property up to code for inspection.
- **Fire Tax Credit/ Fire Tax:** Solicitor Hobbs stated by law a municipal can tax by a certain millage. The Public Safety Committee will setup a meeting to discuss further. Solicitor Hobbs will send Melissa the Fire Tax Ordinance.

○ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

- **Ron/Aidan Aungst:** Ron & Aidan Aungst from Arthur “Pat” Aungst presented a donation to Council President Leroy Bates for the Christmas Lights and Ron & Aidan Aungst also presented a donation to Mayor Shiffer for the Police Department. Ron Aungst asked about the status of the dedication of Phase III of Pine Vista Estates. Solicitor Hobbs stated the County approved it and he will have it ready for January’s meeting for approval.
- **HH&L:** Report in file.
- **NEFD:** Report in file. Lee Strubhar read over their monthly report.
- **Connor Rada:** C. Rada provided an update on his Eagle Scout Project at the canal. C. Rada stated he is about 90% completed.

○ **MAYOR’S REPORT:**

- Sgt. Yarmush read over the monthly report.
- Mayor Shiffer stated the Friends of Schuylkill County Parks & Recreation take care of the lake. Mayor Shiffer stated they are working on grant funds to dredge the lake. He stated the Schuylkill County Country Christmas is on Sunday, December 22nd at the Sweet Arrow Lake Clubhouse.
- Mayor Shiffer asked if there was any update on the Nature Conservancy. Council President Bates stated the committee is currently discussing and waiting on a response from The Nature Conservancy.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

○ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

- **Executive Session:** Kyler Burke motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters at 6:33 p.m. seconded by Debra Thompson, carried by Council. Council returned from Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. and discussed legal matters with no further action taken at this time.
- **Streets Ordinance-No Parking:** Council President Bates discussed the no parking on East Side of South Tulpehocken Street. Council further discussed doing a traffic study on how many cars on parked on that side of the street. Borough Manager Dyer will discuss with Chief Trotter to see if the Handicapped Parking spaces are still needed. Council President Bates also discussed putting up signage regarding the off-street parking behind the Borough Building. This will be discussed further in the Public Works Committee.

○ **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: None.**

○ **ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, Council President Bates made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 14, 2024 Regular Meeting, seconded by Kyler Burke, carried by Council.
- **Approval of the Treasurer’s Report:** Council President Bates made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for November, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Bills:** Council President Bates motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Kyler Burke, carried by Council.

- **2025 General-Water Fund Budget:** Council President Bates made a motioned to adopt the 2025 General-Water Fund Budget, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
- **Resolution #08-24 2025 Tax Rate:** Council President Bates made a motion to adopt Resolution #08-24 2025 Tax Rate with no tax increase, seconded by Debra Thompson, carried by Council.
- **Resolution # 09-24 Industrial Rates:** Council President Bates made a motion to adopt Resolution #09-24 with a 10% increase on Industrial Rates effective January 1, 2025, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.

- **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:**
 - **Streets & Water Report:** Reports are in everyone's file.
 - **Emergency Snow Removal Bids:** Elaine Holley motioned to advertise for Emergency Snow Removal bids for 2025, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
 - **DEP Service Line Inventory:** Borough Manager Dyer provided an update to council regarding the DEP Service Line Inventory. Borough Manager Dyer stated we must send out a letter to all water customers to determine what type of pipe is running from the curb stop to the meter. Borough Manager Dyer stated DEP is trying to ensure there is no lead in the water system.
 - **Storage Trailer/ Shed:** Earl Kreiser stated the current storage is unsafe. Borough Manager Dyer stated we can order a shed through Pine Creek Structures and do a rent to own. Borough Manager Dyer stated we did this for the police department a few years ago. Council further discussed. Kyler Burke motioned to move forward with the lease with Pine Creek Structures, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.

- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION:**
 - **Pool:** Borough Manager Dyer stated she received a rough quote from Karen to take care of leaks at the pool. Borough Manager Dyer stated the cost would be no more than \$5,000.00. Borough Manager Dyer stated PP&L service line for the pool and well will need to be replaced. The pole is about to fall over and the line itself is not in good condition. Strouphauer Electric is working with PPL on options.

- **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE:**
 - **Berger Road Property:** Council President Bates wanted to discuss the possible sale of the Berger Road Property to help with the cost for the pool and possibly the repairs for the Borough Building. Mark Peiffer whom was in the audience asked if he could speak and discussed his interest of the property. M. Peiffer has property all around the parcel that we own. Council discussed deed restrictions, etc. Elaine Holley motioned to proceed with the sale of the Berger Road Property,

seconded by Devin Lymaster. Motioned died. Poll Vote was taken: 2- Yes's and 3- No's. Council tabled it.

- **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE:**
 - **Swatara Flood Advisory:** Elaine Holley stated their next meeting will be January 2nd at the Sweet Arrow Lake Clubhouse.
 - **STORMWATER COMMITTEE: None.**
 - **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: None.**
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
- **TCC Meeting:** Borough Manager Dyer stated Aimmee Reilly asked for me to bring up to see if Elaine or Leroy could attend the TCC Meeting. She is unable to. Elaine Holley stated she will attend the meeting.
 - **Borough Building:** Borough Manager Dyer stated the roof and soffit of the Borough Building will need to be replaced within the next year and is requesting a motion to obtain funding for repairs through the USDA. Borough Manager Dyer had a contractor come in and take a look at the soffit and roof and gave rough high estimate of 50,000.00-100,000.00. Kyler Burke motioned to allow Borough Manager Dyer to obtain funding for the roof and soffit repair for the Borough Building, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
 - **Evergreen:** Borough Manager Dyer stated Bill Knecht reached out and wanted to know council's thoughts on continuing the Evergreen due to lack of articles and rising costs. Council further discussed and tabled until January. Solicitor Hobbs offered to do an advertisement in the Evergreen.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None.**
- **PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: None.**

Elaine Holley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m., seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.



Melissa A. Dyer, Borough Manager