

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 14, 2022**

**GENERAL ATTENDANCE**

Ken Dubbs  
Kemp Garnes  
Belinda Garnes  
Alix Kalinch  
Jerry Newswanger  
Lee Strubhar

**COUNCIL ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:**

Thomas Fickinger, Council President  
Leroy Bates, Vice-President  
Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem  
Skip Butler  
Elaine Holley  
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/ Treasurer  
Willard Shiffer, Mayor  
Shane Hobbs, Solicitor

**ABSENT:**

Rodney Hiester  
Devin Lymaster

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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 Devin Lymaster. A quorum was established.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1): None.**

**SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **Jerry Newswanger/ Ken Dubbs:** Jerry Newswanger and Ken Dubbs stated they met with the Swatara Rail Trails and discussed their walking trails. Jerry Newswanger and Ken Dubbs discussed with Borough Council about installing a walking trail that would connect with the Swatara Rail Trail and Sweet Arrow Lake Park. Council further discussed.

2. **Kemp & Belinda Garnes:** Kemp Garnes stated they purchased the old OIP property at 64 S. Tulpehocken Street and they are currently are renovating. K. Garnes asked about having parking spaces in front of 64 S. Tulpehocken Street. Council further discussed. Council President Fickinger asked Kemp when they will be opening. K. Garnes stated about three months. Council President Fickinger stated council will get back to them.
3. **Alix Kalinch-SPCA:** Alix Kalinch stated he is from Ruth Steinart SPCA Board and they would like to host a Rubber Ducky Race the same day as the Autumn Stroll. A. Kalinch wasn't sure if any permits or approval was needed. Secretary Dyer will check with other municipalities to see if they obtain any permits, etc. Solicitor Hobbs will draft an Indemnity Agreement once he hears from Secretary Dyer.
4. **HH&L:** None.
5. **NEFD:** Lee Strubhar read over June monthly report for NEFD.

○ **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

1. **Dumpster Ordinance:** Solicitor Hobbs stated the draft included that no dumpsters were allowed on State Route 125 and State Route 443 along with safety verbiage that was previously discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to adopt Ordinance 466, Dumpster Ordinance, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
2. **S. Tulpehocken Street-No parking:** Solicitor Hobbs provided council a draft ordinance for no parking on South Tulpehocken Street between Wood Street and Maple Street with 20 minutes for loading and unloading. Council further discussed and tabled until August. Solicitor Hobbs will do further research on this as well.
3. **66 E. Pottsville Street:** Solicitor Hobbs stated the Frew Bros. submitted an offer for 66 E. Pottsville Street. Solicitor Hobbs went up to the courthouse and submitted the offer and the tax office denied the offer and stated another offer had come in for the property. Council further discussed and Solicitor Hobbs will continue to work on this.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Sgt. Mozurkevich read over the monthly Police Report.
- Mayor Shiffer stated domestics were high over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed the Quality of Life and properties of concern.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

- **Washington Township Intermunicipal Agreement:** Solicitor Hobbs stated the current agreement is still in effect. Council further discussed. Council decided to table and revisit during budget meeting time.
- **Life Safety Issues:** Schuylkill County Fire Chiefs Association is requesting municipalities and Chief Fire Officers to support the policies related to Incident Command, SCBA use and Accountability. Council further

discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to support the following policies Incident Command, SCBA use and Accountability that was provided to us by the Schuylkill County Fire Chiefs Association, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

**2. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER): None.**

- **Executive Session:** Leroy Bates motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:13p.m. to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Leonard Clark.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:27pm stating they discussed personnel matters.

Leroy Bates motioned to advertise for a Streets & Water Supervisor position with Leonard Clark announcing his retirement early January 2023, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

**3. ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER)**

- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the June 9, 2022 Regular Meeting, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for June, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.

**4. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

- **Streets/ Water Report:** Report is in everyone's folder.
- **Low Volume Road Grants:** Len Clark discussed the Low Volume Road Grants and stated they may possibly have to go out for bid for the projects because of the total cost. Council further discussed. Secretary Dyer asked would they have to go out for bid if a portion of the job was in kind contribution made by the Borough. The total remaining would be under the bidding threshold amount. Solicitor Hobbs is going to look into this.
- **Durango:** Len Clark stated the Dodge Durango wouldn't pass inspection. Len provided council a list of vehicles and prices. L. Clark stated the lowest price is 2020 Chevy Equinox with the cost of \$20,950 with a trade in. Skip Butler motioned to purchase the 2020 Chevy Equinox from Frederick Chevrolet in the amount of \$20,950.00 with a trade in, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **South Tulpehocken Street Stormwater Drain:** Len Clark stated the work for the South Tulpehocken Street Stormwater drain will be starting on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> and they will finish it up on Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**5. PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES): None.**

**6. FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK): None.**

- 7. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER): None.
- 8. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):

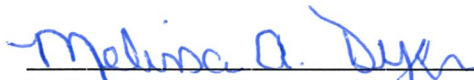
NEW BUSINESS:

- **Autumn Stroll/ Halloween Parade:** Leroy Bates motioned to close the roads for the Autumn Stroll and Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- **Trick or Treat Night:** Leroy Bates motioned to have Trick or Treat Night on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- **Schuylkill Chamber Energy Renewal:** Secretary Dyer 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 August.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None.

PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: None.

Leonard Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m., seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

  
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Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer