

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
September 8, 2022**

**GENERAL ATTENDANCE**

Amanda Lutz  
Daniel Ney

**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

---

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):**

1. **Daniel Ney:** D. Ney brought up concerns about the Rental Ordinance. D. Ney stated there are properties that are rentals and they are not being inspected but his properties have been inspected twice. Council further discussed.

☐ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

2. **HH&L:** None.
3. **NEFD:** Report in everyone's file.

☐ **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

1. **66 E. Pottsville Street:** Solicitor Hobbs discussed options regarding 66 E Pottsville Street. Solicitor Hobbs stated possibly doing a straight foreclosure as a creditor of the property or doing a conservatorship. President Fickinger stated he would like to attend the next County Commissioners Meeting regarding 66 E. Pottsville Street. Council further discussed. President Fickinger and Mayor Shiffer will attend the next County Commissioners Meeting.

**Tulpehocken Rifle Lease:** President Fickinger asked Solicitor Hobbs to update the Tulpehocken Rifle Lease to a 99year lease.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Sgt. Mozurkevich read over the monthly Police Report.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed the Quality of Life and properties of concern.
- Mayor Shiffer stated a request for a handicapped parking space was requested for 29 Locust Street. Leroy Bates motioned to approve a handicapped parking space at 29 Locust Street pending Streets Supervisor review, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

● **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

- **Ordinance 467-No Parking:** President Fickinger discussed Ordinance 467, no parking on S. Tulpehocken Street from W. Wood Street to Maple Street. Skip Butler motioned to advertise Ordinance 467, No Parking on one side of S Tulpehocken Street, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **Schuylkill Chamber Energy Renewal:** Secretary Dyer provided an update to council on the current electric rates. Secretary Dyer stated the contract will be up in June 2023 and stated they could see further increase in rates. Council further discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to approve the 36-month rate with Schuylkill Chamber Energy Renewal renewing June 2023, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

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

- **Executive Session:** Leroy Bates motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Leonard Clark. Council returned from Executive Session at 6:45pm stating they discussed personnel matters.


President Fickinger stated they discussed personnel matters and with extreme prejudice that I entertain a motion to accept Melissa Dyer's resignation with last day of Thursday, September 22, 2022.

Leroy Bates motioned to accept the resignation of Melissa Dyer effective Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council

Leroy Bates motioned to separate the title and duties of Secretary-Treasurer giving Mandy Miller the title of Borough Treasurer and Amanda Lutz the title of the Borough Secretary, 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 August 11, 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 August, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
  - **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
  - **Streets/ Water Report:** Report is in everyone's folder.
- **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
  - L. Bates provided an update to council on timbering. L Bates stated they will be starting the timbering in Echo Valley in November. Council further discussed concerns of timbering during hunting season. Council stated they should cease any work during the two weeks of rifle season.
- **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):** None.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):**
  - Skip Butler discussed sidewalk concerns and having the sidewalk ordinance revised. Council further discussed. E. Holley brought up a sidewalk of concern in North Tulpehocken area where the tree roots are pushing up the sidewalk. Council would like the code official to take look at this area.
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):**
  - L. Clark stated the pool is closed for the season and he stated the leak is somewhere on the skimmer side.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - **Portable toilets-Halloween Parade:** Skip Butler motioned to approve six portable toilets for the Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**
  - **Mayor Shiffer:** Mayor Shiffer asked what the plan was for when Len leaves. President Fickinger stated this will be discussed further at the Budget Meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:** None.

Leonard Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m., seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer