

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN/COUNCILWOMEN FOX, KUBA, NALESNIK, PAUL, PRESIDENT HAWK & MAYOR KATTNER

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

President Hawk stated how it was normally their workshop/committee meeting, but they advertised to change the classification of the meeting to general purposes.

PURPOSE: General Purpose Meeting

- **Fill vacant Borough Council Seat:**
 - Suzanne Smith – Letter of interest for vacant council seat
 - Rose Chapello – Letter of interest for vacant council seat
 - Dawn Jacobs – Letter of interest for vacant council seat
 - Sal Polichetti – Letter of interest for vacant council seat
 - Abbie Guardiani – Letter of interest for vacant council seat
 - Randy Kraus – Letter of interest for vacant council seat
 - Sean Smith – Letter of interest for vacant council seat

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilman Paul seconded to appoint Abbie Guardiani to the vacant seat on Council until December 31, 2023. All voted yes. Motion passed.

- **Accept Rosemary Porembo letter of resignation**

Councilman Paul moved and Councilwoman Kuba seconded to regrettably accept Councilwoman Porembo's letter of resignation effective June 1, 2022. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilman Paul seconded to table the appointment for Councilwoman Porembo's vacant seat until their Regular meeting on June 22, 2022. All voted yes. Motion passed.

1. STREETS LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN

Councilman Paul stated about the April, May and June schedule; pot hole patching; hot patching, which they would be looking into; cutting grass; painting fire hydrant areas with yellow paint and painting the handicap parking spots. He stated how they will be checking and repairing all of the park equipment. Councilman Paul stated that since Mr. Degiglio was a little older, he would like him to do all of the building maintenance. He stated that once Keith Gogal and a high school/college student would get started, they will be more productive. Councilman Paul stated that Mr. Gogal will work with Mr. Staehle on cutting the grass and any other major work that they would need done. He stated how the student would be working with Mr. Degiglio; because Mr. Degiglio was a little older, more responsible and could teach him some stuff and to help Mr. Degiglio where need be, because he was having some issues.

Councilman Paul stated that he wanted to make it known to the residents that if their grass was not cut, they will be cited. He stated how there was not excuse for people not to cut their grass. Councilman Paul stated how he was in communications every day with the office on complaints. He stated how they have a good communication going and that was a positive to improve the town.

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2. SEWER

MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN

Councilwoman Fox stated how unit #2 has been completed and inspected. She stated how Mr. Pilla was going to switch out unit #1 and unit #2, because they needed to pull out the insides of unit #1. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were waiting on the engineer for Columbus Avenue. She stated how they were up to get measurements and they were waiting to put the project out on bid. Councilwoman Fox stated how Mr. Pilla was getting prices on smoke testing.

Councilwoman Fox asked if they had heard anything on the complaint about Center Street that they received. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they were waiting on clarification from the engineer concerning the Borough sewer ordinance. Councilwoman Fox stated about the letters for Railroad Street and how Mr. Burns has hooked up to the sewer system directly, but all of the other sewer lines run through his property.

Councilman Nalesnik stated about looking into the proper rate for Rush Township for next year. Councilwoman Fox stated how the engineer has a copy of the agreement and was going to start looking into it.

3. BUILDINGS

BRUCE NALESNIK, CHAIRMAN

Councilman Nalesnik stated that the outside light in the walkway next to the Borough building has been replaced. He stated how it was an updated dust-to-dawn LED light. Councilman Nalesnik stated how he was compiling prices to replace the flooring and to paint in the front offices and entrance way. He stated how he had received some prices and would present them in executive session for the Council to consider. Councilman Nalesnik stated how he knew that it was not a budgeted item, but the carpet did need to be replaced and he did not want to install another carpet.

Councilman Nalesnik stated how he had met with the Recreation Commission on Monday and they were very receptive of renewing the Recreation Center. He stated how they were going to give him some feedback on what was important and what some of their concerns were. Councilman Nalesnik stated how he would continue to update Council with the information that he receives. He stated about the COVID money and checking with Senator Argall's office to see if there was any funding available, because it was considered a historic building and also an emergency shelter for the Borough.

Councilman Nalesnik stated that the code vehicle was finished being lettered and they had to look into getting the vehicle back to the Borough office. Councilman Paul stated that the next vehicle they were going to letter was the Durango. Councilman Nalesnik stated how he was waiting on the quote and the layout design.

Councilman Nalesnik stated that since they renamed the Earl Johnson Memorial Park to Johnson & Jacobs Memorial Park, he was getting a quote on an aluminum sign that could be placed at the playground. He stated how it would be mounted to the wall and that it would be permanent.

Councilman Paul stated how they should keep in mind that Mr. Degiglio has a vast knowledge in home repairs; for the painting or any other smaller jobs. Councilman Nalesnik stated that they need a professional to repaint the front office to make it look nice, because of the paneling and the stained doors. Councilman Paul stated how it could be done on a rainy day instead of the Borough contracting it out or paying someone else to do it. He stated how Mr. Degiglio did have a business at one time. Councilman Paul stated how they could make a list that he could widdle away at. President Hawk stated that if they wanted to get something done in the front offices, they had to get it done quickly.

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Councilwoman Fox stated that she did not know how interested they were in renting the upstairs apartment. She stated that she has an older couple, who was currently living in Allentown and who also belong to the Meed's Church. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was Tanya's sister and her husband, who has the onset of Alzheimer's. She stated how they want to sell their home on the south side of Allentown and move up towards Nesquehoning. Councilwoman Fox stated how she had showed them the apartment on Sunday and told them about the parking. She stated that it could possibly be a long term rental, if they would decide to go that way. Councilwoman Kuba asked if the apartment was move-in ready. Councilwoman Fox stated "no". She stated that the carpet had been removed and Councilman Nalesnik had suggested not putting carpet back in. President Hawk stated that they would have to see what it would take to get it ready.

Councilman Nalesnik stated that he had known that it was vacant for a while and really had not been discussed. He stated that he did not know if Council would be receptive to putting someone back in up there. Councilwoman Fox stated how they had finished the spackling and it had to be painted. Councilman Paul stated how they were supposed to paint that a few years ago. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they had discussed in the past about not doing any floor covering and just sanding the floors and applying a coat of polyurethane. Councilman Nalesnik stated about painting the floors and making the tenant get area carpets. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the polyurethane because the painting would chip and rub off. Councilman Nalesnik stated that he did not know what their thoughts were. President Hawk stated how they have had good experience with tenants and they have had bad experiences with tenants. Councilwoman Fox stated that there would not be any kids and they were very clean. President Hawk stated how they would have to see how much it would cost and what they would have to do to make it rentable. He stated how they would have to determine on what they would charge in rent.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY

LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

- **Accept Sean T. Smith resignation effective May 31, 2022**
Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Kuba seconded to accept Chief Sean T. Smith's resignation effective May 31, 2022. All voted yes. Motion passed.
- **Accept Timothy Wuttke resignation effective May 31, 2022**
Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Kuba seconded to accept Officer Timothy Wuttke's resignation effective May 31, 2022. All vote yes. Motion passed.
- **Ratify actions of hiring Corey Herring effective June 13, 2022**
Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Kuba seconded to ratify the actions of hiring Corey Herring effective June 13, 2022 at \$30.00 per hour with a 6 month probation period. All voted yes. Motion passed.

- **Discuss - Quote – Metro Server Migration**
Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that with getting the new server for the Police Department, the Metro Alert Software System needs to be transferred from the old server to the new server. She stated how they will not allow John Shemansik; the Borough's IT, to transfer the information. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the quote they received was for 12 hours for \$2,400.00+ and Mr. Shemansik does not feel that it will take them much over 2 hours to complete the transfer. She stated that Ms. Bamford has called them to ask them why the cost was so high and it was what the company billed as a bundle, because they do not bill per hour, which they were going to see if they could override it and bill at an hourly rate. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were waiting for the company to get back to them.

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Councilman Paul asked if they needed to make a motion that night or if they were waiting on the other quote to come into the office. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they could authorize President Hawk to grant permission and then ratify the action at the regular meeting.

Councilman Paul moved and Councilwoman Fox seconded to authorize President Hawk to approve the contract with Central Square once they get clarification on the rate. All voted yes. Motion passed.

- John McArdle - discussion addresses for Reading/Blue Mountain Northern Railroad buildings

John McArdle stated that he was thinking about the solutions to giving addresses to the buildings on Stock Street (formerly KME buildings); keeping Stock Street but adding 4000 to the property addresses after Park Avenue, restore Catawissa Street extension to Park Avenue, or to create a new street name to the crossing going into the Railroad property. He stated that the problem they were going to run into were how the people were not going to be very happy the last time they had to change their addresses. Mr. McArdle stated that he would caution Council, because it was a short gap solution and he has been told that the coal banks would never be developed. He stated how it was a Band-Aid that they keep putting off. Mr. McArdle stated that if they would ever develop any areas on Stock Street, they have the means to set addresses. He stated that they could create Blue Mountain Lane for the Railroad, but that does not solve their problem on the south side of Stock Street. Mr. McArdle stated that they had a problem the last time they changed the addresses, because Kovatch had to change their sales and inspection licenses.

President Hawk asked what the down side was to extending Catawissa Street. Mr. McArdle stated that he really did not like that, because the monument stood for the line of demarcation. He stated how Mr. Kovatch had carried on at a meeting that he wanted 1 Industrial Complex, which was explained that they could have that as their mailing address, but each building would be given a street address. Mr. McArdle stated how that was why they decided not to start numbering until they got up to Park Avenue, because nothing was ever going to happen there. Councilman Paul stated about a development on the other side of the coal banks. Mr. McArdle stated how there would have to be a cross street as long as they did not build on Route 54. Councilwoman Fox stated that everyone's house on Route 54 (Stock Street) from Park Avenue would have to be renumbered. Mr. McArdle stated how they were only prolonging the inevitable. Councilman Nalesnik stated how the buildings might not all be owned by the Railroad. Councilwoman Fox asked what the issue was with extending Catawissa Street. Mr. McArdle stated how the monument serves as an intersection. He stated how the Quick Mart was addressed at 3 Stock Street and the Ford Service Center was 2 Stock Street. President Hawk asked what the first address was past Park Avenue. Mr. McArdle stated that he thought it was 31 Stock Street. President Hawk stated how they did not have a lot to work with.

Councilman Paul asked what was better for the fire protection. Mr. McArdle stated how that was immaterial. He stated that his concern was for the ambulance and with the people who did not know that area. Councilman Paul stated about just continuing with the numbers on Stock Street; 2, 4, 6, 8, etc. Mr. McArdle stated how they did not have enough numbers to keep going up Stock Street. He stated how that was not how it worked; they measure it and there was a formula that was used to determine the addresses. Councilman Nalesnik stated how it might be premature, because the dust has not settled on the transfers to the new owners. Mr. McArdle stated how they have to have the mindset that there could be more buildings go up and that they needed to be cautious. Councilman Paul stated how they should wait until they see who owns all of the buildings. Mr. McArdle stated how they really need to have the buildings numbered. He stated that Council had to look at the future growth and if they just band-aid it now, it will resurrect itself again. Mr. McArdle stated that the south side of the street would be a concern. President Hawk stated that if they would develop anything in there, they would probably be an intersection with a cross road, which would be a different name, but if there was frontage on Route 54, there would be a problem.

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Mr. McArdle stated that he did not know if everyone was aware, Mayor Tom Kattner and Mr. Watkins have been nominated and awarded the Courage Award. He stated how they would be receiving their awards on October 18th. Mr. McArdle stated how it was a great honor and he will be bringing it up again at the Regular Meeting.

5. SANITATION LOUIS PAUL, CHAIRMAN; BRUCE NALESNIK

Councilman Paul stated about the electronics recycling, which was schedule for September 6th from 2 – 4 p.m. on Locust Street. He stated how there would be no contact and that people had to stay in their vehicles.

Councilwoman Fox asked if there was anything that apartment buildings were supposed to have a separate container for the garbage. Councilman Paul stated how they adopted an ordinance and apartment buildings were supposed to have a barrier for their garbage. President Hawk stated how he thought that they adopted the ordinance. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they did pass the ordinance and she would have to check her records to see who they had sent letters to. Councilman Paul stated how they could have the code enforcement officer follow up on the letters.

Councilman Nalesnik asked if Family Promise was notified of the sanitation changes. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Ms. Coniglio has informed them and billed them for the three units as of June 1st.

6. RECREATION MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Recreation Commission met on Monday night and wanted to thank Councilman Nalesnik for attending the meeting, because he went over some of the building projects. She stated that the Commission members were very pleased that he had attended and that they were concerned with the conditions of the Recreation Center. Councilwoman Fox stated that they were going to hold a community yard sale on August 13th & 14th and have maps like they did last year. She stated how the residents will need to register with the Recreation Commission to get on the map.

- **Ratify Station Park appraisal.**

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Kuba seconded to ratify the actions of getting an appraisal on Station Park. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Recreation Commission would not be holding bingo for the month of July. She stated how the attendance at the bingo has decreased and they think that it had a lot to do with the rising gas prices. Councilwoman Fox stated about the Commission renting the Recreation Center and asked if the Borough has received any of the rental forms. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she did not remember seeing any within the last few months. Councilwoman Fox stated how the Commission was supposed to be handing a copy of the rental forms over to the Borough because of the liability, since the Borough insures the property.

Mr. Sabol stated that he was surprised and caught off guard to find out that they were getting an appraisal on Station Park. He asked when they had discussed getting the appraisal, if it was during the regular meeting or if it was during an executive session. President Hawk stated how it was brought up during executive session. He stated that it was not the night of the meeting but a few days later he had requested that Secretary/Treasurer Ahner get an appraisal for the property, which the Council now ratified that action.

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Mr. Sabol asked if they could explain why they were getting the property appraised and under whose recommendation it was to have it appraised. President Hawk stated that it was discussed and they decided to move forward in having it appraised. He stated that it was the Borough's property and they were getting an appraisal to know the value. Mr. Sabol asked if they had plans to sell it. President Hawk stated how they had no plans at that time. Mr. Sabol stated that he would be very disappointed if they did sell it over a squabble with another property owner. He stated how he had put a lot of work into that property. Mr. Sabol stated how he had gotten prisoners several times and cleaned along the tracks, on his own time with his own money. He asked if the Borough was going to continue to do what he did for free. Mr. Sabol stated how he was not trying to be sarcastic but he had worked hard for Station Park. He stated how he wanted to leave something behind and he was trying to do something nice to better the town. Mr. Sabol stated how he was down there cutting the grass for free, weed whacking for free, and putting signs up for free on his own time. He stated how they should not give up on the park. Councilwoman Fox stated about getting a business district in town.

7. BUDGET/ FINANCE CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

No report.

8. PERSONNEL/ MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; BRUCE NALESNIK SAFETY

No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. for personnel. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Kuba seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer