

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

Councilwoman Fox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Frank Jacobs passed away on May 2, 2022

President Hawk arrived late.

PURPOSE: Workshop/Committee Meeting

1. STREETS CHAIRMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS

Councilman Paul stated how they were done with the installation of the pipe on Industrial Road. He stated how they were waiting for the paperwork from the engineer, concerning the streets that they were paving. Councilman Paul stated how the Borough crew was patching pot holes and cutting grass. He stated how the contractor was going to start on E. Diaz Avenue in June. Councilman Paul stated how he had told the contractor that he wanted a crown in the road.

Councilwoman Kuba stated how she wanted to thank the Borough crew for putting up the banners.

Councilwoman Porembo asked if they were hiring Keith Gogal for the Summer. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she did not hear anything. Councilman Paul stated about getting a college kid for the Summer. He stated how two guys could go one way and the other two guys could go the other way. Councilwoman Fox stated how they might be able to hire a college kid through the County. Mayor Kattner stated how he had talked to Mr. Gogal and he would be ready the second week of June. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if they could get something in writing from him. Councilman Paul stated about advertising for part-time help over the Summer. He stated how they could help cut the grass and paint the lines.

Councilman Paul stated how he was going to have the Borough crew go around town and paint the fire hydrant, no-parking yellow lines.

2. SEWER MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO-CHAIRMAN;

Councilwoman Fox stated how they had met with Dave Schlott, Arro Engineering, to discuss generators for the pumping stations at the lake. She stated how he was going to check with COSTARS.

Councilwoman Fox stated about W. Columbus Avenue and how she had done a price per hour for an excavator, operator and a laborer from Michael Radocha. She stated how she wanted a project cost, which he could not give her because of not knowing what he was going to run into. Councilwoman Fox stated how they had to watch the cost so they do not exceed their quoting/bidding limits. She asked if she should get two more quotes for hourly prices. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they might get a contractor who will take two weeks to finish or a contractor who would only take a week to finish the project. Councilman Paul stated how they get a price per hour for snow removal. He stated how they could get prices from several contractors, but they might not be able to get them there when they wanted them to do the job. Councilman Nalesnik stated that when they were calling around getting quotes, they should be giving them the Borough's start date. He stated how they should get a price and a commitment.

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Councilman Paul stated how they have to come up with a date as to when they want to start the project. Councilwoman Fox stated how they could give a start date of June 13th. Councilman Paul stated about calling several different contractors. Council-woman Fox stated how they will need the length and the number of laterals. She stated how they will get a quote for the project.

Councilman Nalesnik asked if they were only doing the first block. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were going into the second block, because there was a new line that came up so far in the second block. Councilman Nalesnik asked if they were going to pave the street afterwards. Councilwoman Fox stated "yes". Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they might have to bid the paving. She stated about having the engineer get the specifications ready for bid as soon as the pipe installation was complete. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they could also just get the engineer to draft the specifications for the entire project (pipe and paving). Councilman Paul stated how he and Councilwoman Fox would meet with the engineer. President Hawk stated about asking the Water Authority to mark the water lines and the service lines on the street.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had asked Mr. Pilla to get prices from USG for smoke testing. She stated how they wanted to start on the east end of New Columbus to get rid of the infiltration. Councilwoman Fox stated how there was a lot of water coming down from the east end, so they have to do something. She stated how it goes down and backs up Rhume Street, which makes the manhole jump.

Councilwoman Fox stated about the Industrial Road sewer line project. She stated how they were looking to run the sewer line right before the railroad tracks, which they needed to get four easements. She stated how it would end at the Smith's property. Councilman Paul asked about taking the sewer line further. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were not able to run the line any further because they did not have the elevation passed the Smith's property to run it back to Industrial Road. She stated that in order to get those properties, they would have to run a sewer line east towards 12th Avenue. Councilwoman Fox stated that Bill McMullen, engineer, has suggested to continue the sewer line down Route 54 and have the Smith's install a grinder pump. She stated how Mr. Pilla did not want to be held responsible for a grinder pump, which she felt would become the responsibility of the property owner. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they have to look at what would be the best for the Borough.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked why the Smith's requested to get on the sewer system. Councilwoman Fox stated how their septic system was failing. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked why they did not just install a new septic system. Councilman Paul stated how everyone had to hook up to the sewer system. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how that was if there was sewer available and they were able to hook up. Councilwoman Fox stated how they had to hook up, if they were within 150 feet of the main sewer line. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if they were requesting the Borough to pay for sewer lines, so they did not have to pay for a new septic system. President Hawk stated how he might be willing to deal with a grinder pump rather than paying for a new septic system. Councilwoman Fox stated how she was going to get the engineer take a look at it. Councilwoman Porembo stated that if the Borough would install it, the property owner would be responsible for it. She stated how the Borough could also tell them that since it was not feasible to install that main line, they would have to install/replace their own septic system. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the engineer should be directing the Borough. Councilman Paul stated how they would go on the recommendation of the engineer. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they could take the engineer's recommendation into consideration when making their decision.

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3. BUILDINGS

BRUCE NALESNIK, CHAIRMAN; CO- CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS

Councilman Nalesnik stated how he wanted to get prices for new flooring in the front office. He stated how he was also looking to get the front offices repainted. Councilwoman Fox asked if he was looking at carpets. Councilman Nalesnik stated how he was looking at vinyl laminate flooring.

Councilman Nalesnik stated how he would like to look closely at the Recreation Center for some possible renovations. Councilwoman Kuba stated how the Recreation Commission was looking to start a monthly breakfast. She stated about taking a look at the kitchen. Councilman Paul stated how a kitchen was a great idea for breakfast. Councilwoman Kuba stated how Kovatch had been lenient with the parking in their lot on the weekends. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked that when they do the front offices that they do one office at a time and before the hallway. She stated how they will have to disconnect all of the computers and phones.

Councilman Nalesnik stated about the park and if they would choose to have entertainment in the park; they would need power. Councilwoman Fox stated how she wanted to talk to someone from PPL about it. She stated about where the meter was located in the park/cemetery next to Turkey Hill. Councilman Paul stated how he had everything down to a science with the power. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had set funds aside in that year to get the power in the park. Councilwoman Fox stated that she did not think that they needed a building. Councilwoman Porembo stated how it was supposed to be a small shed to house the breaker box. She stated how it was not supposed to be anything big. Councilman Nalesnik stated how it was worth investigating and getting power in the park.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she was under the impression that they needed a shed for power. She stated how there was a meter on a board at the monument across from Turkey Hill. Councilman Nalesnik stated that if they wanted a meter/power, they did not need a shed. Councilman Paul stated how they met with PPL about getting power to have Christmas in the park. He stated how they were going to run power lines underground to a shed to house a 200 amp service, which would supply power to the park. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they should go back to the original plan. Councilman Paul stated how the shed needed to be anchored to the pad and they could put a picnic table on the other half of the concrete pad. He stated how they wanted to get power to the gazebo and then they were going to light up the park. President Hawk stated how PPL had told them that they needed a shed in the concrete pad had to be 6 inches thick. Councilman Paul stated how it was 6 inches thick. He stated how they put dirt around it and that was why it only looked 3 inches thick. Councilman Paul stated that whoever was looking at it did not know what they were talking about. President Hawk stated how it was the building inspector. He stated how they would not approve the permit. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Borough never filled out a permit application. Councilman Paul stated how they did not need a permit or an inspection. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that without the inspection sticker, PPL would not connect the power. Councilman Paul stated how his brother-in-law was the zoning officer and they did not need a permit.

President Hawk stated how they needed to keep it simple. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they will measure the pad and he will get some prices on sheds. Councilwoman Fox stated how they would only need a 6 x 8 shed. President Hawk stated that in time, they could get their lighting and receptacles around the park. Councilwoman Porembo stated that part of the goal was when they were holding events, to team up with their businesses to have specials in order to draw people in the town. She stated how the town and the businesses would benefit. Councilwoman Kuba stated how they had programs at the historical society, which brought in 225 people in two days. She stated how approximately 80% of those people were from out of town and they were asking where they could go to eat.

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Councilwoman Fox asked about the police department. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she was still waiting on the insurance company. She stated how they were supposed to be sending her a check, but she did not get anything yet.

Councilman Nalesnik stated about getting the Borough “code” car up to Frontline Graphix to get it lettered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. for personnel. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 7:11 p.m.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY

ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

No report.

5. SANITATION

LOUIS PAUL, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIRWOMAN, BRUCE NALESNIK

No report.

6. RECREATION

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

Councilwoman Fox asked where they were at with Johnson Park. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how DCED’s meeting was scheduled for May 24th. She stated how they were waiting to see if they were going to be awarded the LSA grant.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she would like to make a motion at their Regular meeting to change the name of Johnson Park, to Jacobs/Johnson Park. She stated how they both worked just as hard for that park. Councilman Nalesnik asked if they had lighting in that park. Councilwoman Fox stated “no”. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they could check into getting a light or two in that park.

Councilwoman Fox stated how the next Recreation Commission Meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 6th at the Recreation Center at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Paul stated about Station Park and how he was not against any improvements in the Borough. He stated that anything that was being done at Station Park should be approved by Council. Councilman Paul stated that before they spend any money at Station Park, it should also be approved by the Borough Council Members. He stated how there should be a written plan/drawing submitted for the Council Members to review. Councilman Paul stated how they should be looking at a pavilion, benches and maybe a walkway. Councilwoman Porembo and Councilwoman Fox stated how they both agreed with Councilman Paul. Councilman Paul stated how they have to watch what they do, because they were still in the middle of a lawsuit. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they should get a professional site/development plan completed by an engineer before anything else was done. He stated how they could work on it in stages.

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Councilman Nalesnik stated how they already have Johnson Park and the New Columbus Park and asked what they wanted to do at that park. Councilwoman Kuba stated about children in that park with the trains going through. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was not going to be a park for children. Councilman Nalesnik stated that the more they build it up, the more children they will have hanging out there. Councilwoman Poremba stated how George Sabol had taken Frank Jacobs and herself down to show them what he had planned to do. She stated how Mr. Sabol wanted to build a viewing deck, was that feasible for the safety of everyone; children included.

Councilman Paul stated how their Solicitor had the best idea to sell the property. He stated how it would end the lawsuit. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they could put a stipulation on the property if they would sell it. Councilman Paul stated how Mr. Sabol had a good idea, but it has turned into so much more. He stated how he never considered what could happen with children playing with the trains. Councilwoman Kuba stated how parents did not watch their kids. She stated that if families would go there, the kids would probably be playing on the railroad tracks. Councilman Paul stated how they would not have to worry about the liability, putting money into it or maintaining it. He stated how they were trying to cut back with their grass cutting and that was just another area for them to cut. Councilman Paul asked how much the Borough had spent on the property. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she did not know. Councilman Nalesnik stated that if Council would decide to keep the property, they should come up with a plan. He stated how he did understand Mr. Sabol's outlook for the property.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had not heard back from the gentleman concerning the benches/carport. She stated how she had left another message, but nobody called her back. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they might have to wait until the dust settles. He stated how they were moving back and forth between the buildings.

7. BUDGET/ ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO- FINANCE CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

Councilwoman Poremba stated how she had given them a budget sheet for 2022/2023, said how they could discuss it more at the workshop. She stated about their priority list and how it seemed to be answered under the Building Committee report. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they might be able to start looking at 2024. Councilman Paul stated that he did not want to fall short on the road projects.

Councilwoman Poremba stated how Pennsylvania allows a fee for stormwater management. She stated how she would send them a copy of the article that she had read. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they might be able to charge a minimal fee to every house for storm water. She stated how it was something that they could start thinking about. Councilman Paul stated how a lot of their inlets need to be replaced/repared.

8. PERSONNEL/ MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO- SAFETY CHAIRWOMAN; BRUCE NALESNIK

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Personnel Committee met and discussed the handbook and how it would need to be given to all of the employees and Council once it was adopted. She stated about making sure how everyone signs that they received a copy of the handbook. Councilwoman Fox stated how they want to meet in July to review the health insurance to review the cost of the different plans.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for personnel. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Committee also discussed new Council members, because of them not knowing anything when they start. She stated about giving them ordinances, contracts, handbooks, pensions, etc. Councilman Nalesnik asked what was the most reference material, the Borough code book.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Borough code book was 202 pages long, so it was kind of lengthy. She stated how there was a Borough Council member handbook, which she did give Mayor Kattner a copy of the Mayor's handbook. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she could email them almost any of the information that they were looking for. Councilman Nalesnik stated how emails could be accidentally deleted. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she believed that they should have a separate email for just Borough information, which would keep Borough emails all in one place and separate them from personal emails. She also suggested moving important attachments to files, because of accidentally deleting emails.

Councilwoman Poremba stated that when she came on to Council, she went into PSAP and looked up what their responsibilities were as a newly elected official. She stated how it would let them see as to why they vote and what they were in charge of. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they could also go online and read over the minutes from the past year, which would show them what they had done in the past and what was in the pipeline for that year. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how all of the ordinances were also listed on the Borough's website.

Councilwoman Fox asked about the half-double up the street from the pizza shop with the hole in the roof. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the property had already been cited for the conditions of the roof. Councilwoman Poremba stated how she saw for sale sign on the property.

Councilwoman Fox stated about Dave Kuda's property on Tippets Road with the trailer, which is been sitting there for two years. She stated how the trailer was a permanent fixture and they now had tents in the yard. Councilwoman Fox asked where their sewage was going. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about Mr. Kuda allowing the camper to be on the property. Councilwoman Fox stated that it was in the Borough ordinances on how people were not allowed to live in a travel trailer. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about talking to Gene Kennedy, zoning officer. Councilman Nalesnik stated how Tim Dow needed to go to the property with a police officer and get it resolved. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she knew that a code officer should not go onto private property, because they could be hit with a trespassing lawsuit. Councilman Nalesnik stated how police officers were allowed onto people's property. He stated about asking Officer Weaver to check into it, because they needed to shut it down.

Councilwoman Fox asked if they had received any additional names for the Blight Committee. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated "no".

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. for personnel. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 8:56 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilman Paul seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer