

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
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WIND GAP, PA 18091
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EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council went into Executive Session from 6:45 p.m. to 7:05 p.m. due to pending litigation, no action taken.

The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Wednesday May 22, 2019, was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Council President Dave Hess, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmembers: George Hinton, Joyce McGarry, Mike McNamara, David Manzo, and Jeff Yob. Also in attendance were Borough Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Borough Engineer Brian Pysher, and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone. Absent were Councilman Kerry Gassler and Mayor Mitchell D. Mogilski Sr.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. John McLean of 41 Washington Street came before Council regarding the erosion of the creek behind his garage. Over the last ten years the water has eroded the land between the stream and his garage and he is afraid that this will damage the foundation of the garage. Mr. McLean stated that an alley exists between his property and the stream is eroding the alley. Brian said that if it is an ordained alley with the sewer line and it is being eroded away, Council may want to address this issue once he determines where the alley actually is located. Rich Fox said that he has never been in the alley but the street departments does maintain the grates so it does not overflow on the roads. Brian will look at the location and report back to Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mike McNamara to approve the April 16, 2019 minutes and seconded by Dave Manzo. Roll call taken. In favor: D. Hess, G. Hinton, D. Manzo, M. McNamara, Jeff Yob. Abstained: J. McGarry. Motion carried 5–0–1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Park Ordinance Amendment – Kiddie Play – Louise Firestone said we had vandalism at the kiddie play area, they broke one of the bouncy rides. At the recommendation of the Slate Belt Regional Police Lieutenant, the Borough should post a sign with an age restriction in the Kiddie Play area so it can be patrolled and enforced by the police. In addition, Louise reported that this may be an opportune time to post no smoking signs that are eye catching. The signs will be free to us if we pass a resolution prohibiting tobacco use in our park. Attorney Karasek said that if Council wants to adopt an ordinance he will need the age window and as to smoking that would also include vaping and other similar cigarettes etc.

On motion by Jeff Yob to begin the process of age restriction in the kiddie paly area and no tobacco or smoking in the park and seconded by Dave Manzo. Roll call taken. Council agreed unanimously.

2. Local Share Account (LSA) Awards – Borough/WGA – Louise Firestone reported that we had requested funding through the Local Share Account grant to put concrete aprons around the entire garages of the municipal building. The Borough had requested a grant amount of \$90,000, but were awarded \$40,000. On behalf of the Wind Gap Municipal Authority, the Borough submitted a grant application in the amount of \$20,000 for a sewer line study and they were awarded to entire amount of \$20,000. Louise reported that Council will have to discuss the concrete project and if we are going to proceed with the project as proposed or if we were going to scale back the scope of the project. Dave Manzo suggested that if there is no time limit Council may want to pursue the loan or bond issue and do the whole thing project as planned. Louise will confirm what the contract term will be.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Alpha Road Project Update – Brian Pysker reported that they had the pre-bid meeting, four contractors attended. There is an addendum that has to be sent out regarding quantity on leveling course and clarification on trench restoration. The project bid deadline is Monday, June 3, 2019, with project award at the Council meeting that evening.

Brian said the going back to the concrete apron, the original proposal was 45 feet on both sides.

2. Borough Manager Discussion - Northampton/Lehigh Compensation Comparison - Dave Hess said that Council should have received the salaries for borough managers within the Lehigh Valley including a report that shows municipalities with similar tax bases and population. Attorney Karasek reported that he has a sample of a Borough Manager Ordinance that Council can review to determine if those duties of the manager go too far or not far enough. He also checked with various places as to the average salary of Borough Managers within Pennsylvania and rechecked the Borough Code to confirm that the Borough Manager has to be appointed by ordinance. All of this will be provided to Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. EMS – Dave Manzo reported that the Ambulance responded to 23 ALS calls and 33 BLS calls in Northampton County, 6 ALS calls and 7 BLS calls in Monroe County, and 71 transports. Response time is 2.39 minutes, calls in Wind Gap Borough 141, calls year to date 618.

Dave Manzo said that on May 30th there will be a legislative breakfast at Bushkill Fire hall. He will be attending with the Mayor Mogilski.

2. Fire – Mike McNamara reported that the Fire Company carnival is scheduled for the end of June.

3. Regional Police – Dave Hess reported that Police Department responded to a total of 600 calls for service, 173 were for Wind Gap.

Chief Mettin attended Career Day again at the Middle School on April 5th.

Officers Anderson, Daly, and Connolly submitted memorandums expressing interest in taking the promotional examination for the position of Sergeant. The written examination is scheduled for October 3rd. The oral interview will be held within two weeks after the written examination.

Officers took part in the Torch Run on May 17th starting at the Wind Gap Middle School and ending at the Wind Gap Park. Officers volunteered to be part of the run to start the Special Olympics Young Athletes events held at the park. Children ages 2 – 8 took part in the event.

Detective Donaldson took part in the trial of two offenders who robbed the Verizon Wireless store on Broadway in Wind Gap in 2017. He worked with the Northampton County District Attorney's Office Task Force, helping with the investigation of other robberies and homicides conducted by the two suspects. This month, a trial was held for one of the defendants. The other defendant has pled guilty, sparing him the death sentence. The second defendant was found guilty of all 56 charges, including the burglar of the Verizon Store and the homicide in Palmer Township.

Detective Donaldson and Officer Daly also preparing for a trial where charges were lodged against a Pen Argyl resident for involuntary manslaughter. The female suspect was charged in the death of the disabled toddler. Prior to the trial commencing, the defendant pled guilty.

This month, the department received a generous donation from the Pen Argyl Republican Club for \$1,000.

Accreditation is back under way they are just about done with all their requirements. They are scheduling their first mock assessment which is when the State comes in and they go through everything in the department. At the end of the year they should be ready for their final examination and hopefully they will be accredited.

Regional Police Department were awarded \$66,000 from the LSA Grant for one patrol car. They did purchase one last month.

George Hinton reported that he was on Lehigh Street by the park and saw that Regional Police was out and they pulled over two vehicles, within 5 minutes, for running the stop sign.

4. Emergency Management – Jeff Yob reported that he received notification that a low flying helicopter is planned to observe vegetation growth below the power lines from now until the end of the month.

5. Zoning – Mike McNamara reported that at the last Zoning Hearing Board Meeting, Pete Albanese was granted his request to demolish the trailer and build a single family home at the site on Utica Avenue.

6. Planning – There is a Planning Commission meeting scheduled for June 6th for JERC's proposed warehouse at 550 Male Road.

Brian Pysker reported he has some concerns regarding the storm water. He is in the process of setting up a meeting with the design engineer, the applicant, and Plainfield Township to go over storm water requirements. The developer has completed a traffic impact study, the scope of the study generated with this project and with the adjoining property, Green Knight Industrial Park. He asked Council to authorize his firm to have Traffic Planning and Design review their Traffic Impact Study because of their expert knowledge. This cost for this would go to the developer. According to the plans submitted, the plan are in compliance with our ordinance in respect to the height requirements.

They are not showing a bypass road. They are providing one entrance that is opposing the Green Knights Industrial Park.

There are storm water concerns with the pipes so they will discuss this with the applicant's engineers. They are not proposing the widening of Male Road on the south side and there was no waiver request for that. Widening that road might require wetland mitigation.

7. Municipal Authority – Dave Hess reported that the agreement has been signed for the lateral to be hooked up and a check was submitted to the Wind Gap Municipal Authority.

8. Streets – Jeff Yob reported that we received a letter from the County regarding an award for Rick Fox. Congratulations! Rich Fox reported that the street sweeper was delayed and should be out first thing tomorrow.

9. Park/Athletic Fields – Dave Manzo reported that he and Louise met with Ron DeCesare and on Sunday he met with the new coordinator of the car show. We are trying to establish the line of communication with the Athletic Association. There is a meeting on May 28th at the Scorecard Restaurant when new officers may be elected. Dave Manzo, Louise, and Dave Hess will attend the meeting. Dave Hess commended Dave Manzo for his work on establishing communication with the Wind Gap Area Athletic Association.

A. Electrical Upgrade – Louise Firestone reported that the Borough has been attempting to secure funding through DCNR grants to upgrade the kitchen electrical. Unfortunately, no funding has been received so does Council want to solicit estimates to section off a portion of the kitchen and make it an actual utility room with a panel box and is up to code.

On motion by Jeff Yob to get estimates to upgrade the electric at the park and seconded by Dave Manzo. Roll call taken. Council agreed unanimously.

B. Fill - Louise Firestone reported that in discussions with the Street Leader, Rich Fox, there was discussion regarding location for fill to be stored. The Borough plans on digging and repaving Alpha Road and the Municipal Authority is going to repave their lot down at the sewer plant. Would it be possible to dump the fill off the parking lot in the park where the future field house is being proposed since that area will have to be brought up to grade. Brian Pysker said a better option would be to stockpile the fill on the municipal complex grounds. The property at the park will need control plans.

10. Tipping Fees – Kerry Gassler was absent so there was nothing to report.

11. C.O.G. – Mayor Mogilski is attending the meeting tonight.

12. Slate Belt Rising – George Hinton said that the Community Garden has been planted, fence is being erected, there will be a tool bin inside the fenced in area along with the water supply. The Steering Committee reviewed and approved the budget for 2019 - 2020. On Thursday, May 30, 2019 they are holding a networking event at Weona Park from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., everyone is invited

13 Multi-Municipal Plan – Louise Firestone reported that the next meeting is in June.

14. Mayor's Report – Louise Firestone on behalf of Mayor Mogilski, he collected the \$40.00 from unclaimed property through the State, he attended the 2020 Census meeting this morning and he copied the No Nonsense Neutering and would like to get Council involved. There is a meeting on May 28th at 7:00 pm at Pen Argyl where No Nonsense is going to discuss Pen Argyl's needs and the Mayor thought we could join in that meeting. Mike McNamara volunteered to attend that meeting.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Brian Cole of Wind Gap Ambulance asked Dave Hess if he knew what the Regional Police are doing with their decommissioned vehicles as they upgrade or who he can contact. Dave Hess said one was rusted through and went to the junk yard and the other ones get put on Municipal Bid, he will confirm that. Brian said they would be interested is any that are in good condition.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by George Hinton to adjourn the meeting of May 22, 2019. Council agreed unanimously. The meeting of May 22, 2019 adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



Louise Firestone – Borough Administrator

