

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
29 MECHANIC STREET
WIND GAP, PA 18091
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Monday, August 5, 2013, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Senior Councilman Tony Curcio at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In his capacity as the senior member of Borough Council, Tony Curcio appointed John Maher to chair the meeting.

In attendance were Councilmen: Jon Faust, John Maher, Tony Curcio, Joe Weaver and Dave Hess. Also in attendance were Mayor James M. Shoemaker, Borough Solicitor Ronold Karasek, and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone. Absent was Councilman George Hinton, Jr., Councilman Kerry Gassler and Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one appeared before Council at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2013 Council meeting and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

On motion by Joe Weaver to approve the expenses for the month of July in the amount of \$11,545.35 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ron Karasek apologized for not providing Council with a written report for last month, but stated that there was not a lot of activity during the month of July. The Borough received the \$38,000 check from Gustine Associates for the Male Road Bridge. There is a claim that was filed against both Wind Gap Borough and Pen Argyl Borough, by Mr. Murray as a result of an arrest, and all the information has been provided to the Borough's insurance carrier.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Brian Pysher was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. EMS – Kerry Gassler was absent. Joe Weaver had nothing to report.
2. Fire Co. – Dave Hess had nothing to report.
3. Zoning – Tony Curcio reported that at this time, no new applications have been submitted, but the submission deadline is August 14, 2013.

4. Planning – George Hinton was absent. Ron Karasek reported that in Planning Commission in June to approve the Subdivision Plan for the purchase of the property. No meeting was held in the month of July. The Planning Commission last week for August to discuss the sketch plan filed by Mr. Cortez for the remaining lot that was part of the Posh Property Subdivision on First Street. Mr. Cortez has to go back to his engineer, but since it was a sketch plan, there is no time limit on which the plan has to be acted upon.

5. Municipal Authority – John Maher reported that the Authority met last Wednesday. The Authority had received a question from the operators of the car wash owners regarding renegotiating their usage fees claiming that not all the water from the car wash goes down the sewer, but is actually recycled. While it is true that water is recycled, it only accounts for ten percent and it is only in the one automated bay to flush out the underside of the cars.

6. Streets – Dave Hess reported that a packet about the proposed purchase of a new truck was provided to Council. The street committee and Rich sat down for a second time to discuss the purchase. It is the committee's recommendation that a new truck be purchased instead of modifying the existing truck or buy someone else's used truck. Dave informed Council that a dealer (New Holland) in the State Co-Star Program (cooperative purchasing program) was contacted and a quote was received from them in the amount of \$72,561.96. They have a truck which will be coming off the assembly line and it will be completely built in the next couple weeks. If a new truck is ordered, the build time could be three to four months. Jon added that the old dump truck is out of inspection and will not pass another inspection. Louise provided the different possible financing options for the truck. Council budgeted \$10,000 in the 2013 budget, has \$30,000 in Capital Reserve so the shortfall would be \$32,561.96. There would be four different ways to offset the shortfall. There are financing options as provided by Ford Credit Municipal Finance Options.

The truck could be financed for 36 months (5.65%) monthly payments - \$1,011.29

financed for 12 months (5.70%) monthly payments - \$3,219.24

financed for 2 payments (6.00%) – two annual payments (\$17,760.49)

The alternative would be to take money out of Capital Reserve from prior year Street tipping fees – 2009 (\$10,903.64) and 2010 (\$21,658.32).

The decision is to pay in full and not pay interest, but spend what Council has saved in Capital Reserve or finance and pay interest for a two year period.

On motion by Joe Weaver to purchase the 2013 Ford F-550 Chassis XL, 4X4 SD Regular Cab 141" WB DRW from New Holland Auto Group under the State Co-Stars program in the amount of \$72,136.96, in full using \$40,000 in the 2013 budget and the balance from the Capital Reserve Street tipping fee money from 2009 and 2010 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Council discussed disposing the old truck and old roller. Ron stated that if the piece of equipment is less than \$1,000 it can just be disposed of, but if it is more than \$1,000 it has to be advertised at least once in the paper. The Borough can also do a public auction with a sealed bid. Borough Code states that the "The public auction of personal property may be conducted by means of an on-line or electronic auction sale". There are certain procedures that must be followed, but it can be done. Joe offered to post the equipment on E-Bay so Ron will provide him with a copy of the Borough Code section that specifically addresses disposal of personal property. Joe will get pictures too.

On motion by Dave Hess to put the truck and roller on E-Bay with a reserve of \$500 for the roller and a reserve of \$1,500 for the dump truck and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Police - Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Police Department responded to 160 calls for the month of July, 10 animal complaints, 6 motor vehicle accidents were investigated, they issued 9 traffic citations and 3 parking tickets.
8. Park – Joe Weaver reported that the Park Board does not meet in the month of July. He did state that a number of residents and park board members have asked about the status of the park project. It was mentioned that the installer would be there by late July and there has been no activity there yet. Louise replied that it was delayed because of the weather, but they are scheduled to start this Wednesday, again weather permitting.
9. 911 – Tony Curcio had nothing to report. Dave Hess asked if the County 911 Center had the new information regarding the street department's radios. Tony will follow-up with the 911 Center and possibly provide written correspondence that the Borough now has radios PW-35.1 and PW-35.2.
10. Tipping Fees - Tony Curcio reported that the second quarter tipping fee check was received from Waste Management in the amount of \$42,821.43. The committee will get together to discuss new percentage rates for distributions to the departments.
11. GIS – John Maher reported that he has loaded the database and finalized changes. He is working on taking inventory on the flags/banners and associated information like who purchased them and on what pole they have been placed.
12. Zoning Ordinance Changes (Signs) – Jon Faust reported that the sign committee met twice to discuss proposed changes to the zoning ordinance regarding signs. They will meet one more time and then bring back their recommendation to Council. John added that they are amending the sign portion of the zoning ordinance.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Slate Belt COG will meet on August 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in their new office in the Garofalo Real Estate building. He will continue to take orders for any resident or business interested in banners. He has received numerous complaints regarding the grass and weeds on vacant properties.

Council discussed the ongoing issue of the Borough dealing with cutting weeds and grass on properties that have been vacated. Louise explained that the issue has been the properties that have been foreclosed on and there is no point of contact with the exception of a mortgage/bank that holds title to the property. Ron added that if the Borough has the authority to enter the property under the Borough ordinance then that would be okay. The key is the health and welfare for the protection of the public. If the grass is high and rodents/rats are living there that is different than the neighbors complaining because the grass is too high. Whenever the Borough can make contact with an owner of record and put them on notice that is the best approach. He added that there is a law specifically dealing with blighted properties that have blighted, deteriorated, etc. That law permits that is an ordinance is passed and adopted that property can be flagged for permits or other things when people come in for permits. If Council wishes to have Ron review the Blighted Property Act, they can authorize him to do so. This topic will be put on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Part-time Street Worker.
On motion by Dave Hess to hire Matt Harka at a rate of \$10/hour as a part-time employee and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Gayle Steinmetz stated that she was having trouble with her neighbor riding his four-wheeler behind her house. It was private property and he was renting on the property, but it was very noisy and very dusty. She asked if Council would consider a Borough ordinance prohibiting ATVs. Even though it has stopped for now, she does not wish it to start up again. Council will take it under advisement and have further discussion about this topic.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Gayle Steinmetz asked if she has an answer about the "No Parking" signs on Wood Street that was discussed at the previous meeting. She added that other neighbors have complained to her about the parking issue. Ron advised that a traffic study needs to be done for the no parking sign to be enforceable. The Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher, has been previously directed to look at the street and provide Council with his professional opinion. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss personnel issue at 8:28 p.m. Council reconvened at 8:44 p.m. John Maher informed those present that no action will be taken at this time.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of August 5, 2013. Council agreed unanimously.

Reminder, there is only one scheduled Council meeting in August. The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 3, 2013.

The meeting of August 5, 2013 adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator