

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Dave Hess, through Zoom Video Conferencing. Louise Firestone informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

A verbal roll call was taken by Borough Manager Louise Firestone – participating via Zoom computer link or Zoom phone link were Council members: Steve Bender, George Hinton, Dave Manzo, Michael Laudano, and Joyce McGarry. Also participating were Mayor Mitchell D. Mogilski Sr., Borough Engineer Brian Pysher, and Borough Manager Louise Firestone.

Absent were Councilman Jeff Yob and Borough Solicitor Ronald Karasek.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Randy Bray, 25 Roosevelt Street came before Council regarding the property next door on West Center Street. He asked if a Borough representative could come out and look at it because they are tearing cars apart and burning trailers in the driveway. Steve Bender said that Mr. Bray had contacted him and the neighbor is actually gutting cars and cutting them into pieces and it is on a moderate level of a salvage yard. The day that he was there was a pile in the yard that contained several water heaters, washers, and aluminum siding. Over the weekend he did witness a car being stripped in the driveway. Tina from Keller Zoning said that this would fall under Nuisance Ordinance or International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). Tina informed Mr. Bray that the protocol is to submit a complaint form and either she or the Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher, would look at it and issue a notice. Mr. Bray said that he will do that and he said that he has tried unsuccessfully, several times, to talk to the neighbor, but he will proceed with filling out a complaint form.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Dave Manzo to approve the May 19, 2021 minutes and seconded by George Hinton. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

On motion by Dave Manzo to approve the June 7, 2021 minutes and seconded by Joyce McGarry. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Declaration of Disaster Emergency COVID-19 – Repeal Resolution 2020-03 - Dave Hess reported that the State of Pennsylvania has ended the Declaration of Disaster Emergency that has been in effect for over a year. Wind Gap Borough could continue with their declaration, but as Emergency Management Coordinator, he sees no reason to continue. Wind Gap Borough will not be receiving any reimbursement money for COVID-19 expenses because of the threshold for expenditures.

On motion by George Hinton to end the Declaration of Disaster for COVID-19 for Wind Gap Borough and seconded by Steve Bender. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

2. Teel Auction Proposal - Louise Firestone reported that she contacted Robert Teel from Teel Auctions and he forwarded a proposal dated June 14, 2021. Mr. Teel recommended that the Borough proceed as soon as possible with the auction. He proposes doing a public auction approximately five weeks after the signing of the contract and after holding two open houses on dates approved by Council. He is offering to do the auction of the property for a commission of three percent and he suggested a minimum starting price, which is in the letter that was sent to all of Council.

On motion by George Hinton to contract with Teel Auction to sell 29 Mechanic Street and 125 Water Street at a rate of three percent and let Teel Auction do the advertising and seconded by Dave Manzo. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2021 Meeting Schedule / Meeting Location – Dave Hess said that we are at the end of the quarter and we have to advertise for the next quarter or the remainder of the year of how and where we are going to meet. The disaster has ended in Wind Gap and all restriction in Pennsylvania have been lifted. He thinks that we are able to go back to our normal room in the Borough building or the other option would be the Social Hall at the Fire House. George suggested that Council use the Municipal Building meeting room, maybe we only want to do it for the quarter to make sure everyone is comfortable.

On motion by George Hinton to advertise the third quarter meetings to be held at the Wind Gap Municipal Building in person and seconded by Dave Manzo. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dave Hess reported that he spoke with Mr. Laudano and he expressed his interest in joining the Park and COG committees. We will add his name to those committees and Louise will provide him with the meeting dates and locations.

1. EMS – George Hinton apologized that he does not have his folder with him with the numbers for EMS. He will make a copy of the report and put it in everyone's mailbox in the office. The Board has discussed purchasing a new ambulance and contacting vendors in order to get a final purchase price.

Dave Hess reported that he was approached by the EMS Director, AJ, who asked him if Council would consider helping them out financially by paying for their vehicle insurance, either adding it to our fleet insurance and possibly paying for all or a percentage of their fuel expenses to help them survive. Dave told AJ that this can be discussed during the budget process this year. Dave added that the borough currently budgets for the insurance on the fire trucks and fuel as part of the overall borough budget. If there is any interest, we can get some preliminary costs associated with their insurance and fuel. George Hinton said he will get those numbers together and have them ready for when we do our budget for next year.

2. Fire – George Hinton reported that this is the Fire Company's one hundredth-year anniversary. The firemen's' challenge was held and trophies will be presented on Saturday at the carnival. They started setting up for the carnival and getting things in place. Once again, the Street Department has prepared the buildings and grounds at the park for the carnival.

3. Regional Police – Dave Hess reported that for the month of May, the Police Department responded to a total of 474 calls for service, 142 were for Wind Gap.

A few Officers are out with work related and nonwork-related injuries, but they are set to come back within the next week or two.

Chief Hoadley has assigned one officer to the carnival for all three days of the carnival. There will be a police officer in the park for the hours of the carnival and a patrol officer will give special attention to the streets surrounding the park. Prior to this meeting Chief Hoadley, the Fire Chief and Dave met to discuss traffic and crowds at the carnival. They came up with a couple of ideas of where to post personnel to watch traffic and maybe cross pedestrians to hopefully have things run a little smoother and keep the traffic congestion under control.

4. Emergency Management – Dave Hess reported other than the Disaster Declaration ending, and monitoring the carnival there is nothing else to report.

5. Zoning – Tina Serfass reported that she issued eleven zoning permits, two denials and one permit application that is still pending which she and Brian Pysher are working on. She contacted Tractor Supply about the merchandise that is being put on the sidewalk, which is blocking the sidewalk between Tractor Supply and the Ocean State Job Lot store. She tried the manager first and got nowhere, so she called Corporate Office and they assured her that they will get it taken care of and they will clear the sidewalk between the two stores. She sent out three notices and issued eight UCC permits, three for pools, one for electric, one mechanical, one roof permit, and solar permit. Tyrone Klump is going to start his five-unit townhouse building soon.

Dave Manzo asked how the property by Randy Bray and South Lehigh are both zoned. Tina said that both properties are residential.

George Hinton said that Tractor Supply has their lawn tractors and log splitters that take up the whole sidewalk on the opposite side of the door. Tina said she was more concerned about the sidewalk between the two stores. George expressed his concern that in case of an emergency, it is right next to the fire lane where the fire trucks would park and the firefighters would get out to enter the front of the building. Tina replied that, if necessary, Attorney Karasek may have to send them a letter informing them that they are in violation of the agreement that they signed with the Planning Commission to get their approval for the greenhouse. She will make sure that the other side of the sidewalk gets cleared as far as the fire lane is concerned.

Brian Pysher said that regarding Tyrone Klump, they have not finalized and recorded their land development plan. He made a review of their Quantity Cost estimate and their final plans and has not gotten a response back from them. They have yet to meet all of their final conditions and record the plans. Brian asked that until all the necessary paperwork is completed, we do not want to issue any building permits. Tina said that she did not release the permits yet.

Louise Firestone asked Tina if she is planning of resuming office hours on Friday mornings in the Borough office. Tina said yes, she figured she would wait until everything was opened up before she did that.

6. Planning – Dave Manzo reported that there is a meeting scheduled for July 1, 2021, regarding the relocation of the Male Road Billboard.

7. Municipal Authority – Dave Manzo reported that he had a meeting with the Wind Gap Municipal Authority Solicitor and the Acting President. A customer was asking for relief from a sewer bill and they did reduce her indebtedness from last year and they reduced it again. They sent the Board recommendation to the Borough for approval. Mark Kukla is now the alternate

CPA. There is an issue with a trailer park manhole cover that they need to address. They had a split vote on moving from five to seven board members. Louise Firestone reported that there is funding through the County for any resident that may be having issues paying their rent, mortgage, or any utilities. Dave Manzo said that he will let her know.

Dave Hess asked if the Municipal Authority discussed the Travel Inn. The office gets a lot of calls, everyone thinks this is in Wind Gap. Dave Manzo said that the Authority did discuss turning off the water, but Monica said that they have to go through some type waiting list to get through the approval process and the PUC can only turn off so many at one time. George added that part of the problem was that the owner was paying their water bill. The amount of money that is owed the Municipal Authority was significant. He also spoke with Tom Petrucci, Plainfield Township Manager, to inform him about the amount of phone calls because everybody associates the Travel Inn with Wind Gap and not Plainfield. He suggested sending a letter stating that we spoke about this at our meeting and would love any assistance that they could give us.

On motion by George Hinton to send Plainfield Township a letter regarding the numerous complaints that our Borough office is receiving in reference to the deplorable conditions at the Travel Inn and seconded by Dave Manzo. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

8. Streets – George Hinton reported that the Street Department has been out sweeping some streets where the stones have washed out of, taking care of the manholes, the catch basins, along with general maintenance in the park such as mowing the grass, weed whacking, and minor maintenance repairs.

Joyce McGarry asked if we advertised for a new employee. Dave Hess said that we did not get that up on our Facebook page as of yet. We did give out a few applications just from word of mouth.

George Hinton asked if Dave Hess wanted to set up an interview committee again. Dave Hess said that is fine, pick who you want on the committee.

Mayor Mogilski asked George to let the Street Department know that the Roberti Property is a mess. George said that he will take a look at it and get with Rich tomorrow.

9. Park / Athletic Fields – Dave Manzo said that he spoke with Dan Sinclair briefly last night and he spoke with Louise this morning. The guys are busy with the carnival so sometime after the carnival, a meeting of the Wind Gap Area Athletic Association will be scheduled.

Community Garden – Joyce McGarry reported that everyone is doing their part and taking care of their garden beds. It looks really good. She will get some pictures taken and put them on the community Facebook page.

Boy Scout Jamboree – June 18, 19, 20 – Louise Firestone reported that this year the Jamboree was hosted by Senator Scavello, but he had some representatives that were new to the event and the full potential of the event was not what it could have been. The Boy Scouts are hoping that this becomes an annual event so they can continue to promote and grow in numbers of participants. The scouts and leaders hiked the trail from Route 191 to Wind Gap and then on to the park which took about six and a half hours for a nine-mile hike. George added that from the Boy Scouts standpoint, they were excited because they never had a community ask them to have a Jamboree in their town or township. They had five different Scout Troops come in and it was around fifty-nine total that participated and eighteen that made the hike from Route 191 and back into the park. They were really excited about it and every time they had a chance, they would thank Wind Gap for sponsoring the Camporee. On behalf

of the Boy Scouts, he would like to ask Council, with their permission, to offer this to them for the same time next year with or without Senator Scavello and Representative Flood's office.

On motion by George Hinton to reserve June 17, 18 and 19, 2022 for the Boy Scout Jamboree and seconded by Joyce McGarry. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

10. Tipping Fees – Louise Firestone had nothing to report.

11. Slate Belt Council of Governments. – George Hinton reported that he advised the COG that Wind Gap Borough has a small leaf vac and since the COG sold off the two big leaf vacs would they be interested in the smaller leaf vac. Wind Gap would have to spend approximately \$3,200 to purchase a new motor.

On motion by George Hinton purchase the motor and have it installed on the leaf vac with a cost not-to-exceed \$3,200 and seconded by Steve Bender. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

On motion by George Hinton to offer the Wind Gap Borough leaf vac to the COG at the cost of \$9,000 with a minimum bid of \$8,000 and seconded by Steve Bender. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

12. Slate Belt Rising – Louise Firestone reported that at the last meeting they discussed the year-end review. Their main focus is the façades and the funding for households that are having difficulties making their bill payments. Funding information is on Slate Belt Rising's website, Northampton County's website, and in our newsletter.

13 Multi-Municipal Plan –No meeting was held, nothing to report.

14. Mayor's Report – Mayor Mogilski reported that on Thursday, June 24th, Dream Lehigh Valley Homes is having their grand opening from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm and WAEB and B104 will be broadcasting live from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. Steel Creek opened the Summer Sounds at the park on June 13th and there was about two-hundred seventy-five in attendance.

15. International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) – Dave Manzo reported it is in the hands of the Solicitor to advertise and then hopefully in July we could move on this and make a motion to put it into effect. This would certainly help with Mr. Bray's problem.

Dave Hess said the tickets for the parking violations have been ordered by the Police Department.

Dave Hess reported that we did cancel our meeting for July 5, 2021, the next meeting will be at mid-month on July 20th, at the Municipal Building in person.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Dave Manzo to adjourn the meeting of June 22, 2021. Council agreed unanimously. The meeting of June 22, 2021 adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Manager