

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
DECEMBER 12, 2016**

Council president Mr. Besong called the Pre-Meeting of Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Baden Municipal Building, 149 State Street, to conduct business of general purposes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mrs. Furr, Mr. Shelkons, Mr. Stuban, Mr. Trzcianka and Mr. Besong (Not Present: Mr. Kotulal, Mrs. Montell)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

Lesabeth Trzcianka asked Council to take notice to conversations that take place in the audience during meetings and asked that they be stopped.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**Secretary
Correspondence**

1. Bid Tabulations for the Emergency Generator from Widmer Engineering.

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| McCurley Houston Electric | \$ 60,150 |
| Allegheny City Electric | \$ 71,000 |
| PFB Electric | \$ 83,207 |
| Frankl Electric | \$ 84,505 |
| R.E. Yates Electric | \$ 99,828 |
| Rath Construction | \$115,315 |

Credit Card Payments In House

Accepting Credit Card payments in the office. Worked great during shut-off

Columbia Gas Street Openings

Mr. Stuban, Mr. Shelkons and Mr. Besong along with the foreman and secretary met with Columbia Gas representatives in regards to paving the streets (with additional areas) in lieu of paying the permit fees. Mr. Stuban and Mr. Shelkons may address this matter in further detail.

QuickBooks and New Format for Reports

New date for conversion is December 1st. Already entering invoices through QuickBooks.

Ordinances advertised for Wednesday Adoption

- Dye Test Ordinance
- Police Pension Joinder Agreement
- Tax rate for 2017

Duquesne Light Grant

Check has been received in the amount of \$6,236.18 for the grant funding obtained by Mr. Kotula and the Recreation Board. They are requiring a press release to be made with the month. Contacted Beaver County Times to see if they would do a story on it, but did not hear back. Contacting Ambridge Connection but will also need to put something in the paper to meet this requirement. A thank you letter on behalf of Baden Borough is also being sent.

Ambridge Water Authority TOC Finding

AWA had a finding under the DEP regarding high levels of TOC. They had to contact all of their customers with a written letter. Since we purchase the water in bulk from AWA they were not required to contact the Baden residents. Spoke with the DEP and this finding (violation) is not at a level that would require the Baden customers to be notified. It will however be a finding (violation) on our CCR report that we do once per year. The finding will be noted to be an AWA violation.

Calendar

Approved and at the printers.

Ordinances Tabled November 2015

941 Amending the Code striking Chapter 170

942 Establishing the licensing and inspection of all rental units

Public Works

Not Present

CEO

Not present

Police Department

Not Present

Fire Department

Mr. Trzcianka commented that Mr. Firich has the report and he is not present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance \$116,429.22

Expenses \$100,208.14

Water Fund Balance \$133,747.69

Expenses \$33,971.94

Buildings, Property & Grounds (Ted Kotula)

Not Present

Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

Mayor Gagliardi informed council that one of the Part Time police officers that they wanted to hire did not pass the background check. He asked if council would approve the hiring of Darren Jones as a part time officer on Wednesday. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she needs paperwork for the new hires so that they may be added to the payroll.

Mr. Stuban asked Mr. Trzcianka to explain Uniform Allowance for the firemen. Mr. Trzcianka explained that years ago Council started a clothing allowance for firemen. It is \$2.30 per hour that each volunteer gets for responding to fire calls and doing any of the mandatory training. He commented that the allowance needs to be raised to match everyone else in the county who is at \$5 or \$7 .50 per hour. This does not include medical calls. Mr. Stuban stated that the average cost to the borough is around \$11,000 per year. Mrs. Rakovan commented that it was brought to her attention by the auditor that uniform allowance has to go through payroll. Mr. Trzcianka commented that he will look into seeing how other departments do it.

Community Relations (Michael Stuban)

Mr. Stuban commented that he and Mr. Shelkons met with Columbia Gas who was questioning their charge of approximately \$30,000 for street openings. Conversation during their meeting including the legality of charging a street opening fee when Columbia Gas is paving curb to curb in some areas in accordance with our ordinances. Columbia Gas proposed that the borough bid out the project to pave the areas in their entirety and Columbia Gas would pay for the entire cost. Mr. Stuban felt this was a good offer and he was hoping to add additional streets that the borough can pay for if it is affordable for the borough.

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

Mr. Trzcianka commented that he will make the motion for the snow plow on Wednesday.

Library (Suzie Furr)

Mrs. Furr stated that the library meeting was cancelled last week due to elections.

Recreation & Communications (Suzie Furr)

Mrs. Furr stated that next year there will be a Community Days in June and Applefest in October. There will also be a community yard sale on June 3rd. April 1st will be the Easter egg hunt.

Sanitation, Recycling & Municipal Authority (Judi Montell)

Not present

Mayor's Report

Mayor Gagliardi recommended purchasing the fire department air packs on rotation instead of buying \$80,000 worth at one time.

President's Report

Mr. Besong had nothing to report.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stuban went over the budget.

Water fund budget will be \$786,900 and there are no major changes. It does reflect paying off the two pennvest loans and bond. Revenue will be down \$6,000 due to the redistribution of penalties by the new software company. There is \$46,900 in contingency for water repairs and maintenance.

Discussion took place regarding replacement of fire hydrants by the street department. This has been a request for the past five years. Mr. Josapak commented that they never replaced hydrants. In the past 25 years there may have been 3 to 5 hydrants replaced by the street department. Mr. Stuban noted that a price needs to be obtained to have an outside company replace the hydrants.

The General Fund Budget is \$2,110,880. This is \$21,000 less because we are getting less money for State Aid and motor vehicle fines. The biggest decrease in the budget comes from the police department which is a decrease of \$33,000 with the retirement of a police officer. Money has been placed in Capital Outlay for the library roof repair. The budget is not balanced and there is approximately \$42,000 in extra money that needs to be allocated. Possible allocations can go towards the air packs for the fire department, walkway repair, demolition of properties and street repairs. Discussion did take place in regards to costs associated with the fire department. Mr. Trzcianka stated that he is in the process of compiling a list of what it cost annually to run a fire department.

Mayor Gagliardi recommended giving the fire department extra funding for the incidentals like turnout gear, air packs and whatever else they may need.

Mr. Kotula felt that engineering costs were too low.

Mayor Gagliardi asked about the pension budget and benefits being off. Mr. Stuban explained that the budget categories for 2017 are different. The MMO amounts for the budget are given by the state. He then explained the difference between a defined contribution and a defined benefit pension. The defined benefit that the police department has is a larger cost to the borough.

Mr. Stuban asked that council review the budget for Wednesday's meeting.

This reflects no water rate increase, no tax increase and no garbage rate increase.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Furr, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
January 16, 2017