

REGULAR SESSION BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL AUGUST 19, 2015

Council President Mrs. Montell called the Regular Session of Council to order at 7:00 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: Mr. Besong, Mr. Kotula, Mrs. Michaels, Mr. Stuban, Mr. Trzcianka and Mrs. Montell (Not Present: Mrs. Villella)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Police Chief Christner, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Demcak and Attorney James Amato

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

- Tom Turney, 334 and 336 State Street address council in regards to tax collections stating that he has chosen not to run in the special elections in November and therefore will end his appointment December 31st. At that time he will turn over the delinquent taxes for 2015. When Mr. Turney does resign on December 31st he will have 6 hours of support time for the software. The cost is \$270. Mr. Turney asked council if they would reimburse him for the \$270. He also noted that the software will be transferred to the new collector. Lastly Mr. Turney asked about Councils intent of 330 State Street. He asked that Baden Borough be a good neighbor.
- Michael Josapak, Foreman for the Department of Public Works stated that he was on vacation last week and on Monday when he got back and went to check on the pumps, a resident from Baden stopped him and asked how many white trucks the Public Works Department has. Mr. Josapak told him three and then asked why he was asking that question. The resident told Mr. Josapak he was told from the Save the Police Ad Hoc Committee that the Public Works Department has excess equipment and extra employees that could be terminated along with an office employee in order to save the police. Mr. Josapak told the resident that he knew nothing of this but he would find out. Mr. Josapak asked the Mayor and Council if this is true and is there a Police Ad Hoc Committee. Council had no idea what Mr. Josapak was talking about. Mr. Josapak then stated that the resident must be lying. He then asked again is there a committee advocating the elimination of a public work employee, office employee and excess equipment in order to save the police? Mr. Trzcianka commented that Mr. Strecker made a comment to an employee that the Mayors Ad Hoc Committee does not have a problem with that. Mayor Gagliardi stated that he never heard of it. Mr. Trzcianka stated the Public Works Department works 24/7 when needed. He also commented on the Fire Department which is all volunteers sells 5,000 tickets a year to raffle off a Harley Motorcycle. Less than 500 are bought by borough residents. The fund drive that is mailed out every year only has 700 responses to 2000 mailings. The fear of losing a police department brings everyone out, but the fire department has two fire trucks over 30 years old and no support from the residents. Both the public works and police department have up to date equipment but the fire department has two 30 year old trucks. Mr. Josapak again asked how getting rid of two employees and selling equipment is going to save the police department. Mrs. Montell stated that this is the first time that she has heard of this. Mayor Gagliardi asked to

comment stating that there is no committee known to him or an Ad Hoc committee and he never heard Mr. Strecker say what Mr. Josapak said. Mayor Gagliardi stated that Mr. Josapak should talk to Mr. Strecker. Mr. Kotula commented that he too heard the comment about getting rid of an office employee when he attended the meeting that was held in the Community Room. He then explained the differences between the functions of Baden Office and the surrounding communities. Mr. Kotula then addressed rumors being spread by certain people that need to stop. Mayor Gagliardi stated that rumors are ramped and should be addressed to individual who stated them. Mayor Gagliardi stated that there is no control over what people say. It was noted that Mr. Stuban did state during the community meeting that all departments were being looked at, but Mrs. Montell stated that it was never discussed to get rid of equipment or an employee. Mr. Stuban commented that everyone has the right to their opinion. It is when certain people start rumors that things go wrong. Mayor Gagliardi again stated that the way to dispel rumors is to confront the individual who started it. Mayor Gagliardi stated that there is nothing official (regarding rumors) from his office or anyone else that he knows of.

- Andrew Sabol from the 300 block of State Street addressed Mayor Gagliardi regarding having Vascar stations on State Street to control speeding. Chief Christner stated that we do not have Vascar, we use speed clocks which serve the same purpose. Mayor Gagliardi stated that he will have the police clock vehicles on State Street. Mr. Sabol then addressed a complaint that he submitted on July 20th regarding weeds growing over the sidewalk on 608 State Street and the other side of Pinney Street. He stated that nothing has been done with either location. The Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Demcak stated that letters have gone out to the property owners and he is waiting for the return receipt on the certified letters. Once the confirmations are returned, the borough code states that they have 10 days to address and correct the complaint. Someone spoke up regarding the borough cutting the grass on the problem properties. It was explained by the secretary that before the borough may go onto any private property there has to be at least three documented attempts by the Code Enforcement Officer to contact the property owner. At that time the Code Enforcement Officer may notify council and recommend that the borough cut the property and bill the owner accordingly.
- Shirley Spence 1041 First Street addressed council for the third time about 625 North Avenue. She stated that she was told during the first meeting that it would be taken care of but there was no Code Enforcement Officer at that time. During the second meeting the Code Enforcement Office was not instated yet. She then called the borough office and asked that the CEO call her and meet with her so she can show him the huge jungle mess along her property. She commented that she sent a letter last year to council regarding this same matter. Mrs. Spence asked if anyone has been at the sight to see what she is talking about and has a letter been sent and if so, when was it sent. Mr. Demcak stated that he has gone to the sight, but at this time the borough has no ordinance that addresses this situation. He stated that he presented an ordinance to council that would give him the power to address matters like Mrs. Spence and until this ordinance is passed there is nothing that he can do to assist her. Mrs. Spence asked council why this was taken care of years ago regarding Mount Gallitzin. She stated that there were no issues at that time. Mr. Demcak responded that he was not there at that time so he could not comment. Attorney Amato stated that they are going to write the ordinance for council to review, then advertise and then adopt. Mrs. Spence then asked Council why they purchased the Marmagin property and why purchase a million dollar fire truck.

Mayor Gagliardi asked to speak regarding rumors. He stated that if he would bring the rumors that he has heard during the past year to council we'd be here two hours. He stated that you have to consider the source and be above the rumors and accept them for what they are. Rumors are rumors.

- Richard Gallagher from the 500 block of Dippold Avenue commented that the current minutes of the council meetings are not posted on the website. He felt that this information could help dispel some of the rumors.

- Stella Voegel informed Council that the Library Wine and Cheese is going to be at the Baden Legion on September 26th. Tickets are only \$25. Mrs. Voegel also stated that she is very mad with Council regarding not hiring a Baden resident as the Code Enforcement Officer. Mrs. Montell stated that council went with the most qualified and certified person. Mrs. Voegel felt that a Baden resident should have had the job.
- Al Everette from 665 Milton Street addressed Council in regards to the Public Works Department doing an excellent job and the Police Department doing an excellent job. He felt that he needed to stand up and say this because so many bad things are being said he wanted to tell the good. Baden is a good town and everyone should stick together.

Mayor Gagliardi addressed the rumors again stating that he will speak with Mr. Strecker if he is a part of his committee and he will have Mr. Strecker contact Mr. Trzcianka to explain his concerns. Mayor Gagliardi asked Mr. Kotula for the name of who said the rumor so he can discuss it with them. Mr. Kotula stated the he will speak to the individual himself.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of July 13th and 15th.

APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Besong, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

RESOLUTIONS - None

ORDINANCES - None

BIDS

- **2016 Garbage Contract** – Bids received from Brunner's, Valley Waste, and Waste Management.

MOTION by Mrs. Michaels, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to turn the bids over to the Engineer for review and tabulation.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. July 15th copy of letter from the Pennsylvania DEP to West View Water stating that their application package for the Intake and Water Treatment Plan is in the first step in a series of reviews.
2. August 4th letter from FEMA stating that revisions to the Borough's Floodplain Management Ordinance is approved and in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.
3. August 11th letter from Thomas J. Anderson & Associates with attached 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation amounts for pension funds. Police Pension is \$81,000 and Non-Uniform Pension is \$46,268.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously accept and budget the 2016 MMO amounts as noted.

4. August receipt of a Memorandum of Understanding from the Beaver County Transit Authority regarding easements to replace their bus stop shelters with benches.

Discussion took place regarding the removal all the bus shelters and replacing them with benches. Mr. Kotula stated that he is working with the Beaver County Transit Authority regarding this matter. He asked that we hold off on this matter at this time.

5. August flyer from the PSAB announcing their Fall Leadership Conference in Seven Springs on October 16th – 18th.
6. August memo from the Baden Legion's Woman's Auxiliary asking for a donation for their Chili/Soup cook-off on Saturday, September 12th at the Baden American Legion. All proceeds and donations will benefit the Homeless Veterans.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Finance (Michael Stuban)

- General Fund Balance \$44,250.50
- Water Fund Balance \$179,306.85
- 2014 Audit – Mr. Stuban asked that Council review the audit and if they have any questions to please ask. It will be accepted at next month's meeting.
- Police Contract

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to accept the police contracted as negotiated.

- Police Consolidation – Baden went into a study with Conway, Harmony and Ambridge to look into police consolidation. The results have come back and Mr. Stuban commented that he doesn't feel it is feasible for Baden. The cost would increase between \$90,000 and \$135,000 per year.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to contact the police consolidation committee and let them know that Baden is dropping out due to the cost.

Buildings, Property & Grounds (Bob Besong)

Mr. Besong discussed the need to drive around town with the Code Enforcement Officer regarding high grass, especially around Fourth Street.

- 330 State Street – Mr. Besong asked that the Street Department put up no trespassing signs and a chain to prevent people from parking on the property. Mr. Trzcianka stated that he would speak with Street Department.

Community Relations (Ted Kotula)

- Business List - Mr. Kotula stated that he is still working on the list.
- Route 65 Corridor Study (PennDOT) – Mr. Kotula gave an overview of his involvement in the study which involves how to supply better traffic flow on Route 65 from the McKees Rock Bridge to Rochester and still give easy access to the communities along the route.

Library (Kim Villella)

Mrs. Villella was not present at the meeting.

positives. That is the purpose of the committee and the Mayor asked to meet with Mr. Josapak and discuss it further.

Mayor Gagliardi addressed the police consolidation and agreed it would not be feasible to for Baden to participate.

Mayor Gagliardi addressed the 2014 audit and his concerns that he feels the CPA should address with council. His concerns included notes that are recommendations, omissions or items that should be addressed by council. He then followed up with examples such as the borough using cash accounting instead of GASB.

President's Report

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kostial from Franklin Avenue asked for clarification regarding what alleys and road were getting repaved.

Mr. Kotula thanked the Baden Neighborhood Watch for getting everyone together for a meeting. He was glad that there were a larger number of residents in the audience. He thanked everyone for attending.

Donna Everette from Milton Street asked who owned the property where the old Phillips Street School is located. She stated that it is a jungle and a lawn mower would do the job. Mr. Stuban explained that there is a dispute between the property owner and the county.

Chief Christner addressed the traffic problem by Baden Academy. He spoke with the principle and it was the first day of school which was the main reason for backup.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Michaels, second by Mr. Besong, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
September 14, 2015