

**REGULAR SESSION
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
JULY 15, 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. Kotula, Mrs. Michaels, Mr. Stuban, Mr. Trzcianka, Mrs. Vilella and Mrs. Montell (Not Present: Mr. Besong)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Police Chief Christner, and Attorney Bill Rodgers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

- Mark Kolakowski from Center Street addressed Council and questioned Mrs. Vilella in regards to the merger of the police department with Economy Borough and pushed the consolidation on the way side. He asked why she met with Mayor Poling and the Chief from Economy stating that this should be addressed with Council and public and not be in violation of the Sunshine Law. Mr. Stuban addressed Mr. Kolakowski's question. Mr. Stuban stated that the Public Safety and Finance committee along with Council is looking out for the citizens of our community and it has nothing to do with cost. We are presently looking into police consolidation and the study is still going on. At the same time we looked at savings by going with the State Police. Pennsylvania has 2600 municipalities and from that 1500 rely on State Police protection. Finally some of council is looking at service from surrounding communities. We are looking to see if there is an interest from them. Additionally we are looking at reducing the size of the police department and going with one or two full time officers and the rest part time. The reason for this has to do with cost. Mr. Stuban then mentioned the demographic statistics to back his reasoning. Presently Mr. Stuban sees a 2 to 3 mill tax increase. Police make up the biggest percent of the budget at 27%. Presently we are getting numbers to present to Council. Nothing has been presented, confirmed or finalized. This is strictly the fact finding stage. He stated that although he mentioned State Police he is not for it because we need better protection. Mr. Stuban stated that we are looking for proper police coverage. There are other costs like fire trucks, street sweepers, public work trucks, roads, healthcare costs and storm water management just to name a few. We are looking at any and all options. Mr. Kolakowski addressed the past year expenses of real estate, key fobs and tracking devices for the vehicles and the need to prioritize the expenses. Mr. Kolakowski felt that the people should have a say in this decision.
- Gus Matthews from Second Street addressed council in regards to his neighborhood being filthy. Neighbors are junk yards, trees growing through roofs, weeds, grass and over flowing dumpsters. The Code Enforcement Officer will be looking into some of these issues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of June 15th, 17th and 23rd.

APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

RESOLUTIONS - None

ORDINANCES - None

BIDS - None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. June 15th courtesy copy of a letter from H.A. Thomson to Mayor Samuel Gagliardi with attached email regarding Elected Officials Riding in Borough Vehicles.
2. June letter from Baden Parks and Recreation Board requesting a donation for the October 10th Applefest.
3. July 10th letter from the Pennsylvania DEP to Elaine Rakovan stating that the Municipal Recycling Program Grant has been awarded in the amount of \$14,095.
4. July 10th letter from the Beaver County Humane Society prohibiting police departments with contracts from providing access to the night holding area to other police departments.
5. July email from Angela Abbiati with information regarding the Day of Hope/Convoy of Hope to be held in parking lot of American Legion on Saturday, September 19th.

Mayor Gagliardi questioned correspondence #5 asking if was Reverend Wilson. Mrs. Rakovan stated that the email is the only information that she had. Discussion took place regarding which church this pertains to. Mayor Gagliardi stated that he was speaking with a Reverend Wilson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Finance (Michael Stuban)

- General Fund Balance \$154,778.17
- Water Fund Balance \$139,036.58
- Ordinances – The new Code Enforcement Officer had a couple of ordinances that he felt would be better for enforcement of code issues. This includes citations that have fines prior to going to the magistrate.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to have the solicitor review the ordinances to see if they are compatible with our current ordinances and bring back a recommendation next month.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor to be involved with police negotiations has needed.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor research questions regarding the legalities of cost saving issues such as the reduction of the police department.

Buildings, Property & Grounds (Bob Besong)

MOTION by Mrs. Michaels, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to award cutting of storm damaged trees in the borough park to Hudson Tree Service in the amount of \$950.

Community Relations (Ted Kotula)

Mr. Kotula stated that he is still working on gathering information on local businesses to offer to residents.

Library (Kim Villella)

Mrs. Villella stated that she does not have her full report however she wanted everyone to know that there are summer hours for the library and information regarding the library can be found on the county website or Facebook.

Public Safety (Kim Villella)**Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)**

- Anderson storm sewer – This is a borough problem and prices are being gathered.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to proceed with the most responsible bidder if the quote comes in under the bidding limit, if not then advertise for bid.

- Water run-off on alley between Berry St. and Bryan Ave.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to have the engineer look at the alley connecting Berry Street and Bryan Avenue.

- Right of Way between Fourth St. and Fifth St. - drainage

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Michaels, (abstained by Mr. Stuban) to have the solicitor or engineer to look at the resident's property and address what he can and cannot do in regards to filling in the ravine (water drainage ditch) behind his home and follow up with a letter to the resident. Motion carried.

Recreation & Communications (Donna Michaels)

Applefest – October 10th

Pirate Game – Trying to get a bus trip to a pirate game. More details to follow.

Sanitation, Recycling & Municipal Authority (Donna Michaels)

MOTION by Mrs. Michaels, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to advertise the garbage contract for bid.

Solicitor's Report

Attorney Rodgers stated that he is still working on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes with Heritage Valley as well as Baden Academy.

Engineer's Report

Not Present

Mayor's Report

Fines - \$1,100.40

Incident Reports – 195

Mayor Gagliardi stated that he agreed with looking at all finances of the borough. Mayor Gagliardi gave an overview of the Park and Talk program with the police department. A second step is a citizen's advisory committee that he put together and consists of Pastor Jill, Jimmy Guido and Fred Strecker. Lastly he will have a seminar for the residents give an overview of the police department and their services.

President's Report

Mrs. Montell stated that she contacted Ambridge Borough in regards to the bicycle trail that would go through Baden. There would not be actual lanes, however there would be arrows on the road. This is a good thing because it will put Baden on the map. The trail would end at Phillips Street.

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Board opening for a three year term.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to appoint Karl Shaginow to the three term of Zoning Board.

MOTION by Mrs. Vilella, second by Mrs. Michaels, carried unanimously to support the Ohio River Trail with a \$200 Borough donation of support.

Mr. Kotula asked the Mayor for some extra patrols take place along Route 65 near McDonalds to slow some the drivers down. Discussion took place regarding other safety issues along Route 65 in Baden.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Michaels, second by Mrs. Vilella, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
August 17, 2015