

**REGULAR SESSION
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
December 20, 2017**

Council President Robert Besong called the Regular Session 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. Kotula, Mrs. Montell, Mr. Shelkons, Mr. Stuban, Mr. Trzcianka and Mr. Besong

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Christner, Attorney James Amato, Engineer Tony Sadaka

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

Lesabeth Trzcianka, on behalf of the Library Board thanked Council for participating in the Wassail Walk. She also thanked the police department on the great job that they did with watching traffic for the people who were participating in the Wassail Walk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of November 13th and 15th, 2017

APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Mrs. Montell, second by Mrs. Furr, carried unanimously to pay all bills with two signatures.

RESOLUTIONS (Attached for Public Review)

- **17-03** Disposal of old records in accordance with the State of Pennsylvania Retention Schedule. The records include bank statements over seven years old and property tax collector records over seven years old.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to adopt resolution 17-03.

- **17-04** Elimination of police contributions to their pension plan.

MOTION by Mrs. Montell, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to adopt resolution 17-04.

ORDINANCES – (Advertised in the Beaver County Times)

- **956** Maintaining the 2018 property tax rate at 26.5 mills.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to adopt Ordinance 956.

BIDS – None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Beaver County Humane Society letter with attached annual service agreement.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Furr, carried unanimously to sign the service agreement with the Beaver County Human Society.

2. Beaver County 2017 Assessment Valuation for Baden Borough is \$36,501,615.

3. Beaver County Planning Commission review of the Sisters of St. Joseph Subdivision.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Montell, carried unanimously to sign/approve the subdivision for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Finance (John Shelkons)

- General Fund Balance \$234,486 - Expenses \$407,833
- Water Fund Balance \$34,708 - Expenses \$445,955

Buildings, Property & Grounds / Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

MOTION by Mr. Kotula, second by Mr. Trzcianka carried unanimously to purchase 5 new Tasers including battery, holster and cartridges at a cost of \$6200 over five years.

Discussion took place regarding the need to hire part time officers. Mr. Kotula emphasized the need to hire another full time officer. Mr. Stuban disagreed, but stated that the Chief should look into a cops more grant to assist in offsetting the costs. It was also discussed getting a specific grant for the school officer. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she is willing to help with the essay parts of the grant. Mrs. Montell stated that Council should be aware of grants that are being applied for. Mr. Trzcianka commented that we may be losing part time officers because they do not want to work down at the school. He recommended hiring two to three guys specifically for Class Academy. He felt that older retired guys may be interested in it. Mr. Trzcianka noted that he mentioned this to both the Mayor and Chief. He wanted to hire three for the school and three part timers for patrol.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Kotula carried unanimously to hire three part time officers for the borough and three part time officers to work specifically for the school.

Community Relations (Michael Stuban)

Mr. Stuban noted that the Mayor is in charge of a memorial committee to recognize people who had an impact on Baden like our former Police Chief Colaizzi. Another interest of Council is to recognize individuals that were born and raised in Baden and may have moved away but became very successful. Mr. Stuban was hoping that this will continue every three to six months. Tonight we are recognizing Bob Massie an attorney living in Las Vegas and working as an analyst with Fox News. Mrs. Rakovan read the recognition to the audience.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Furr, carried unanimously to have the recognition sent to Mr. Massie.

Mr. Stuban explained how this recognition is for Baden born and raised individuals who have succeeded in their lives. We have writers, artists, military officers, and others who are worthy of recognition. The Mayors committee is for memorials of not necessarily people born in Baden but made a significant contribution to Baden.

Mr. Kotula explained that their committee is putting together a new committee recognizing people in our community for different things they have done which will include the women's groups. They are going to send letters out to the different Baden organizations like the Lions Club, Legion and business owners who they feel should be recognized for their services. They are still deciding on the criteria and how the point system will work and what the recognition would be. The Mayor stated that the mission statement is complete and they are moving diligently to get this done.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to authorize the engineer to apply for a small water grant for the back flow valves that are being required by Ambridge Water Authority.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to authorize the engineer to apply for the Community Development Grants, the same one as last year paving/repairing West State Street from Anderson's Candies to the Villa, Tevebaugh Hollow Road and tearing down the house on Jefferson Street.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor to review how to sale borough property and proceed with selling said properties which include the tot lot, the Ehman basketball court which is not used and any vacant property such as the one at the end of Grant Street where we turned down the house.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to ratify the Non-Uniform Employee contract.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mrs. Montell, carried unanimously to authorize Mark Turnley to do the 2017 Audit which will include the Recreation Board and Police Department.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to enact all 511 Taxes.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mrs. Montell, carried unanimously to pay streetlights from Liquid Fuels.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to close all the books on December 31st.

Mr. Stuban went over the General Fund Budget which has some changes.

- 301.400 Property Tax \$35,500
- 321.800 Comcast \$53,000
- 342.200 Crown Castle Tower Rental \$45,000
- 361.510 Liens and Dye Testing \$8,000
- 495.120 Salary \$53,000
- 405.140 Salary \$44,000
- 405.343 Newsletter and Calendar \$15,000
- 410.135 Part Time Police Salary \$40,000
- 410.192 Part Time Uniform \$6,500
- 411.730 Air Packs \$9,860
- 430.110 Salary \$167,500
- 486.100 Property and Liability \$85,500.
- 491.810 will be \$3,000

Mr. Stuban noted that the salary increase represented the signing bonus per the contract.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to adopt the 2018 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$2,138,880

Mr. Stuban addressed changes to the Water Fund Budget.

- 378.110 \$738,000
- 448.110 Clerical Salary \$45,000

- 448.366 Water for resale \$340,000
- 449.110 Salary \$64,000
- 449.120 Overtime \$10,000
- 481.200 Healthcare \$33,000

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to adopt the 2018 Water Fund Budget in \$753,900.

Mr. Stuban addressed Council in regards to the borough running a deficit year after year. The 2016 audit showed water owing the general fund \$113,000. This year we are well on the way of owing over \$77,000. When Ambridge Water Authority raised their water rates we did not pass any part of the increase on to the residents. The engineer did a study, which council has a copy of and it includes a recommendation for a rate increase. Mr. Stuban stated that without the increase water will continue to have deficit that will grow each passing year. This could lead to a finding and intervention by the state if they see that we are using general funds to balance the water fund.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mrs. Montell, carried unanimously to set the new water rates based upon engineers recommendation which is minimum \$51 per quarter and \$7.70 per additional 1,000 gallons of water starting in 2018.

This has minimum going up \$2.50 per quarter and increase of 70 cents for each additional 1,000 gallons.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to amend the 2017 budget paying the Street Foreman wages from the general fund and possibly Liquid Fuels instead of the water fund to lower the amount that water will owe the general fund this year.

Mr. Stuban noted that this has been done for quite a few years except last year. Hopefully with the new rates we will not need to do this in the future.

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

Nothing to report.

Library / Recreation & Communications (Suzie Furr)

Mrs. Furr informed Council that the Librarian has resigned.

The Wassailing walk was a great success.

Santa on the Fire Truck went very well too.

The Recreation Board is going to have a food drive for the Baden Food Bank. Collection boxes will be placed in the borough building.

Financial Report for Applefest is forthcoming.

Mayor Gagliardi asked why the Christmas lights are put up on the sidewalk side of the poles. Mrs. Rakovan explained that they would be too low if placed on the roadside and tall vehicles and trucks would hit them.

Mr. Shelkons asked about the blue blinking light on the back of the signs by the Methodist Church. No one was aware of them. The Mayor was asked to check into them and to see if they are even legal to use.

Mrs. Trzcianka commented that the Library needs police patrol at the crosswalks when parents are trying to cross to the library with their children.

Sanitation, Recycling & Municipal Authority (Judi Montell)

Nothing to report.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report

Engineer's Report

The engineer asked to clarify the grant application. The cost for the back flow valves is about \$35,000. The minimum for the grant is \$100,000. He asked if he could add as needed other items. Mr. Trzcianka noted to add 22 fire hydrants that are broken.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban second by Mrs. Montell, carried unanimously to authorize the engineer to add other things to the grant to meet the \$100,000 minimum. It was also noted that there is a 15% match.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Gagliardi commented that he got a phone call from a corporation that had extra hams and they were asking if there were any needy organizations that may need them. He had them call Pastor Jill for their food bank.

Fines \$425.36
Calls 206

Mayor wished everyone Merry Christmas.

President's Report

Mr. Besong stated that the reorganization would be on January 2nd.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Montell asked if there is someone else they could call to finish the repairs at the library. Mr. Trzcianka stated that the issue now is weather.

Mrs. Rakovan gave an update on the .gov email. In order to have approval for the .gov email you have to have a .gov website domain. Our website is a .com. Up & Running is working on creating the .gov website domain.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Montell, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
January 15, 2018