

**PRE-MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 13TH, 2019**

Council President Judi Montell 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: Mr. Besong, Mrs. Furr, Mr. Kotula, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Trzcianka and Mrs. Montell

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Police Chief Christner, Assistant Fire Chief Pat McFarland

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

- Michael Stuban from 44 Anthony Wayne Terrace spoke to council regarding new laws on blight and condemnation of property. He went over the different options council has regarding dealing with resolving property issues that included attaching liens to other properties, wages and bank accounts. Additionally after three citations, criminal charges may be filed.
- Lezabeth Trzcianka thanked council for allowing the library to sell soup and bake goods during Election Day. They made over \$800. She also asked council to consider getting an electric digital sign at the entrance of the borough complex. Discussion followed regarding the sign which included sharing the cost with the Fire Department and Recreation Board.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Secretary

1. **USDA Grant/Loan**
Submitted to underwriting and financial review.
2. **Trailer Court**
No further action is taking place at this time.
3. **Water Tank Maintenance Schedule**
Engineer is working on the maintenance schedule and what needs to be contracted out.
4. **Baden Properties to Sell**
Barone Appraisals is doing the assessments on the properties. They have questions involving right of ways and the gas house located on one of the properties.
5. **Class Academy**
Solicitor is waiting for information regarding the radio service within the building.
6. **Speed Humps/Traffic Calming**

Letter from Amato, Start & Associates with guidelines and requirements for Speed Humps was given to council during last month's meeting.

7. Traffic Camera System (County)

What are council's wishes regarding the camera system.

The county will help solicit for funding. It was determined to put a camera up at Route 65 and Johnson Avenue. Mr. Trzcianka asked for a cost breakdown so that the District Attorney may help solicit local businesses for funding.

8. Teamster Pension Grievance

Closing arguments have been submitted to the arbitrator. Expect a response by December 8th.

9. Civil Service Rules and Regulations Update

Final Draft has been received and given to Mr. Kotula, Mr. Trzcianka and Mr. Shelkons for final review.

10. Paving Project

The contract for the awarded paving project has been received and signed.

11. Anderson's Candy

They are requesting that a sign for their business be placed up on the island by Virginia Avenue. They will pay all expenses associated with the request.

Discussion took place and the secretary was asked to check with the engineer to check into PennDot regulations regarding signs since this request is along a state road.

12. Posting of one side parking on North Avenue

New residents to the North Avenue area are starting to park on both sides of the road causing difficulty with plowing as well as it being a bus route.

Chief Christner confirmed the problem with the parking, however the ordinance does not address one sided parking on North Avenue from 6th Street down to Bob's Import. We need to update the ordinance.

13. Traffic Signal at Johnson and State

The insurance company finally approved and paid for the traffic signal that was damaged by a lightning strike earlier this past summer. The current lights at this intersection are temporary loaners from Traffic Systems.

14. 2020 Workers Compensation Insurance

The coverage will be through the state and cost will be over \$108,000. To secure the insurance an advance payment of approximately \$38,000 was submitted to the insurance company.

15. Storm Sewer

The quote from CTM Construction to extend, backfill and repair the storm sewer that was discussed at last month's meeting is \$9,000.

16. Fire Department Grant

A copy of the 2018 Assistance to Firefighters Grant has been given to the secretary if anyone wishes to review it.

Public Works

Not Present.

Mr. Trzcianka commented that he just got the correct password to access Municibid so he will get the truck advertised ASAP.

Code Enforcement Officer

Not Present

FIRE CHIEF

Assistant Chief, Pat McFarland stated that the Fire Departments report was submitted. Mr. Shelkons stated that the fire department is requesting additional funds of \$5,000 for the 2020 budget. (Additional \$1,000 to hose replacement, \$1,000 to small tools and equipment and \$3,000 for vehicle repairs and maintenance).

Police Chief

Radio at Class Academy – Chief Christner stated that the price came in at \$53,000 from Bearcom to install the appropriate equipment for radio service. He told council that he didn't know what else to do. Mrs. Montell expressed her concern for our police officers safety as well as the issue being the Prevention Networks problem to solve. Mr. Trzcianka told Chief Christner to ask Jack Spencer what he recommends since he is very involved and works with ham radios. Chief Christner stated that he would contact Jack Spencer tomorrow.

Civil Service Rules and Regulation – Chief Christner stated that he called Bill Gamble who had the changes completed immediately that day.

Part –Time Officers. – Mr. Kotula asked if we ever contacted Officer Villa to come back in for an interview. Chief Christner stated no that he did not because Officer Villa cancelled his last interview time.

Marijuana Law – Mayor Gagliardi addressed council in regards to other communities passing laws and changing zoning in regards to where marijuana shops may be placed within their municipalities. He felt that council should look into this matter too and have the zoning board make the appropriate changes to our ordinances. Discussion took place to get a copy of another town's ordinance for Baden to use as an example.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

General Fund Balance \$185,649
Water Fund Balance \$428,237

Expenses \$156,624
Expenses \$66,767

2020 Budget – Mr. Shelkons presented the budget along with an unbalanced 2020 budget. He commented that this year has been a rough year financially with surprise infrastructure repairs. Mr. Shelkons stated that a tax increase will be needed to balance the budget. Discussion followed which included where to cut and what expenses are out of our control.

Full Time Officer - Mr. Shelkons stated that council needs to think about whether we want to hire a full time officer next year.

Chief Christner informed council of a possible opportunity to bring police departments together with Conway and Freedom Borough. He stated that it would save money in the long run. With the increasing cost to support a local police department consolidation/merger is going to be necessary.

Mr. Shelkons asked that council review the budget and that we recess the meeting and return on Monday at 6:30 PM to go over, discuss and hopefully balance the budget.

Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

Nothing further to discuss

Building, Property & Grounds (Ted Kotula)

Electric in the Park – Mr. Shelkons stated that there is a hearing next Friday regarding the individual who was supposed to finish the electric service in the park.

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

Nothing to report

Municipal (Dave Trzcianka)

Nothing to report

Library (Suzie Furr)

Nothing to report

Community Relations & Recreation (Dawn Singleton)

Santa on Fire Truck – Mrs. Singleton stated that Santa will be driving around town on a fire truck on December 13th.

Administration & Legislation (Bob Besong)

Nothing to report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gagliardi asked about outstanding projects such as the library renovations and North Avenue. Mr. Shelkons stated that we have grant funding for the library and we applied for a grant for North Avenue.

Mayor Gagliardi stated that we should notify the zoning board about zoning for the sale of marijuana. Chief Christner stated that he would get a copy of the ordinance for Economy Borough after they adopt it so that we would have a sample of what needs to be done.

Old Business Not on the Agenda, New Business or Unfinished Business

Mrs. Rakovan stated that Concordia is already planning for the structure of their nursing facility behind the Villa. They are meeting tomorrow, November 14th to present their plan and ask questions to the borough engineer, municipal authority, and building inspector. If a council member interested in attending please let the secretary know.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Nothing to report

Recess the Meeting

Motion by Mr. Besong, second by Mrs. Furr carried unanimously at 7:46PM to recess the meeting until Monday November 18th at 6:30 PM.