

**REGULAR MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
November Meeting held on
DECEMBER 2nd 2020**

DUE TO COVID THE NOVEMBER REGULAR MEETING WAS MOVED

Council President Judith Montell called the Regular 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. Kotula, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Trzcianka and Mrs. Montell

NOT PRESENT: Mr. Besong, Mrs. Furr

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Gagliardi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

- Cub Scout Pack 405 was present to see how local government works.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of October 7th and 21st, 2020.

BILLS TO BE PAID

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

RESOLUTIONS – None

ORDINANCES – *Advertised in the Beaver County Times for Public Review*

- **965** – Authorizing the incurring of nonelectoral debt for the purpose of funding water system improvements, by the issuance of a general obligation bond in the principal amount of \$1,875,200 to the United States of America, acting through the Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to approve ordinance 965

- **966** – Authorizing the placement of speed humps and stop signs on Virginia Avenue.

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to adopt ordinance 966

BIDS – None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email for the attorney regarding guidelines and advertisement requirements for holding public meetings via Zoom.

Mrs. Rakovan stated that she printed out the information for council to review. If council wishes to do this the earliest to get this set up would be January. Discussion followed regarding councils access to internet, computer or smart phone as well as cost associated with having meetings via Zoom. Mr. Kotula addressed live streaming the meeting via Facebook to at least let people listen to the meeting if they do not or cannot attend the meeting. Mrs. Montell and Mr. Trzcianka were not interested in doing Zoom.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (John Shelkons)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| • General Fund Balance \$319,349 | Expenses \$333,032 |
| • Water Fund Balance \$152,826 | Expenses \$160,508 |

SPC Regional Traffic Signal Program

MOTION by Mr. Shelkons, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to sign the SPC Regional Traffic Signal Program SINC-UP Project Agreement in the amount of \$238,506. (Note: Baden's contribution will be \$47,701)

General Fund Budget

Mrs. Rakovan went over the 2021 Budget Draft. She stated that she got the budget to balance with a budget amount of \$2,327,380.

Mr. Trzcianka asked about CEO cost. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she did not change these line items as council needs to make a decision regarding who will be supplying this service. The cost for 13 code issue matters was \$675 for one month. Mr. Trzcianka felt that we should see what the next few months will be billed.

Water Fund Rates and Budget

Due to Ambridge Water Authority raising their rates without notifying the borough an engineering study was done to calculate the necessary water rate increase. Discussion took place regarding the agreement with Ambridge that states the borough will receive a copy of the rate study when water rates are increased. The issue is that the agreement does not have any repercussions for not supply this information to the borough. Mrs. Rakovan stated that she spoke with Mr. Amato to discuss sending a letter to Ambridge Water Authority addressing the issue with not notifying the borough of rate study/increases and put in place a process of notification annually even if there is no increase. A document telling the borough what next year's rate will be. Mr. Shelkons asked if the monthly bill could show the rate being charged.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to increase water rates starting January 1st, 2021. Minimum will go from \$51 to \$57. Each additional 1,000 gallons of water will go from \$7.70 to \$8.75.

Water Tank Maintenance Charge

Mrs. Rakovan explained that within three years we will need \$500,000 to do maintenance on the water tanks. In order to avoid the legal and closing costs associated with getting a loan it may be in the best interest of the borough to place a maintenance fee on the quarterly bills. A \$10 quarterly fee on Water Bills will bring in approximately \$68,000 a year. This is a separate fund from the water budget. An

ordinance would have to be done to adopt this fee. Council discussed and agreed to have the attorney write an ordinance for the \$10 fee.

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to have the solicitor write an ordinance for the \$10 per quarter fee.

Budget Advertisement

MOTION by Mr. Shelkons, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to advertise the General Fund and Water Fund Budget for 10 days with the intent to adopt it at the December Regular meeting.

2021 Tax Rate

MOTION by Mr. Shelkons, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to advertise with the intent to adopt the 2021 Tax Rate Ordinance keeping the rate at 29.5 mills. This represents no tax increase.

Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

Full Time Police Officer – Civil Service

Mrs. Trzcianka, chairperson of the Civil Service Committee state that she spoke with the Chief Freucht regarding having an outside person do the agility test. Even though there were some recommendations of local people who can do the testing, Chief Freucht recommended getting someone outside of the area to do the agility test so that there is no favoritism with scoring. She is waiting to hear back from Chief Freucht to see if Baden could go in with another department for the testing.

GPS

Mr. Kotula addressed the resolution for the GPS and the rules and regulations regarding the employee guidelines and enforcement of the resolution. Mr. Trzcianka stated that it does not have to be in their contract. It is a management policy and maybe should be part of the SOP. Mr. Trzcianka commented that the three of them (himself, Mr. Kotula and Mr. Shelkons) will get together and write something up for the solicitor to review.

Fire Department Airpack

Mr. Kotula asked about the airpack account and the funds not being used for the year. He questioned why we were not buying the airpacks in the year it was budgeted. Mr. Trzcianka stated that the expenses under that account are for maintenance of the airpacks. One airpack costs around \$6000. There is a separate bank account set up to save for new airpacks and council agreed to put any balance in the airpack account at yearend into the airpack bank account.

Fire Department Surveys

Mr. Kotula stated that he got emails asking why the surveys were not looked at yet. Mrs. Rakovan commented that they would have been brought to the November meeting however it got postponed to December 2nd. Mr. Kotula stated the committee will review them and then he will meet with Chief Baker to go over the results.

Building, Property & Grounds (Ted Kotula)**McDonald's**

MOTION by Mr. Kotula, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to approve and sign the McDonald's un-subdivision as reviewed and approved by the Baden Planning Board and Beaver County Planning Commission.

Woman's Club

MOTION by Mr. Kotula, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to authorize the Baden Woman's Club to install a "Little Free Library" in the Memorial Park.

Public Works & Sanitation (Dave Trzcianka)**Recycle Bins**

Mr. Trzcianka stated that the recycling bins have been received.

Retirement of Rick Sedlacek

Mr. Trzcianka stated that Rick Sedlacek has put his letter of retirement into the borough. His last day to work will be January 15, 2021.

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to regrettfully accept the retirement letter from Rick Sedlacek.

Municipal (Dave Trzcianka)

Nothing to report

Library (Suzie Furr)

Not present

Community Relations & Recreation (Dawn Singleton)**Santa on Fire Truck**

Mrs. Singleton stated that Santa will be riding on the fire truck on December 18th. Due to Covid, Santa will not be getting off the truck. Firefighters with PPE will be handing out the candy.

Administration & Legislation (Bob Besong)

Nothing to report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Nothing to Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Not present, but written report as follows**1. Library ADA Access Updates – CDBG Grant**

Jacob Charles from the County sent the contract document to CTM with a notice to proceed effective November 20. Start date has not been determined.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gagliardi welcomed the Cub Scouts to the meeting. The children involved with the Cub Scouts are from ages Kindergarten to fifth grade.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mrs. Montell thanked the Cub Scouts for attending this evenings meeting.

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Kotula, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
December 15, 2020