

REGULAR SESSION BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL JUNE 15, 2016

Council President Mr. 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. Sheikons, Mr. Stuban, Mr. Trzcianka and Mr. Besong

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Chief Christner, Engineer Tony Sadaka and Attorney James Amato

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITORS

- Tom Turney from 336 State Street addressed council in regards to a situation that took place on Monday when he was recognized by the chair to speak and give a presentation about his concerns with the distressed properties in town and the lack of funding to address the issues. During his Monday presentation a member of the audience spoke up against Mr. Turney. At no time was that audience member recognized by the chair or was he called out of order. Mr. Turney wanted council to know that they handled the matter incorrectly and unprofessionally as he was not given his recognized rights to speak uninterrupted to council. Council member Mr. Stuban spoke out to agree with Mr. Turney. Mr. Besong then made an additional comment and Mr. Turney did not appreciate being interrupted and left the meeting.
- Randy Tetric from 555 Straube Avenue addressed Council in regards to a distressed property on Straube Ave. He has tried to contact the owner and realtor to cut the grass. He also called the Code Enforcement Officer who told him that council is not authorizing him to do anything. Mr. Weber stated that he spoke with a woman who told him that it would be cut this week.
- Joe Kostial from Franklin Avenue asked how many valves where put in up off of Quigley. Mr. Trzcianka stated that three valves where put in. Mr. Kostial didn't feel that three valves were necessary. He also asked why the borough workers couldn't do the repair. He noted that Martino had to call John People to get the location of the line. Mr. Trzcianka explained that the Quigley line is not a borough line and was not put in by the borough. Mr. Kostial asked about borrowing three quarter of a million dollars for a new fire truck and street sweeper. He asked about the selling of the two fire trucks before any borrowing takes place. Mr. Trzcianka noted that the one truck will probably go to the scrap yard. Mr. Kostial noted that a month ago he saw the truck go to a fire call. Mr. Trzcianka said that no one wants it because it has no seat belts and it only has a two door cab. Mr. Kostial made additional comments about the truck that was sold to Fallston years ago. Mr. Kostial asked about where the money came from for the water valves, the alley off of Berry Street and the Anderson Candy project. Mr. Stuban stated that it came from reserves funds and liquid fuels money was indirectly used to alleviate the cost. Mr. Kostial also asked about storm sewer repairs that need the grates raised. He felt that before a fire truck is purchased the storm sewers should be fixed. He stated that when John Peoples was working he took care of all the storm sewers. Why can't the borough repair them?

- Eric Chinese from Columbia Gas addressed and presented to council an easement request for 10 feet along their building near the Tot Lot at the intersection of Oak and Hickory. The easement is to replace a much needed gas line.

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Montell carried unanimously to have the engineer and solicitor review the easement request for Columbia Gas.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Christner was given the opportunity to speak because he needed to leave early. He presented an update of 610 State Street. A few weeks ago there were three overdoses at the same time. One of the three did pass away. He was told that the day before this happen they had two overdoses at this location that were privately driven to the hospital and one of the individuals also passed away. Chief Christner stated that he found and spoke to the owners of 610 State Street. After telling them he was enforcing the three strikes ordinance the owners stated that they would have everyone out in 30 days and they are selling the property.

Chief Christner noted that they got two cards. One card was from the Women's Club with a \$200 donation that he would like to apply to the AED funding. He stated that he will send them a thank you. The second card came from the residents up on Collins Avenue along with a flag cake thanking the police department for assisting an elderly couple that lives in their neighborhood.

CEO

Bob Weber presented and reviewed a written report to council. He stated that he is working hard to get residents to cut grass and clean up weeds. Quite a few cars have been towed off of properties. He asked council to have the fire chief and building inspector check out the burned out doctor's office, old movie theater and the white house across the street. He feels they need to be condemned.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 18th and 20th 2016

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to accept the minutes.

APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

RESOLUTIONS - None

ORDINANCES - None

BIDS – None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. June letter from Pennsylvania Department of Transportation regarding signal and safety upgrades for traffic signals located on Route 65 at Virginia and Johnson Avenues. Motion needed

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Montell, carried unanimously to execute any documents that may be needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Finance (John Shelkons)

- General Fund Balance \$405,018 Expenses \$113,452
Water Fund Balance \$96,125 Expenses \$82,373

MOTION by Mr. Shelkons, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to sign the lease agreement for three copiers/scanner/fax and four desk top printers at a cost of \$774.67 per month and includes a maintenance and toners as well as a copier for the fire department at a cost of \$80.25 per month.

Community Relations (Michael Stuban)

MOTION by Mr. Stuban, second by Mrs. Montell, carried to authorize the solicitor to meet with a few members of council and the Code Enforcement Officer to come up with procedures for condemning properties and going after people to maintain their properties.

Buildings, Property & Grounds (Ted Kotula)

MOTION by Mr. Kotula, second by Mr. Stuban, carried Mr. Kotula to have all borough property doors (pole building, garage, police and fire department) serviced and repaired not to exceed \$3,000.

Mr. Kotula is waiting on some bid pricing for the library repairs.

Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

Mr. Kotula stated that he has spoken with the Mayor and the Chief regarding part time help and keeping within the budget. Mr. Stuban recommended advertising for part timers.

Mr. Kotula stated that he is still looking at and researching the LED Street Lights. Mrs. Montell felt that if we wait Duquesne Light will be putting them in for free.

MOTION by Mr. Kotula, second by Mr. Stuban, carried unanimously to authorize Jack (Alton) Spencer to pursue disability pension.

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor to write an ordinance adding weight limits to the street as noted in the engineering study.

Mr. Trzcianka addressed Mr. Kostial in regards to the Quigley waterline. He explained that their waterline was an asbestos line which according to the DEP required a special saw and proper handling. Martino is trained on how to handle the asbestos lines. Mr. Kostial asked for the cost. Mrs. Rakovan noted that she did not have the bill yet but the total was approximately between \$13,000 and \$15,000.

Chief Trzcianka addressed Mr. Turney's comments during visitors section. He noted that the Fire Department mails out 2,200 donation requests every year and they get less than 700 back. No offense to the police or street department but the fire department does fundraisers. He then brought up a mutual aid agreement for fire service assistance that was signed by Mr. Besong and Mr. Gene Miketa who was chief at that time in 1989. He presented this because there was no approval for an \$80 bill that Ambridge was going to reimburse us for. Under section 4 it states that the fire departments will supply aid and assistance in good faith without charge... The \$80 was for shoring up a building in Ambridge. Mr. Trzcianka commented that he paid the \$80.

Mr. Kotula commented that he wasn't aware of the agreement and that Ambridge was going to reimburse us for the \$80. Mr. Stuban commented that he was one of the

council members who wouldn't approve the bill. He stated that the fire department does a good job and he is glad that the borough has them but cost need to be controlled in all departments. Mr. Stuban has a problem when our fire department is becoming the county fire department by going to Mars and Butler County. There needs to be lines and not cart Blanche. We just approved a printer for \$80 per month. Is this necessary? Mr. Stuban stated that he will pay for the fire department and help them out but he is not going to support their social organizations. By law we must have fire protection but where do we stop. Mr. Trzcianka stated that the mutual aid agreement is a county wide agreement. He commented that went from having over 50 members three years ago to our current department of 32. Mr. Stuban addressed the training and vehicles in the parking lot for other fire departments and Air Force. He asked aren't there training facilities? Isn't the training academy charging the individuals and making money on the use of our property? Is this all free training? Is someone getting paid to train? If an outside organization is getting paid to do the training then they need their own campus to train on.

Mr. Shelkons asked when the last time was that we got a bill that required reimbursement from another fire department. Mr. Trzcianka said that normally we pay them or the other department pays them. For whatever reason the bill got stuck somewhere and Ambridge Lumber was asking for their money. He missed cutoff to get it paid by Ambridge so he figured we'd pay it because Ambridge's Chief said they would reimburse us but his information did not get relayed to everyone.

Library (Suzie Furr)

Mrs. Furr stated that the library is looking into fundraisers and celebrating their 75th anniversary

Recreation & Communications (Suzie Furr)

Mrs. Furr stated that Library had their meeting. They are redoing the by-laws and should have them ready by August. Mrs. Furr thanked Mr. Kotula for working on the roof repairs.

Mrs. Furr stated that the community yard sale of a great success. A new shed was also purchased and placed in the upper parking lot.

Discussion took place regarding the library bylaws and those following the borough ordinance which will need to be changed one approval of the bylaws are made.

Sanitation, Recycling & Municipal Authority (Judi Montell)

MOTION by Mrs. Montell, second by Mrs. Furr, to sign the intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the Municipal Authority. Mr. Stuban and Mr. Trzcianka abstained from the motion due to conflict of interest since they both serve on the Municipal Authority board.

ROLL CALL To sign the intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the Municipal Authority.

Mrs. Furr	yes
Mr. Kotula	yes
Mrs. Montell	yes
Mr. Shelkons	yes
Mr. Stuban	abstain
Mr. Trzcianka	abstain
Mr. Besong	yes

Five (5) Yes, motion carried.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report

Engineer's Report

Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Gagliardi suggested that Mr. Trzcianka be repaid his \$80 next month in the guidelines of the cooperative agreement.

Total fines collected \$569.46 and 156 calls.

President's Report

Mr. Besong had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kotula mentioned making up a Baden Borough Event Report form. Everyone had a copy of the form. He asked everyone to look at it for next month...

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Montell, second by Mr. Stuban, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
July 18, 2016