

**REGULAR MEETING
BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 20TH, 2019**

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. Besong, Mrs. Furr, Mr. Kotula, Mr. Shelkons, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Trzcianka and Mrs. Montell

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sam Gagliardi, Solicitor James Amato, CEO Bob Weber, Police Chief Christner

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

VISITOR.

- Mrs. Spence from Third Street addressed council in regards to a car being parked on the road for extended period of time in an area where there is a sign posted no parking anytime. She stated because of this vehicle the street could not be swept. Chief Christner stated that the parking in this area has been an ongoing issue. He stated at the request of Mrs. Spence, the neighbor who was parked in a legal parking spot in front of Mrs. Spence's home moved and parked in the current area. Chief Christner noted that parking is a problem on this road and that it wasn't until someone complained about parking in the signed no parking area that parking got more difficult. Parking spots in front of homes are not private/personal parking spots. It is all public parking. Mrs. Spence stated that people are turning around in her driveway and there is traffic all hours of the night across the street from her. Mrs. Montell stated that the engineer, Mayor and Police Chief have addressed this issue and it looks like there is no resolution to the parking situation on that street.
- Bob Clause from 1140 Kellinger Drive addressed council in regards to his home that he built on Phillips Streets in Economy Borough. Previously Baden Borough approved allowing him to tap into Baden's water system. He was having issue with actually connecting to Baden's line because PennDot will not allow him to get a permit to cross Phillips Street. He was asking for help from Baden Borough. Mr. Trzcianka stated that the secretary will contact the engineer to look into this matter.
- Jay Creese from Wayne Street presented council with a petition to put speed humps on Wayne Street. Mr. Trzcianka stated that the engineer is looking into this matter. He also thanked the police department for assisting with the closing of their road for the annual block party.
- Joe Kostial questioned the tax amount being paid by the new duplex on Berry Street. Mr. Kostial was told that the county does the assessment and they would look into this matter.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to approve the minutes of October 9th and October 16th, 2019

BILLS TO BE PAID

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

RESOLUTIONS- None**ORDINANCES - None****BIDS - None****CORRESPONDENCE - None****COMMITTEE REPORTS****Finance (John Shelkons)**

- General Fund Balance \$185,649 Expenses \$156,624
- Water Fund Balance \$428,237 Expenses \$66,767

- **2020 Council Voluntary Salary Cut**

MOTION by Mr. Shelkons, second by Mrs. Singleton, to voluntarily cut the 2020 Council Salary in half. Mr. Besong voted No.

ROLL CALL – Each Council to volunteer cutting their salary for the 2020 budget year

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Mr. Besong | NO |
| Mrs. Furr | YES |
| Mr. Kotula | YES |
| Mr. Shelkons | YES |
| Mrs. Singleton | YES |
| Mr. Trzcianka | YES |
| Mrs. Montell | YES |

Mayor Gagliardi also volunteered to cut his salary in half for the 2020 Budget Year.

- **2020 BUDGET**

MOTION by Mr. Shelkons, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to advertise the proposed 2020 water fund and general fund budgets for 10 day review.

- **TAXES**

MOTION by Mr. Shelkons, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to advertise the tax ordinance with an increase of 3 mills for the 2020 tax year.

Mr. Shelkons gave an overview of the costs associated with the current budget. The sinkhole on Bauman Avenue cost the borough around \$130,000 and workers compensation insurance has increased by \$40,000. To give the residents an idea of how 3 mills of taxes will increase their property tax payment the average assessed value of a home in Baden is \$24,000. The tax increase for this assessed value would increase the tax payment by \$72 per year.

Public Safety (Ted Kotula)

- **Civil Service Rules and Regulations**

- **MOTION** by Mr. Kotula, second by Mr. Trzcianka, carried unanimously to have the Civil Service Board review the updated regulations.

- **Full Time Police Officer**

Mr. Kotula addressed the scheduling issues with trying to cover the 12 hour shifts with three full time and part time officers. It is very difficult to maintain a reliable part time staff because they find full time jobs and can no longer work part time for Baden.

Prior to the following motion discussion took place regarding the cost of hiring a full time officer. Although in support of hiring a new officer, Mr. Trzcianka was very concerned about being able to keep the officer after the first year because the taxes will be half of a mill from being maxed out. Chief Christner expressed his difficulty to fill in the schedule for December because there were not enough part time officers to cover vacation and scheduled time off. He stated that he felt it was council's responsibility to supply proper public safety to the residents and tax payers of the borough. Chief Christner stated that council equips the police department with equipment but not with the needed manpower.

A resident from the crowd stood up and said, raise the taxes. Public safety for \$72 (average tax increase per resident) is worth it. The residents in the audience applauded the comment and the following motion.

MOTION by Mr. Kotula, second by Mr. Besong, to authorize the Civil Service Board to start testing and interview for a full time officer in accordance with the new updates upon the Civil Service Board approval and recommendation to adopt the new regulation. Mrs. Singleton voted no.

ROLL CALL – To start the process to hire a full time officer

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Mr. Besong | YES |
| Mrs. Furr | YES |
| Mr. Kotula | YES |
| Mr. Shelkons | YES |
| Mrs. Singleton | NO |
| Mr. Trzcianka | YES |
| Mrs. Montell | YES |

Six (6) yes, One (1) no – Motion Carried

Building, Property & Grounds (Ted Kotula)

Public Works (Dave Trzcianka)

- **North Avenue Parking**

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor to amend the ordinance regarding one side parking.

- **Virginia Avenue and Wayne Street Speed Hump**

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to authorize the engineer to start traffic study and what is required for speed humps on Virginia Avenue and Wayne Street.

Mayor Gagliardi stated that the borough should adopt a policy regarding speed hump/bumps.

Municipal (Dave Trzcianka)

Nothing to report

Library (Suzie Furr)

Nothing to report

Community Relations & Recreation (Dawn Singleton)

- **Santa on a Fire Truck**

Santa will be arriving in Baden on Friday, December 13th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Administration & Legislation (Bob Besong)

- Nothing to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Nothing to Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Not present but his report was presented as follows:

1. **USDA Grant/Loan Application**
USDA is still reviewing our application.
2. **Berry Street Waterline Loop – CDBG Grant (FY 2018)**
The contractor is still working to complete 'punch list' items and we still need confirmation from PennDOT that the final pavement restoration is adequate (close out HOP) before we close out the project.
3. **McDonald's Rebuild Land Development Plan**
The land development plan submission was reviewed. Comments were sent to the Borough and Developer.
4. **2019 Paving Project**
Contract documents were sent to the Borough for execution.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- **Fines Collected - \$949.85**
- **Calls – 394**
- **Drug Collection Box**

Residents were advised of the drug collection box that is located in the borough lobby. Any prescription or over the counter drugs may be placed in the box. It is secured and collected by the County.

- **Radio Service for Prevention Network**

Chief Christner stated that there is still no radio service at Prevention Network. Discussion followed regarding the safety of our officers and Prevention Network being responsible for providing the service. Mr. Spencer who was present at the meeting as asked and he agreed to look into options for providing service. (Mr. Spencer is very knowledgeable with radio (HAM) service.)

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

Mr. Kostial mentioned the agreement from over 20 years ago with Anthony Wayne Terrace to pay Baden for water. Mr. Shelkons stated that this was a one-time agreement and it was done in the 1950's. Mrs. Rakovan explained that Baden Borough does not supply water to Anthony Wayne Terrace or service their water

pipes or water hydrants. Ambridge Water Authority has a pipe that feed to Anthony Wayne Terrace and Ambridge Water Authority bills them directly.

Mayor Gagliardi asked about the borough getting money for the building permits. Mrs. Rakovan explained that we use an outside company for our building inspections and permits. That company bills according to their rates. The permit is paid to the borough and in turn the building inspection company bills Baden for 80% of the permit cost.

- **Payment in Lieu of Taxes**

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor to look into Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the non-profits within our borough.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

- **Zoning Hearing Board Alternate**

MOTION by Mrs. Singleton, second by Mr. Kotula, carried unanimously to appoint Michael Stuban as alternate for the zoning hearing board if needed for 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Trzcianka second by Mrs. Singleton, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval,



Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Secretary
December 11th, 2019