

**MINUTES
BLAWNOX BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting December 13th, 2023**

Call to Order

President Laskey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. A Zoom was set up for anyone that was not feeling well or not comfortable attending in person.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The roll was called to establish a quorum.

Council Members Present: Elaine Palmer, Christine Carnevali, Katie Coban, President Deborah Laskey, Vice President Randall Stoddard, and John Simmons

Council Members Not Present: Meghan Kennedy

Also Present: Mayor Anthony Gross, Junior Council Member Jacob Anthikad, Engineer Gordon Taylor, Solicitor Samuel Dalfonso, and Borough Manager Kathy Ulanowicz in person. Assistant Borough Manager Mallori McDowell on Zoom.

Comments from the Public – No questions

Agenda Items

Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes of the November 8th, 2023 meeting.

Moved: Ms. Laskey Second: Ms. Palmer Motion Carried: 6-0

Motion to approve bills from the General Fund for November in the amount \$236,680.72

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Coban Motion Carried: 6-0

Finance Committee

- 1) Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-13 setting the sanitary sewer rate at \$12.94 per 1,000 gallons the customer service charge at \$23.41 and the service fee at \$45.00 per quarter per customer for 2024.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Coban Motion Carried: 6-0

- 2) Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-14 setting the water rate at \$11.99 per 1,000 gallons with a 3 thousand gallon minimum for 2024.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 6-0

- 3) Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-15 setting the refuse rate at \$77.00 per quarter for 2024.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Ms. Laskey Motion Carried: 6-0

- 4) Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-12 setting the Tax Millage at 10.85 for tax year 2024.

Moved: Ms. Coban Second: Ms. Carnevali Motion Carried: 6-0

- 5) Motion to Approve the 2024 Budget.

Moved: Mr. Stoddard Second: Mr. Simmons Motion Carried: 6-0

Property and Planning

- 1) Motion to Approve first payment to Garland \$48,886.05 for Borough Building Water Proofing.

Moved: Ms. Laskey

Second: Ms. Palmer

Motion Carried: 6-0

Strategic Planning – Nothing at this time.

Public Safety

- 1) Fire Department regionalization – Met with members of the fire department, the Chief and President, to discuss the regionalization. They showed no interest in joining with the currently merged Sharpsburg and Aspinwall. They are interested in going under an umbrella with Harmarville and Cheswick. O'Hara is interested in moving forward with a letter, that will come from O'Hara and Blawnox to ask for an official answer on regionalization.
- 2) Lighted Cross Walk Update/ Emergency Lighting – The Fire Department met with the State to discuss emergency lighting for in front of the fire department. They have not heard back yet. They also talked about bump outs and the state said they do not have to be done at the same time as the crosswalks are installed. The fire department would like a bump out across the street. The state also shared that they have another company we can meet with about the crosswalks, that were recently approved to be COSTARS.
- 3) Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-16 Setting the Police Pension for 2024 at '0'.
Moved: Mr. Simmons **Second: Ms. Palmer** **Motion Carried: 6-0**
- 4) Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-17 Appointing Elaine Palmer to the Civil Service Commission.
Moved: Ms. Laskey **Second: Mr. Stoddard** **Motion Carried: 6-0**

Public Works – Nothing at this time.

Community Events

- 1) Night of the Lights – Complete success, the children loved making their ornaments, there were plenty of cookies; everyone is happy that the event is over.
- 2) Best of Blawnox Update – The Cookie Tour was held the same day as Night of the Lights. It was also a big success. People were even bringing containers to collect their cookies to take home.
- 3) Centennial Committee Update – Last Tuesday Nox's had a special dinner and they made a donation to the centennial committee for every dinner they sold. There will be no meeting until next month.

Reports (Available Upon Request)

A. Manager's Report – In the packets – No questions

Manager Ulanowicz shared that the food pantry is doing really well.

B. Engineer's Report – Gordon Taylor – In the packets

- 1) Phase 1 Contract B PRV – Larry Lennon Jr. is working on this, he can reduce the project costs by using the existing vault. The design is basically done. We will need to go back to the DEP for a permit modification. Engineer Taylor hopes to be going to bid in February. They are going to ask for an extension for the grant.

- 2) We may want to talk about the Sanitary Project for the PA Small Water Grant and see if we can reappropriate the money to combine the grants and do more valves.

Old Business

LSA Submitted the 3 grant applications – Manager Ulanowicz will let everyone know when we get information.

201 Summit Drive Update – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the Borough has been made aware that Penn Pioneer have been granted ownership so they can now sell.

209 Summit Drive Update – Manager Ulanowicz shared that the bankruptcy case has been dismissed for abuse of the system. So now the owner is not allowed to file for the next 12 months.

New Business

Stormwater Access Easement 469 Walnut Street – The easement has been signed; they will be patching into our system. Foreman Belotti is working with them to make sure it is done correctly. Solicitor Dalfonso will be recording the easement so that future purchases have all the information they need about it.

Reorganization Meeting – We will be meeting January 2nd for reorganization with our regular meeting directly after. The meeting will be starting at 6:30 pm to allow Solicitor Dalfonso and Engineer Taylor to get everywhere they need to go.

Comments from the Public – Non-Agenda Items – No Questions.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kathy Ulanowicz
Borough Manager

Deborah E. Laskey
Borough Council President