

ROSSLYN FARMS BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
December 14, 2020

Meeting time: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Steve Tassarò.

Location: The meeting was held remotely via Zoom

Attendees: Council members Barbara Becker (2021), Jonathan Glance (2021), Chad Green (2023), Lee Griffin (2021), and David Robb (2021) were present. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer Dorothy Falk and Solicitor Daniel Conlon from Tucker Arensberg.

Regrets: Council member Jay Lear (2023), Mayor Jim Stover (2021)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Tassarò reported that council met in Executive Session immediately prior to the meeting to discuss issues related to human resources.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Robb made a motion to accept the minutes from November 9, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Green and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Marty O'Toole was present to observe.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Verizon franchise agreement: Solicitor Conlon summarized the status of the Verizon franchise agreement, which was negotiated by attorneys with Cohen & Grigsby on behalf of multiple municipalities from the local COG. A discussion followed. Ms. Becker made a motion that council make a resolution authorizing the approval the franchise agreement renewal as presented. Mr. Robb seconded the motion. and it passed unanimously.

Edgecliff right or way agreement: Solicitor Conlon recommended that the Edgecliff agreement ordinance be recorded with the Allegheny County Department of Real Estate as it deals with a borough right of way on private property. Mr. Glance made a motion that council approve the recording of the ordinance with the county, which includes a filing fee. Mr. Robb seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Stover was not present. President Tassarò gave the police report on his behalf. There was one incident involving a state police vehicle chase. The vehicle flipped, and the suspect fled on foot but was apprehended.

Via email, Mayor Stover requested council approval for end of year gifts to the Scott Township Police department: \$25 each to all officers, the secretary, the acting chief, and the superintendent for a total of \$550. Mr. Robb made a motion that council approve the gifts, which was seconded by Mr. Glance and approved unanimously.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Falk presented council with reports for Deposits, Profit and Loss, and Account Balances.

Disbursements: Ms. Falk presented council with a list of disbursements for bills received since the November meeting. She asked that two additional disbursements be added to the list for invoices that arrived today:

\$4,323.66 to MRM for worker's compensation premiums

\$113.00 to Approved Toilet Rental for porta-potty rental

A discussion followed. Ms. Griffin made a motion that council approve the disbursements as presented including the two additional invoices. Mr. Glance seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Bonuses: Mr. Robb reported that council in executive session discussed bonuses for current borough employees. Mr. Robb made a motion authorizing \$500 bonuses each to Charlie Smith, Brad Gossett, and Dorothy Falk and a \$250 bonus to Neil Gossett. Ms. Becker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2021 Budget – Draft C of the 2021 budget was distributed. Mr. Robb summarized the changes made since the previous draft. A discussion followed. Mr. Robb made a motion that council approve the 2021 Budget as presented. Ms. Becker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2021 Real Estate tax millage resolution – The real estate millage used to develop the 2021 budget was unchanged from 2020 at 8.0 mills. Mr. Green made a motion that council approve the 2021 millage rate at 8.0 mills, which was seconded by Mr. Glance and approved unanimously.

ALCOSAN rate increase resolution – Ms. Falk reported that ALCOSAN is increasing its quarterly service charge from \$17.86 to \$19.11 per account and its usage charge from \$8.50/k gallons to \$9.10/k gallons. Mr. Robb made a motion that the borough authorize Jordan Tax Services to pass along the new charges to the borough residents to recover the increased costs. Mr. Green seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Authorization to approve meeting schedule – Ms. Falk informed council that the 2021 meeting schedule needs to be advertised. Ms. Griffin made a motion that council authorize Ms. Falk to advertise the meeting schedule for 2021. Mr. Glance seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Code management (Green) – Mr. Green summarized current code enforcement activity.

Communication/Website (Green) – Mr. Green reported that the minutes and agenda from November have been posted. He will work with General Code to update some misdirected links from eCode 360.

Community Facilities (Becker)

Community Center Commission – Ms. Becker reported that the commission is still interested in a fire alarm system. Mr. Glance will look into it.

Finance/Grants (Robb) – Mr. Robb report that there is a Rosslyn Farms community enrichment fund through the rotary that may be an option for securing matching corporate grants to those who want to contribute to the borough.

Human Resources (Lear) – Mr. Robb reported that Mr. Lear will be meeting with the public works crew to discuss compensation.

Infrastructure (Tassaro) – Mr. Tassaro reported that leaves will be cleaned from the catch basins. A concrete culvert at the end of Park needs caulking.

Parks/Recreation (Griffin) – Ms. Griffin reported that there is a new tree on Kings Hwy going into the park. A discussion was held on Duquesne Light’s upcoming tree trimming. Mr. Robb will reach out and report back at the next meeting. Ms. Falk reported that Thornburg had similar concerns and were able to meet with Duquesne Light and its contractor. She will provide contact information to Ms. Griffin.

Waste/Recycling (Glance) – No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lights – A discussion was held on the streetlights that have been requested. Ms. Falk will follow up with the Duquesne Light contact and will forward his response to council.

Signs, traffic calming on Pilgrim: A discussion was held on the number and effectiveness of road signs in the borough. President Tassaro will put together a draft letter to LSSE to determine which are required and which might be removed or repositioned for greater effectiveness. The “curve ahead” sign is on hold pending LSSE’s response.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment to Planning Commission resolution: Tom Bosak has indicated his desire to resign from the planning commission. Mr. Robb made a motion that council accept Mr. Bosak’s resignation and appoint resident Nicole Fiorentino to finish the remainder of his term, which expires on December 31, 2023. Ms. Becker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Glance made a motion that council adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. Ms. Griffin seconded the motion, which carried.