GEISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 10, 2021

6:00

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:00 by President Scott with the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

**ROLL CALL:**

President Scott, Vice President Schrader, Eric Lindrose, Mike Oliver, Denny Munko, Mayor Mock and Attorney Carbonara were present. Alice Hummel was absent. Three visitors were present.

**AGENDA:**

Don Scott added a letter from DEP asking for authorization to send electronic approval for permits, which will be added under new business.

Bill Schrader made a motion to add the letter to the agenda, Denny Munko seconded and unanimously passed.

Motion by Denny Munko to approve the agenda as amended, Mike Oliver seconded and unanimously passed.

**MINUTES:** October 13, 2021 and October 25, 2021

Motion by Denny Munko to approve the minutes, seconded by Eric Lindrose and unanimously passed.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Motion by Denny Munko to approve, seconded by Bill Schrader and unanimously passed.

**APPROVE INVOICES AND PAY BILLS:**

Motion by Denny Munko to approve, Eric Lindrose seconded and unanimously passed.

**VISITORS:**

Earl Waddell was present requesting to be reappointed to the Highland Sewer & Water Authority Board.

Mark and Elaine Czyrnik were present asking for a street sign on the corner of Florida Ave. and Walters Ave. There are vehicles speeding on Walters Avenue. The worst time is around 4:00-5:00 p.m. He asked about the signs that show your speed, Don Scott stated will look into it.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Don Scott, Business Operations

Eric, Denny, Karen and Don have had two budget meeting so far and have a ways to go. When completed will forward to Council for review.

Bill Schrader, Public Works/Streets

PennDot has contacted him concerning plowing Ruth Way. Gary Paul stated it is an agility plan, PennDot will trade services for plowing. Ruth Way will be turned back to the Borough and receive liquid fuel money. Crack sealing on the streets is an option. Bill will get information and discuss at the November 22nd meeting. The trucks are inspected. Gary put curbing on Boise for the gentlemen that was at last meeting. Kevin Krouse is interested in working part time. A push mower with a bag will need to be purchased for the new grass areas at the round-a-bout. Bill stated if there was only grass in the center of the round-a-bout it would be less upkeep. Talked to Don and Att. Carbonara about closing the sidewalks during the winter months, Don said it will have to be investigated.

Mike Oliver, Personnel

Trying to get together the next two Mondays for negotiations.

Denny Munko, Ordinances NO REPORT

Eric Lindrose, Public Safety

Eric reported that the light on Bedford Street is not working, the timing is wrong going into round-a-bout.

**MAYORS REPORT:** NO REPORT

RICHLAND TWP. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Wes Meyers, Fire Chief, was present and reviewed the monthly report. Will attend the monthly meetings and supply monthly reports.

**MANAGERS RPORTS:**

Chief Zakucia reported there have been complaints concerning the no parking on streets December through April, Ordinance 455. Some of the signs stating so are missing and requested they be replaced. Rick Truscello will check the GIS for sign locations. Kim Mock stated there is a black car on Clearwater Street making it hard for school buses and traffic. Chief Zakucia will talk to the resident.

Karen Giebfried, Secretary/Treasurer

Reported that there are a couple monitors and old computers that need to be disposed of. Gary said they would take them to Ebensburg. Don said to keep a file with serial numbers.

Gary Paul, Lead Road Worker

Reported Swanks last day is next Friday on the round-a-bout. PennDot is putting brackets on the poles around the round-a-bout for the snowflakes.

Rick Truscello, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer

There is a Zoning Hearing scheduled for the 17th for Faith Chapel who want to erect a digital sign. The sign would be in Geistown and the Chapel is in Richland Twp. Charges were filed at the Magistrate against the owners of the properties that were not maintaining their lots and the Borough has been cutting. Don stated that the payroll burden should be added to the wages filed.

There was a complaint about the curbing at the along 2227 Bedford Street in front of Custom Cakes & Cookies. Gary spoke to PennDot and they do not have a permit for the driveway so will not do anything about it. Rick will notify the owner of the property which is St. Benedicts.

Rick submitted a summary of the major changes to the Zoning Ordinance and reviewed with Council. A public meeting is required to be held by the Planning Commission then a public hearing by Council on the new Ordinance. Eric asked about the Alwine Street properties that are zoned commercial and are residential, Rick will look at it. Denny asked Rick to look into the street opening fees. Rick will work on fee schedule.

**SOLICITORS REPORT:**

Attorney Carbonara reported Highland Sewer & Water fees will be increased by 5%. Asked the Borough to join the PA Municipal League for $450.00. The main benefit is labor contract negotiations and will be beneficial.

Denny Munko made a motion to join the PA Municipal League, Mike Oliver seconded and unanimously passed.

The Planning Commission approve the Rizzo to Hornick subdivision land merger. Attorney Carbonara reviewed and they have met the conditions.

Motion by Bill Schrader to approve the Linda A. Rizzo to Brian C. Hornick subdivision land merger, Denny Munko and unanimously passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Adopt Ordinance #540, round-a-bout Street name changes.

Denny Munko made a motion to adopt Ordinance #540, Bill Schrader seconded and unanimously passed.

RFP for garbage service, Attorney Carbonara stated at the last meeting a motion was made to have him review the bids. His recommendation is to reject based on only receiving two bids and knowledge of other municipalities paying significantly lower 2022 rate than the bids received.

Motion by Denny Munko to reject the bids from October’s meeting, Mike Oliver seconded and unanimously passed.

Motion by Mike Oliver to rebid and advertise the garbage RFP, Bill Schrader seconded and unanimously passed.

Don added that there will be a meeting on the 22nd to open and accept the new bids.

School of Music rent returned to $500.

Bill Schrader made a motion to reinstate the $500.00 rent effective January 2022, Denny Munko seconded and unanimously passed.

1st Summit Signatories.

Motion by Denny Munko to remove Jake Morisi and Bill Newcomer as signatories, Eric Lindrose seconded and unanimously passed.

Motion by Bill Schrader to authorize Karen Giebfried, Don Scott, Bill Schrader, Denny Munko and Eric Lindrose as authorized signatories.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Keller Engineers request for Part 1 time extension on Walters Ave project.

Denny Munko made a motion to authorize the extension with Don Scott signing, Eric Lindrose seconded and unanimously passed.

RFP for auditing services.

Motion to authorize Karen Giebfried to send the RFP, Eric Lindrose seconded and unanimously passed.

Appoint Council Person.

Mike Oliver stated he, Eric and Denny met with Lou Ann Gray, she has mediation skills, grant writing experience. His recommendation is to appoint Lou Ann Gray.

Motion by Mike Oliver to appoint Lou Ann Gray to the open Council, Bill Schrader seconded and unanimously passed.

DEP’s request for authorization to send permit approvals electronically.

Motion by Eric Lindrose to accept DEP’S electronic permit approvals, Bill Schrader seconded and unanimously passed.

President Scott adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues.

President Scott called the meeting back to order at 8:08 stating personnel and legal issues were discussed.

Chief Zakucia’s accumulated comp time was raised to 200 hours maximum.

A discussion on the speeding on Walters Avenue and other streets was discussed. It was decided to park the unmarked cruiser on various streets to attempt to slow vehicles down. Bill Schrader stated the magnetic police emblem be purchased and place on the unmarked to identify as police cruiser.

Don asked when the new truck will be in. Bill stated he talked to them and it possibly will not be in until next year.

Motion by Mike Oliver to adjourn at 8:12, Bill Schrader seconded and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Giebfried

Borough Secretary