

Venango Borough Council

21622 Erie Street, Venango, PA 16440

August 3, 2020 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Robert Thayer, Council President.

Council members present: Robert Thayer, Jessica Graf, Dayna Burchill, Ralph Smith, James Walsh, Erin Walsh, Dave McClintock, Walt Woodward and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Wellington.

Absent: None

Introduction of guests: John Woodward, Jr., Gail Waterhouse, Glenn & Mollie Brandt

Public Comment: Gail Waterhouse indicated she and her husband are working with Gary Johnson, zoning officer, to obtain a shed permit. The zoning officer informed Mr. and Mrs. Waterhouse that they need to consolidate their two properties for the permit to be issued as requested. Mrs. Waterhouse inquired about the process to submit a zoning variance request.

Mr. and Mrs. Brandt requested clarification regarding who owns the trees between the road and sidewalk. The understanding is that the homeowner is responsible for these trees. President Thayer indicated that the Borough solicitor is working on a Tree Ordinance. The Brandt's also brought to Council's attention that there is a hazardous drain cover that needs to be repaired.

Mr. John Woodward, Jr. again asked if council member, Erin Walsh, was truly a resident of Venango Borough. Miss Walsh and her father, Mayor James Walsh, both confirmed she is a long-time resident of Venango Borough. Council considers this matter closed.

Administrative:

*Motion: approve minutes of July 6, 2020 meeting. So moved by: Ralph Smith; Seconded by: Dave McClintock
Vote: 7 In favor; None Opposed - Motion passed unanimously by those assembled.

*Motion: approve Financial Report for July '20 & new bills. So moved by: Dave McClintock; Seconded by: Dayna Burchill
Vote: 7 In favor; None Opposed - Motion passed by those assembled.

Old Business:

None discussed.

New Business:

- Dave McClintock asked if Council would consider sending the annual \$2,000 donation to the Venango VFD sooner than December 2020.

Council paused the meeting at 7:38 p.m. and reconvened at 7:41 p.m.

- Dave McClintock and Ralph Smith inquired about the 2020/2021 snow plowing season.

*Motion: approve Ralph Smith's snow plowing proposal of \$40 per hour. So moved by Dave McClintock; Seconded by Jessica Graf. Vote: 6 In favor; None Opposed; 1 Abstention - Motion passed by those assembled.

Open Issues:

- Jessica Graf gave an update for the Junk Committee. Letters were hand delivered or mailed to those residents still not in compliance with the Venango Junk Ordinance for issues reported in 2020. Residents have been given a certain time frame to comply before being reported to the code enforcement officer, Brian Boyce.
- Bob Thayer gave a report on the John Woodward hearing. The Woodward's won their appeal and the property has been cleaned.

- Mr. Thayer also reported that the Venango VFD has been informed of the speeding complaint and were asked to drive more slowly in the neighborhood. Mr. Gill was also informed of the speeding complaint against him and asked to slow down.

Visitors were asked to leave the meeting and the Executive Session began at 7:52 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:11 p.m. and Mr. McClintock checked the parking lot for guests; Mrs. Waterhouse and Mr. Woodward, Jr. returned.

Other Business:

- President Thayer indicated that he would be asking the Borough Solicitor to attend the next Council meeting. He asked council members to think of questions. Topics to include trees, dilapidated houses, and junk in the Borough.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:14 p.m. by Ralph Smith, seconded by Dayna Burchill.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Wellington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Wellington
Venango Borough Secretary/Treasurer