

AGENDA MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2022

The Agenda Meeting of the Borough of Baldwin Council was called to order by President John Egger at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the following Council answered to roll call:

Mr. James Behers
Mrs. Patricia Boyer
Mrs. Erin Brown
Mr. Raymond Dee
Mrs. Denise Maiden
Mrs. Marianne Conley – Vice President
Mr. John Egger – President
Mr. David Depretis – Mayor - Absent
Mr. Jason Stanton - Engineer
Mrs. Ashley Wagner - Solicitor
Mr. Robert T. Firek - Borough Manager
Chief Tony Cortazzo

AUDIENCE AGENDA: Agenda Items only. There were none.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Stanton reviewed the monthly report dated March 3, 2022 and provided brief updates on the following items:

Blossom Hill and Clelia/Charlotte Sanitary Sewer System:

- Construction to begin after completion of Hazelhurst Ave. emergency sewer repair.

Sanitary Sewer System (Streets Run/ALCOSAN):

- Phase 2 consent order was received from Allegheny County.
- Car Load Express has issued the License Agreement to the Borough.

Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP):

- Bids were opened on March 7, 2022 for: Breckenridge 1 and 2, Stream Restoration associated with Breckenridge 2, and Cathell.

2022 Road Program:

- Final scope of work has been selected, with bid advertisement release slated for March 25, 2022.
- Bid opening anticipated for May 3, 2022.

Municipal Building Improvements

- Pre construction meeting was held February 18, 2022.
- Notices to Proceed have been issued.

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- Construction schedules are pending.

CDBG Year 47 Demolition Contract:

- Bid opening will be held at SHACOG on March 17, 2022

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mr. Stanton. There were none.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Ashley Wagner had no items for the public meeting. All items were for executive session as they pertained to legal and personnel matters.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Wagner. There were none.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Depretis was not in attendance. He will provide his report next week.

Mr. Egger asked if the Chief had anything to add.

Chief Cortazzo requested that Council authorize the Civil Service Commission to begin the testing process for the hiring of two new police officers to fill a vacancy and future vacancy. If authorized, May 3, 2022 is the anticipated date for physical agility testing and May 5, 2022 for the written exam. Council approved this request.

Chief Cortazzo provided a sample of the survey to council which is randomly mailed to those involved in routine Police matter calls, as a means of soliciting feedback on police performance. At this time, 46% of surveys are returned with an average score of 3.5 -3.69, out of a maximum score of 4.0.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for the Chief. There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

Banner Community

- Baldwin Borough has been named an ALOM Banner Community for the 7th consecutive year.

Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh (BCAP):

- An outreach event has been planned for April 27, 2022.

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Mr. Dee asked what percentage of the Baldwin Borough Community is Bhutanese. Mr. Firek replied that the percentage is slightly under 20%, with the school district having closer to 30% of students being from the Bhutanese community.

Sanitary Sewer Sale:

- PFM forwarded the agreement to move on to Phase 2 and 3, which will be forwarded to Mrs. Ashley Wagner, Solicitor, for review.

Mr. Dee asked if this process will be open for public comment. Mr. Firek stated that this is a lengthy process with several opportunities for public input.

South Hills Animal Control Cooperative (SHACC):

- Annual meeting scheduled for March 29, 2022.

Walton Road Proposed Traffic Ordinance:

Mr. Firek and Chief Cortazzo provided responses from the residents who spoke at the February 15, 2022 Council meeting on the proposed Walton Rd. traffic ordinance to their concerns/suggestions. The Chief and Mr. Firek included their rebuttal responses. The points discussed:

- Installation of traffic calming measures have strict requirements, which Walton Rd. does not meet, such as a minimum of 1,000 cars per day using the roadway.
- Speed humps can not be installed due to either the road grade being in excess of 8% or multiple bends/curves which do not allow for the required minimum radius of greater than 300ft.
- Garbage collection route can be adjusted to accommodate one way traffic, per Waste Management.
- The Post Office has not replied to Mr. Firek after several attempts to discuss changes to the mail route if the resolution is passed.
- If a “Local Traffic Only” sign is erected, the Borough would lose Liquid Fuels funding for that roadway. There is no way to prove who is “local” and who is not, which makes the sign unenforceable.
- The speed limit is already below what is legal. If the speed is changed, it would have to be raised to 25 mph to comply with the law. It cannot be lowered below the existing 20 mph.
- Widening the roadway is not realistic due to very high cost, property taking and logistics.

Mr. Egger asked for the Chief’s recommendation. The Chief stands by his original opinion, to change the road to one way. If Council decides to vote against the ordinance, the Chief recommends that the area have new signage. Mr. Dee asked

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if further explanation can be given to the residents so they can better understand the Borough's reasoning for not installing a guiderail.

Rt. 51 Overlay District:

- A public hearing will be held at the March 15, 2022 Council meeting.
- The plan will appear on the April 19, 2022 agenda for Council approval.

2022 Pool Admissions:

- The family rate in other communities covers 2 adults and the children of the immediate family. The Borough can adjust their family rate to match these guidelines.

Mrs. Maiden asked if the family pass rate will be increased. Mr. Firek answered that the resident family plan would remain at \$155 but the non-resident family plan would be increased to \$250, as previously discussed. He will provide an updated cost sheet at the April meeting so it can be finalized.

Council Meeting Date Change:

- May meetings will need to be moved due to Election Day. Council agreed to move the agenda meeting to May 10, 2022 and the regular meeting to May 18, 2022.

Bond Refinance:

- Refinancing a General Obligation Bond through PNC will save the Borough approximately \$140,000. PNC representatives will attend the April 12, 2022 Council agenda meeting to provide an overview.

Local Government Academy (LGA) Intern Grant:

- The grant application was denied due to a large number of applicants.

Meeting Minutes Revision:

- At the February 15, 2022 Council meeting, a resident asked that the meeting minutes from the December 21, 2021 meeting be amended to reflect that flooding occurred on his property on "July 11, 2019." The Audio recording was reviewed and in the audio recording from the December 21, 2021 meeting, the resident only stated the date of flooding as "July 11." Therefore, the meeting minutes will be amended to reflect this.

Verizon Services:

- Mr. Firek cancelled services with Verizon for old lines/services that are not in use, which will save the Borough approximately \$10,000 annually.

Events Advisory Committee:

- Community Day is scheduled for June 4, 2022 with the race starting at 12:00 pm this year, instead of 10 am.
- Summer Youth Camp is being discussed for this summer and is in the planning stages.

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- Farmer's Market details are being worked out for this Summer.

Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) Trail:

- GAP Trail representatives have applied for funding with DCNR, but funds must go to the municipality and not the Friends of the Riverfront. As such, Friends wants to have a discussion with Borough in the future regarding owning the property and leasing it back to Friends. Mr. Firek noted the concern regarding maintenance responsibilities of the new amenities and other concerns to be ironed out. Further details/discussions will be had at a later date on this issue.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mr. Firek. None were asked.

FINANCE

Mrs. Maiden provided a copy of the financial report for review. She will be asking for approval of the reports at next week's meeting.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Maiden. None were asked.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Dee will give his report next week.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mr. Dee. None were asked.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Lubin provided a few updates to Council:

MS4 PRP Project:

- Mr. Lubin has met with several residents regarding easements for the project and has had a favorable response.

Elm Leaf Park Ph. III:

- Since last meeting, the contractor has: installed concrete steps, formed perimeter curbing, graded playground area, installed stone walking trail, poured foundation for shade structures, began installation of veneer siding to concession stand, and laid out the fencing and retaining wall.

O&M Sewer Plan:

- Mr. Lubin is currently reviewing historical tapes of sewer lines to ensure all lines have been televised.

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Salt Orders:

- The Borough is 200 tons short of their SHACOG minimum requirement for the season.
- Costars order minimum has been met.
- There were 5 overtime call out days in February.
- Higher rain totals in February caused run off and ice issues.

Mr. Lubin provided photos to Council showing the recent emergency sewer line repair on Hazellhurst Ave.

Mr. Dee asked for the cost of this repair. Mr. Firek replied that it is anticipated to be over six figures, but the exact amount has not been finalized.

Mr. Lubin presented maps to Council which illustrated the road paving projects that have taken place in the Borough, including those done by the utility companies, from 2017 – 2021.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mr. Lubin. Mrs. Conley asked if there was a plan to repair cracks and seal roads that were recently paved. Mr. Firek answered that the Borough roads are being assessed to see what fits into the budget. The past paving contract companies have 18 months to seal the roads that they have paved once completed.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mrs. Boyer will give her report next week.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Boyer. None were asked.

ZONING AND PLANNING

Mrs. Brown Provided the Following Update:

- The Planning Commission Meeting to be held March 14, 2022 has been cancelled as there are no items on the agenda.
- The Zoning Hearing Board Meeting to be held March 17, 2002 has been cancelled as there are no items on the agenda.

Fees collected for February 2022: \$4,307.61 with 65 permits issued.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Brown. None were asked.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Behers provided his report:

BEMS	231 calls	7.2 minutes response time
Baldwin 105	40 calls	5.35 minutes response time
Option	43 calls	6.10 minutes response time
South Baldwin	17 calls	7.25 minutes response time

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mr. Behers. None were asked.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Conley has nothing to report this week.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Conley. None were asked.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Maiden asked if there was any interest from Council members in attending the PA State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) conference from May 22, 2022 – May 25, 2022 in Hershey, PA.

AUDIENCE AGENDA: Any issue pertaining to Borough Business. There were none.

M-1 *Mrs. Conley made the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters; second by Mr. Dee. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.*

M-2 *Mrs. Conley made a motion to adjourn from executive session; second by Mrs. Maiden. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Dee made Council aware of a complaint that he received from a resident asking about truck traffic along Songo Street and the small dead-end portion of Louisa Street and the use of property at the end of Louisa Street. Mr. Firek noted that property is the Borough's and is used for temporary storage of materials and once a project is completed the materials are hauled out of that area. Additionally, the Police and Fire use that area for training purposes approximately once a year each. The area is kept for these purposes and will continue to be utilized for these purposes saving the Borough thousands of dollars yearly.

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M-3 *Mrs. Conley made the motion to adjourn; second by Mrs. Maiden. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Respectively submitted,

BOROUGH OF BALDWIN

Robert T. Firek,
Borough Manager