

Borough of Pitcairn Council
Workshop Meeting
Minutes
April 22, 2019
7:00 pm

Meeting called to order – President Michael Tobias

Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Moment of Silence for the passing of William Tatters.

Roll Call:

Doug Crothers

Kevin Dick

Cammeo Farally

Dona Galia absent.

Lorraine Myers

Jim Rullo

Mike Tobias

Mayor Stevick

All others present.

Council held an Executive Session at 6:30 to discuss a legal item.

Citizen Comment

Howard Little of Wall Avenue said his basement takes on water from the sewer backing up, felt tree roots are in the line and asked the status of the sewer project. Mr. Little went on to suggest speed bumps to curtail speeding on Wall Avenue. Ms. Dietz was directed to look into the project and update Mr. Little. He thanked the Borough for paving the alleys. A lengthy discussion took place between the public, Council and Chief Farally regarding various ways to enforce the speed limit. Some of the suggestions: install speed humps, bumps, scoring the road to vibrate the vehicles, positioning a police vehicle there, a surveillance camera. Current measures: speed dolly, signage, Chief said they pull drivers over regularly, agreed there could be more action in the early morning. Chief Farally did not agree with dedicating one camera to catch speeders and explained why, adding LPR cameras are very expensive, recommended the speed bumps. Virginia Crothers suggested applying for a grant for the camera. Staggered speed bumps, and types were discussed. Jack Bova felt the speed bumps were the best solution, did not think it would cause a problem for the snow plows, emergency vehicles. Mr. Tobias said Council will speak to the Engineer and the Road Dept.

Bev Shearer asked if Rock Alley would ever be paved. Mr. Tobias said perhaps in the future. She asked for four loads of gravel from the Road Dept. Mr. Tobias said he would discuss her request with the Foreman.

Betty Lang asked the status of the flood control project, the easements, and is the grant for the project enough? Ms. Dietz reported only the railroad easement is outstanding. Ms. Lang described big trucks going down Brinton because they cannot use Center Avenue. She asked when it will be repaired. Mr. Tobias said the issue now is cost. Mr. Dick: we have received \$525,000 for the repair of Center. Evelyn Marto felt the grant to repair Center Avenue should not be transferred to Hillside Avenue. Mr. Dick: Council did not approve transferring it. There is not enough money for either road. Regarding the cost of the flood project, Jack Bova said Mr. Vecchio promoted the project as costing about \$8.7M, Pitcairn's cost was said to be \$1.2M, \$500,000 in grants reducing Pitcairn's cost to \$750,000 which he said our workers would do.

Resident Josephus Cartieri, who had worked for a security camera company said his former boss is willing to donate cameras and NVR and asked the Chief to speak with him after the meeting. Mr. Cartieri complained a car he owns was towed on Center Avenue during the paving project and the fees are costly. Chief Farally and Mayor Stevick responded: Magills sets their fees, his vehicle has been tagged in the past and wasn't towed, signs were posted a week in advance, put on Facebook, attempts were made to contact owners and the vehicle impeded the paving company.

Peg Yagatich complained of people entering the creek by a path created for emergency creek repair. She

asked if it could be blocked. She complained of people smoking marijuana down there. Mr. Tobias asked Ms. Dietz to talk to the Foreman about blocking the path somehow. Mr. Cartieri said he has witnessed drug dealings and smells marijuana.

Mayor Betsy Stevick

No report.

Personnel – Dona Galia

Mr. Tobias announced Mrs. Galia is absent to transport her son to college.

Streets – Mike Tobias

Mrs. Myers motioned to approve paving project change order for Wall Avenue. Seconded by Mr. Crothers; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Myers motioned to approve paving of Chestnut Alley between Hilltop Auto and Golick Motors. Seconded by Mrs. Farally; motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation – Cammeo Farally

Mrs. Farally thanked the Park and Recreation Committee, everyone who volunteered and attended the Easter Egg Hunt. In spite of the weather, it was a success.

Finance and Economic Development – Jim Rullo

Mr. Rullo motioned to advertise an amendment to zoning ordinance regulating wireless antennae. Seconded by Mr. Crothers; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rullo motioned to appoint Cohen Law Group to draft the zoning amendment. Their expertise is in this industry. Seconded by Mr. Crothers. Roll call vote resulted in Mr. Dick voting no; motion carried five to one.

Mr. Rullo announced Council is in receipt of the Borough owned property appraisals. Mr. Dick asked if Council is considering listing the properties. Mr. Rullo: I don't know, we have all just received the appraisals so need to talk about that.

Health and Welfare – Kevin Dick

Code Enforcement Officer John Prucnal began a discussion of how to better address trash problems. He suggested requiring trash containers with an attached lid as opposed to the current ordinance permitting bags. Mr. Prucnal: we should require any building with four or more units have a dumpster. He described the chronic trash from rental units in Merchants Alley, Broadway, Highland and other areas. He has been citing the tenants as well as landlords. Mr. Prucnal offered to ask the Solicitor to draft an amendment and suggest models from other boroughs. Our ordinance allows us to cite the landlord and we are doing it. He reported there will be a Hearing regarding occupancy inspections at the Mon Jon on Broadway.

Mr. Dick announced a demolition hearing and Special Meeting on May 13 at 6:30. Regular Meeting to follow.

Electric- Lorraine Myers

Nothing tonight.

Public Safety – Doug Crothers

Mr. Crothers motioned to approve sending Chief Farally to Harrisburg for a conference, the Borough to pay \$540. Seconded by Mr. Dick. Question on the motion: Mr. Tobias asked about paying for his meals. Mr. Crothers: he is using his vacation time. Mrs. Myers: he should be compensated for travel and meals paid for since he is using his vacation for education. Chief Farally: it is 20 hours of training and I go every year. Mr. Dick: don't use your vacation time. Mr. Tobias: meals within reason and hotel for two nights should be paid for. Mr. Crothers amended his motion to include everything mentioned. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief Report

Nothing more.

Mr. Tobias reminded everyone of the Janie Summers Memorial community Clean Up times and locations. Mr. Dick added, you must have photo ID to prove Pitcairn residency.

Mrs. Myers mentioned Council needs to delay their May 13th Meeting to attend the Women's and Lions Clubs Reciprocity Dinner.

Mr. Dick motioned to Adjourn at 8:00 pm, seconded by Mrs. Myers. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Dietz