

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND
ISSUES, REVIEW & FINANCE WORK SESSION**

February 2, 2017

A special meeting of the St. Clair Borough Council was held to appoint a new council member and to review issues and finance on Thursday, February 2, 2017 beginning at 7:00 pm.

In attendance were council members: Joann Brennan, John Burke, Thomas Dempsey, William Dempsey, Michael Petrozino, James Larish and Mayor Richard Tomko.

Others in attendance included Deputy Superintendent William Umbenhaur, Al Fryer, Electric Light Department Superintendent Robert Petrozino, Treasurer Carol Sutzko, Acting Sergeant Joseph Leskin, Fire Chief Frank Uhrin, and Joe Hafey.

Pledge of Allegance

Councilwoman Brennan led council in a prayer.

Public Comment

Al Fryer requested consideration be given that the green arrow at the traffic signal on Route 61 and the Terry Rich Boulevard, traveling south, be changed to turn only on green arrow. His four-year old relative was recently killed in a vehicular accident at the intersection.

Council President Larish responded by stating a grant application has been submitted to update all the borough's traffic signals.

Council President James Larish called an executive session of council to discuss personnel issues.

The executive session adjourned at 7:07 pm as council reconvened.

T. Dempsey, seconded by Petrozino, nominated Thomas Adamchick to fill the vacancy on council.

Burke, seconded by Brennan, nominated John Houseknecht for the position.

Council President James Larish closed nominations. A ROLL CALL VOTE was taken with the following result:

BRENNAN-Houseknecht, BURKE- Houseknecht, T. DEMPSEY-Adamchick, W. DEMPSEY- Houseknecht, PETROZINO – Adamchick and LARISH-Houseknecht. John Houseknecht was appointed to Council.

Council reviewed the Christmas decoration catalogs. Larish like the decorations with the reindeer in the center. Petrozino thought every other one should be different. The selection process was deferred until the February council meeting.

Deputy Superintendent William Umbenhaur reported the black dump truck, recently purchased from the township, is in need of repairs. It requires a new box and the four wheel drive is not working properly. The East Norwegian pickup truck will be available for the title transfer. The township's new truck will be arriving this week.

Council President Larish inquired if the street sweeper is working. Umbenhaur replied yes.

Home Depot donated six foot tall fencing to the borough. Some of the fencing will be erected in the borough garage's parking lot providing additional security.

Council discussed repairing the black dump truck's box. Repairs to the vehicle would cost approximately \$2,400. On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, to buy the box for the truck and get it put on. The motion was approved.

Umbenhaur reported the spindle is broke on the red dump truck. The part has been purchased for \$250.00 and the vehicle will be on the road tomorrow.

Electric Light Department Superintendent Robert Petrozino requested Rudy Grubbs be promoted from assistant lineman to the lineman's rate.

Consider approving the purchase of 76 LED light fixtures for \$195.00 a piece for a total of \$14,820.00. This will allow seven more streets to be converted in town.

Permission is being sought to close the office for one-half day on April 5th and all day April 6, so the staff can attend Edmunds billing training.

Fire Chief Frank Uhrin spoke on the importance of our first responders here in town. He requested council grant permission to our first responders, who are borough employees, to respond to emergencies during working hours. Mayor Tomko supported the fire chief's comments. It is vital support is given to the volunteers. Council President Larish deferred any more discussion on the subject until executive session under personnel business.

Mayor Tomko reported last night the Pennsylvania State Police, in conjunction with local police departments, raided a garage in New Castle Township. Several escaped the raid and ended up at 227 Arnot Street. This is the property that is a persistent drug problem. The mayor's phone rang all morning from the local residents in that neighborhood complaining about the drug situation. These residents are scared and very concerned over the deterioration of their neighborhood. The borough Nuisance Ordinance, #393 is being reviewed. This ordinance will then be used to apply pressure on the owner of the building to alleviate this situation. Sgt. Leskin reported 20-arrests were made out of this building. The problem is the home owner, who is her father, continues to pay the bills even though the building is deteriorating.

Roland Price Borough Secretary presented the Borough Secretary's Notes. Recycling tonnage collected in 2016 is 254.70 tons. The recycling tipping fee ranged between \$20.00 to \$22.00 per ton.

The Benicon Health Fair conference is scheduled for Thursday, March 9th and Friday, March 10th. The office manager and myself request permission to attend the event. Since we are self-insured, it is vital we keep up with the proposed changes in the health care field. Lodging for rooms and one meal is requested.

The Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau is holding a private sale on two properties.
218 N. Nichols St. to Esther J. Mead for \$1,303.46. Mark Warner is the prior owner.
300 N. Nichols St. to Michael J. Kesler for \$1,517.00. The prior owner was Joseph Salak
The borough has until March 6, 2017, to oppose the sales.

Funds were allocated in the 2017-budget for a new copier. We would like to proceed with it purchase.

DCED will be monitoring the HOME program files for a three day period on February 15th, 16th and 17th. Candidates are needed for the current HOME program targeting the north ward. An article will be placed in this month's newsletter.

Earlier in January, DCED requested additional information for the new HOME program application with the target area being borough-wide. A lengthy response was made to them outlying our capabilities in administering the program. In response to the question what type of leverage will the borough provide, our response included the small amount of Act 137 funds. We will be making application for these funds through Schuylkill Community Action

this spring. In addition, we included the council's commitment by investing in the community by applying for and receiving grant awards for playground improvements, demolition of abandoned structures and replacement of old bridges.

Additional guidance was received from the Schuylkill County Demolition Office in regard to the demolition funding. The municipality must either own the property or have a court order. St. Clair is interested in demolishing five structures. One of which is 311 Broad Street, which is in really poor condition. Since it is under the conservership act I asked Solicitor Brennan to secure a court order for us to proceed. The remaining four structures are being investigated for ownership.

Third Street Playground Renovations

Engineer James Tohill provided a list of items to be completed in conjunction with the playground renovation project. I will be working on this list this month.

Jim Tohill and Brian Baldwin have been discussing possible grant application projects. They think the Borough could apply for a grant just to replace the existing play structure within the Third Street playground since it is damaged and aged. This would be a nice completion of the entire playground (except for some fence that is not being replaced). DCNR representatives will be attending a meeting next week hosted by Senator Argall's office. Brian thought a site visit to our facilities to discuss the proposed project may be in order.

Other action needed at the February Council Meeting:

- Exonerate Tax Collector William Umbenhaur from collecting the delinquent taxes.
- Hire Vickie Keys as a school crossing guard.
- Authorize the fire police Ed Lescher to assist Pottsville fire police for the Yuengling's Light Lager Jog on April 22, 2017 for the purpose of traffic control.

An executive session is requested.

On a motion made by Petrozino, seconded by Larish, to promote Rudy Grubbs from Assistant Lineman to Lineman effective the next pay period. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT: BRENNAN-YES, BURKE- YES, T. DEMPSEY-YES, W. DEMPSEY-YES, PETROZINO – YES AND LARISH-YES. The motion was approved.

Councilman Dempsey requested an inventory of large items be completed and the information provided to the borough secretary for the next council session.

Council President Larish called an executive session at 7:56 pm to discuss personnel issues.

The executive session adjourned at 8:22 pm.

On a motion made by Petrozino, seconded by W. Dempsey to offer conditional employment to Vickie Keys as a school crossing guard pending her passing a physical examination and a background check; approved.

The bills and claims submitted by Treasurer Carol Sutzko were reviewed.

On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm; approved.

**Roland Price
Borough Secretary**