

**JUNE COUNCIL MEETING**

June 6, 2017

The monthly meeting of the St. Clair Borough Council was held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, in Council Chambers, St. Clair Municipal Building, 16 S. Third Street, St. Clair. The meeting began at 7:00 pm.

Answering the roll call were council persons: Joann Brennan, John Burke, Thomas Dempsey, William Dempsey, John Houseknecht, Michael Petrozino, and James Larish. Mayor Richard Tomko was absent.

Also present included Solicitor Edward Brennan, Engineer Brian Baldwin, Treasurer Carol Sutzko, Police Chief William Dempsey, Marty Salada, Joe Haffey, Robert Keip, Al Bravish, Code Official Michele Brestowski, and Mike Homa.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilmember Joann Brennan led council in a prayer.

Copies of the minutes of the previous council meetings have been given to borough council members and Mayor Tomko, are there any errors or corrections? The minutes stand approved.

**Public Comment**

Al Bravish attended the meeting representing his brother Monsignor Bravish of 239 Arnot Street. In 2015-a water leak was repaired at the monsignor's residence. Since then water has been trickling into his basement. It is unknown where the water is originating, but Mr. Bravish is requesting the street in front of the home be sealed. Borough officials felt the water leak may not be fully repaired and a small amount of water may be seeping into the monsignor's basement. Al Bravish was referred to the Schuylkill Municipal Water Authority who may have equipment to determine if the leak persists.

Martin Salada of 322 E. Railroad Street returned to council complaining the neighbor next door is still living in the building even though it is posted. They were partying in the building on Memorial Day. After discussion, Council decided to have the structure boarded up limiting access to the prior owner.

**MAYOR'S REPORT- No Report****BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Brennan requested an executive session to discuss labor issues.

A meeting is scheduled with Borough Secretary Roland Price and Code Official Michele Brestowski in June to discuss dilapidated properties. If need be District Justice Plachko will schedule hearings to hear the cases against cited property owners.

On July 6<sup>th</sup> the St. Clair Planning Commission will meet to review the sketch plans submitted by Coal Creek Commerce Center and the zoning map amendment submitted by Leed Foundry. Council will hold a public meeting later on in the meeting to take public comments on the amendments to the zoning ordinance.

Dates to hold the police arbitration hearing will be discussed in executive session.

Solicitor Brennan provided the borough secretary a proposed ordinance on nuisance properties that is to be distributed among council members.

Solicitor Brennan discussed codifying the borough ordinances into one book.

The solicitor has been placing liens on delinquent electric customer's properties. A new ruling has been handed down that the landlord must now be notified of the delinquency.

Solicitor Brennan recommended, under old business, to adopt a resolution adopting the changes to the Police Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

On a motion made by Burke, seconded by T. Dempsey, to accept the report; approved.

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

On a motion made by T. Dempsey, seconded by Houseknecht, to accept the report; approved.

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

#### **STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT-No report**

#### **ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT REPORT**

On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, Borough council unanimously approved the report and it was made part of the minutes by reference

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

On a motion made by Petrozino, seconded by W. Dempsey, borough council unanimously approved the report and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

#### TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, borough council unanimously approved the report and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

On a motion made by Houseknecht, seconded by T. Dempsey, borough council unanimously approved the report and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

Chief Dempsey stated since the Police Civil Service Rules will be amended, council should consider authorizing the civil service board to set an eligibility test date.

#### ZONING DEPARTMENT REPORT

On a motion made by T. Dempsey, seconded by W. Dempsey, the report was unanimously approved by Borough Council and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

On a motion made by Petrozino, seconded by W. Dempsey, the report was unanimously approved by Borough Council and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

#### CODE OFFICIAL REPORT

On a motion made by Houseknecht, seconded by T. Dempsey, the report was unanimously approved by Borough Council and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau requests Borough Council consider approving or disapproving the private sale of several properties by July 10th.

On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by Petrozino, to accept communications; approved.

### OLD BUSINESS

On a motion made by Petrozino, seconded by Houseknecht, to amend the existing Police Civil Service Rules by adopting the following Resolution.

**BE IT RESOLVED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017, that the rules and regulations governing the St. Clair Police Civil Service Rules and Regulations be amended as follows:

To change the age and residency requirements to read 21 rather than 15.

To add a provision of Borough Council may appoint an acting sergeant pending an exam which would be a temporary appointment based on manpower needs.

Change the examination and grading procedures so the written and oral test is weighted on a fifty-fifty bases rather than a seventy-thirty as they are now.

A passing grade on the written exam would be sixty percent and the written test would be performed by an appropriate testing agency.

The percentage of weighting for the testing would also be changed for promotions.

Part-time officers would be removed from under the civil service rules.

To add a requirement that in order to take the civil service test the individual must already be certified as a municipal police officer in the State of Pennsylvania.

Council approved the motion.

In regard to the replacement of the borough garage roof bid, Councilman Petrozino made a motion to take the bid for \$39,000 provided by Budget. The motion was seconded by W. Dempsey. **A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT: BRENNAN-YES, BURKE- YES, T. DEMPSEY-YES, W. DEMPSEY-YES, HOUSEKNECHT-YES, PETROZINO – YES, AND LARISH-YES.** The motion was approved.

Council President James Larish asked council to consider projects for the County's non-entitlement, CDBG grant application.

On a motion made by Petrozino, seconded by Burke, to advertise for the sale of the borough property on South Nichols Street, Parcel #62-05-0279.000; approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**On a motion made by Houseknecht, seconded by Burke, to authorize the Light Department crew to attend lineman training at Weatherly; approved.**

**On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, to accept the proposal to purchase five overhead doors from Shank Door for a price of \$2,910; approved.**

**On a motion made by T. Dempsey, seconded by Brennan, to order 10,000 feet of fire alarm wire from Power and Telephone for a price of \$2,900, A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT: BRENNAN-YES, BURKE- YES, T. DEMPSEY-YES, W. DEMPSEY-YES, HOUSEKNECHT-YES, PETROZINO – YES, AND LARISH-YES. The motion was approved.**

**The Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau request council to approve or disapprove the private sales of the following properties. Due date for response is July 10th.**

**On a motion made by Petrozino, seconded by Burke to approve the tax sale of the property located on 248 N. Nichols Street in the amount of \$1,159.55 to Ester J. Mead on the condition that the lien in the amount of \$685 be paid; approved.**

**On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by Brennan, to approve the tax sale of the property located at 13 S. Second Street, in the amount of \$2,250 to T & D Southeast PA LLC on the condition that the judgment of \$2,264.06 is paid; approved.**

**On a motion made by Houseknecht, seconded by T. Dempsey, to approve the sale of the property located at 115 S. Nichols Street, bid amount \$3,104.12, bidder is Michael Scanlan, Jr. on the condition that the judgment in the amount of \$413.56 is paid; approved.**

**On a motion made by Burke, seconded by Houseknecht, to approve the sale of the property located at 120 E. Patterson Street, Bid amount \$1,721.00, the Bidders name is Joshua E. Carmelo on the condition that the judgment of \$727.45 is paid; approved.**

**On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by Brennan, to approve the tax sale of the property located at 329 N. Mill Street, bid amount \$852.76, bidders name is Michael J. Kessler on the condition that the judgment in the amount of \$354.21 is paid; approved.**

**On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, to engage an intern to conduct a Blight Survey in the Borough of St. Clair.**

- The purpose would be to survey the town for abandoned or unoccupied structures and to create a list of these properties
- Determine if the condition of the structure is a hazard to the community
- Provide information to the code official for possible investigation (major issues only)

The motion was approved.

Borough council authorized the borough work force to clean or paint the north side of the municipal building facing the neighbor's property, Mrs. Troutman.

Council considered purchasing a street sealer or engage a firm to seal the streets this year. After much consideration the issue was tabled for further study.

Council discussed Jessica Lane's letter requesting placement of a sign on North Front Street. After discussion, the borough secretary was directed to contact Ms. Lane for further information.

On a motion made by Petrozino, seconded by W. Dempsey, to authorize the Police Civil Service Commission to set a date and testing procedure to establish an eligibility list; approved.

Council President James Larish announced on June 14th the Cressona Band will hold a concert in Boone Park honoring veterans and first responders. The event starts at 6:45 and it is open to the public.

And, remind everyone the July Monthly Council meeting will be held on Thursday, July 6 beginning at 7:30 pm.

Council President Larish called an executive session at 8:20 pm to discuss union negotiations.

The executive session adjourned at 8:43 pm.

On a motion made by Houseknecht, seconded by W. Dempsey, to authorize the proper borough officials to sign the Memorandum of Agreement in regard to the Police Bargaining Unit wage increase; approved.

On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by Houseknecht, to pay all bills and claims properly approved by borough council; approved.

On a motion made by Houseknecht, seconded by W. Dempsey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm, council approved the motion.

**Roland Price, Jr.**  
**Borough Secretary**



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June 6, 2017

Mr. James Larish  
Council President  
St. Clair Borough Council  
16 S Third Street  
St. Clair, PA 17970

**Subject: Consulting Engineer's Report (CER)  
Project No. 30839.02**

Dear Mr. Larish:

The following is the status of engineering services performed by our firm as of this date:

**30839.02, Task 5 – Zoning Ordinance Amendments**

On May 8, 2017, a meeting of various Borough officials (Secretary, Code Enforcement Officer, Solicitor, and Engineer) met Mr. Edmund Quirin and his attorney Martin J. Cerullo to discuss his proposed zoning amendments for his and neighboring properties off Wade Road along Route 61 (former foundry and machine shop). A meeting of the St. Clair Planning Commission to consider the proposed amendments is scheduled for July 6, 2017. Additionally, our office has been working with the Solicitor to finalize the Borough's recommended amendments to the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. It is the intent to incorporate all revisions into one amendment to be considered concurrently.

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

**30732.20, Task 1 – Third Street Playground – Engineering Survey/Design**

On May 9, 2017, our office met with Borough Officials and representatives from the Lions to discuss placement of the Lions Drinking Fountain within the Third Street Recreational Complex. The Lions want the fountain located along the Third Street sidewalk so that it is accessible from outside the playground and park fences. It was agreed that the best location would be at the corner of the Third Street Playground as it borders Boone Park. There is an existing but inactive water service from Third Street in this area, which should simplify the installation of the water supply. The work associated with the fountain will have to be completed separately from the playground project to satisfy grant requirements. Nevertheless, now that the fountain location has been decided, the playground project plans and bidding documents can be completed. We anticipate advertising either late this month or early July for construction this year.

**30839.20 – Garage Roof**

Bids to replace the existing rubber roof were received on May 2, 2017, with a summary of those bids being provided to Council at your May Meeting. Council elected to table action on the bids to consider options. Bids are to remain open for a period of 60 days, so Council should make a decision on the bids by June 30, 2017.

**30839.21 – Lawton Street Bridge Replacement**

The Borough was awarded a 2016 DCED Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) grant in the amount of \$750,000 towards the costs associated with the Lawton Street Bridge Replacement. Our office is preparing a formal proposal for Council's approval that will identify costs and schedule to assist with the Borough's planning.