

Business Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

6:30PM -532-534-536 Penn St consolidation meeting

ZOOM-COVID19

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

President Pat McCarthy

Dr. Carpenter, VP

Mike Forbeck

Ms. LoAlbo

Mr. Matlin

Ms. Provenza

Mayor Ricupero

Mr. Suchevid

Mr. Alexander

Mr. Pitsch

Mr. Kenna

Mr. Alexander statement- we have potential litigation on North Ave. We will not comment because of the litigation. We will listen but the Borough will not comment.

I. Registered Comments from the Public

1. David Lowery 430 Penn St, pickle ball court. – issues on the pickle ball courts regarding parking, who runs the court etc.
2. James Moorefield Jdaddydrew1@gmail.com (412-596-5816) – not attended
3. Dan Showalter-440 North Ave would like to submit my letter of interest to the Verona Planning Commission. Would like a response.
4. Laura Jacko- 437 North Ave-comment about housing issues on North Ave. Issues regarding 443 North Ave. Issues on parking.
5. Jessica Varone- Brunot St- Thanked Jerry for posting agenda online. Update on plans to celebrate Verona's 150th anniversary and making a request to council for funds to cover specific activities. \$3,000. Information sent to council in writing before the meeting.
6. Below are some issues I (Lisa Inzinga) would like to be addressed at the next council meeting.10/13/20020 I will not be in attendance. Lisa Inzinga, 520 Ridge Avenue, 412-403-1984 We talked on the phone a while ago about Act 77 being implemented for Verona senior citizen residents. Act 77 allows senior citizens to have a 30% deduction in local real estate taxes (Verona Borough taxes). You told me to send you an email so this topic can be addressed during the next council meeting. I would like this to be brought up at the next council meeting for consideration and what can be done to make this tax reduction happen.

I am also asking about the senior citizen discount for garbage/trash pickup. County Hauling told me they offer that discount, but Verona does not participate. Again, what can be done to make this happen.

My last issue is the rat infestation. I bought my house in January of 1997 in Verona and have never seen a rat in my neighborhood until a couple of weeks ago. I am seeing rats everywhere. What is the borough and/or county doing to get rid of the rats? They are running everywhere on Ridge and North. Thank you,

II. Comments from the Public

- a. Council will hear comments on **agenda** items at the end of meeting Your name & address and limit your comments to **three (3) minutes**.

III. Reports and Correspondence

- a. Borough Manager's Reports: Jerry Kenna

1. Meeting Minutes -Motion to approve for workshop of Sept. 1st Sylvia Provenza, 2nd Raymon Suchevid, any questions, all ayes, motion passed.
2. Bills Payable-Motion to approve 1st Raymon Suchevid, 2nd Mike Forbeck, any questions Dr. Carpenter, question on PAYCHECKS (answered), Question on Resnick Landscape -answered we pay a monthly fee. Motion on floor all ayes, motion passed.
3. Tax Collector & Special Taxes-Motion to approve, 1st Raymon Suchevid, 2nd Sylvia Provenza any questions, (Dr. Carpenter questions, can we have an update as we would get before virus hit-Jerry will get the numbers. Motion on the floor, all ayes, motion passed.
4. Treasurer's Report- Motion to approve, 1st Ray Suchevid, 2nd President McCarthy, any questions, (Dr. Carpenter, can we use the recreation account since there is money in it? - Jerry -if Council wants it used, they can, either for 150th celebration or something other than that) \$15,000 in the recycling account. Council has to agree. Motion on the floor, all ayes, motion passed.
5. Police Chief's Report -, Motion to approve 1st President McCarthy, 2nd Mike Forbeck, all ayes, motion passed. Handicap parking on Union request- Motion to get handicap parking 1st Dr. Carpenter, 2nd Raymon Suchevid, all ayes, motion passed.
6. Fire Chief Report- Update on trucks, Motion to approve 1st Janet LoAlbo, 2nd Dave Matlin, all ayes, motion passed.
7. EMS Report-Motion to approve 1st Ray Suchevid, 2nd Dr. Carpenter (Dr. Carpenter, would like report to Council before meetings.) motion on the floor, all ayes, motion passed.
--Raymon Suchevid - bring to Council attention-river rescue-a gentleman almost drowned, Sunday October 11, 2020.
8. There are several "holes" in the Building Permit Fee Schedule. Could Council approve the following as interim amendments to the fee schedule. (Craig will discuss)
9. Regarding Lisa Inzinga's comments- there is an ACT that gives Borough approve discount on real estate tax. We need to research this. (65 years or older, own property, you pay taxes)
As for County Hauling, we will take it out of advisement on senior discount.
Rat infestation-we reached out to Bill Grill . Reached out to County Health Department.

b. Mayor's Report: David Ricupero

1. Breakdown of \$\$ amount on new police car – Why was it purchased in Mercer. Why not Schultz? Jerry-The price was higher at Schultz. Mayor said that the price at Schultz was \$700 cheaper.
2. The Mayor has issues regarding the car.
3. Why the color was not stated--Police Committee chose Black. Mayor has issues with Black. Did not like the ghost stripes.
4. Mayor feels he was slighted when the car was ordered. He needs to know what goes on in his department. Mayor is in charge of the department needs to know what is going on.
5. Mayor does not want 4 cars. We will get rid of some of the cars. Jerry said the Crown Vic is getting sold. Mark's car is for code officer. Jerry does not want Annette nor Mark using the cars with "POLICE" on them.
6. The Mayor said everyone will use the new police car. Everyone being the police. He'll be the deciding factor on who will be driving the car. The Mayor said he wants to be involved in "his department".
7. Mayor, Matt is there a chance to get LED lights? Matt will look into it.

c. Council President's Report: Pat McCarthy

1. Misc.

IV. Council Committee Reports

a. Engineer: Mr. Matt Pitsch

ENGINEER'S REPORT

October 13, 2020

1. PA Small Water and Sewer Grant

Bids were opened, Insituform Technologies was low bidder at \$74,961.00. Revised local share of \$11,244.15 and grant of \$63,716.85

Project awarded to Insituform Technologies, pre cleaning and CCTV work completed 09/20/20.

2. First Street Reconstruction Grant

Multimodal Transportation Grant was selected \$68,050/\$390,000 total project \$458,050. Final paperwork approved, bid documents and final drafting being finalized and project to bid.

3. CDBG 2019 (Year 45)

Demos on 4th St. of 866 and 870 \$6,000/\$24,000 total \$30,000

County completed asbestos surveys, awaiting notice to proceed.

4. DCED Greenway, Trails and Recreation Program Grant (GTRP)

Cribbs Field Grant was awarded for \$200,000 (\$30,000 match)

Bids opened, low bidder Pampena Landscaping & Construction

Base Bid and all 4 Add Items awarded for total contract of \$201,750

Contracts have been executed and contractor is lining up color samples. Rec Board is working to have suggestions on color choices.

5. CDBG 2020 (Year 46)

Sanitary lining along First Street due to road reconstruction project.

Bids opened, Jet Jack, Inc. was low bidder \$63,265. I recommend award to Jet Jack, Inc. (\$41,122.25 grant/ \$22,142.75 match)

6. PA Small Water and Sewer

Applied for a comprehensive CCTV and Condition Rating of the Borough's storm sewer system. High level defects will also be prioritized and repaired as needed.

Project was funded and contracts with the CFA are being executed. Verona received the full amount requested of \$125,638 and will have a \$33,294 match.

7. Wildwood Culvert Repair

I have supplied an RFQ to several contractors to get estimates for the repairs required by B&D Motors. The work is estimated to be close to the bidding threshold, I am awaiting responses from the contractors.

I received two responses, one was above bidding threshold, one below. I revised the scope and submitted project as a CDBG47 project.

8. Center Avenue Storm Sewer Extension

I had a meeting with Oakmont Water and Peoples Gas to locate their pipes on 8/6/20.

Scope of work is finalized, and I have submitted project as CDBG47 project.

9. CDBG 2021 (Year 47)

Pre-applications submitted to AVNCOG on 9/4

Projects applied for include, Wildwood Culvert Repair, Center Avenue Storm Sewer Extension, Alleys Reconstruction(3rd/4th and North/Parker), and Demolitions of 473 Union, 558 Church and 856 2nd.

Awaiting County approval to proceed with complete applications, which are due 11/13/20.

10. Penn Dot- we submitted revised plans and we were able to add a few minutes to crossing hopefully they will give us the go ahead for pedestrian signs.

11. North Avenue looking for paint testing on the bricks.

12. Wood Street DPW tested the pavement water flow. DPW will keep an eye on it.

b. Solicitor: Mr. Craig Alexander

1. Brooke Gwin- Project Manager VPRC--We are preparing our agenda for the October VPRC meeting. Please let her know when we may expect the property to be considered. If approved, please forward a copy of the resolution, Code Violation review form, and Property Assessment form to my attention. (The Borough must pass a resolution to get the properties back on the tax rule)-Motion to approve 1st P, 2nd Ray (Dr. Carpenter asked where the property-when County is involved). Hold motion. 515 ERR property. No further questions all ayes. Motion Passed

2. Rat infestation- Mark and I went to Judge DeLuca's office and received

3. Motion to approve lot consolidation-1st Dr. Carpenter, 2nd Ms. LoAlbo all ayes, Motion passed

4. Right to Know request-Craig and Chief met regarding the Right to know.

5. Zoning Ordinance-maybe hire a company that can look over the ordinance.

6. Verona Garden Roof, will look over this at the ordinance meeting.

7. Amend the 2020 fee schedule-DEMO, DUMPSTER, Pass by resolution 1st President McCarthy, 2nd Dr. Carpenter, All ayes Motion passed.

c. Public Works/Refuse/Sewers: Dave Matlin

1. Finalize Tree Pruning bid spec and get ready to issue for advertisement. Sent updated revision to Council. (Pat, we can do a phone vote) -Jerry do we need to get a bid before the end of the year- Suggestion-get bids and put it on budget at the beginning of the year.

2. Curb and sidewalk Alley between 1st/ Maple/South. Talk of who is to blame. Check with Mark who is responsible to fix the curb. (May be the Borough's responsibly). If we can put in the budget to repair since it's close to Verner.

4. I have not heard anything from County Hauling regarding the DEP.
5. Monthly DPW report requested.

d. Ordinances: Dr. Nancy Carpenter

STOP sign research-question for Dave Matlin

1. postpone of advertising of short term and animal ordinance.
2. revision of animal ordinance-restrictions and guidelines.
3. planning commission vacancies-2-can we advertise on Facebook/social media
5. Rat issues-on ordinance agenda.
6. DPW can they paint crosswalks?

e. Police/Fire: Mike Forbeck

1. Comprehensive Plan subcommittee meeting-we had the first meeting. The next meeting we will invite a couple of the consultants that do the work.
2. I found a company that recycling - Stenson Paper Recycling in Springdale. Offer free bins. They have a once a week pick up regardless if they are full. Offer rebate. Based on market price of recycling. Anything over \$45 ton the money will go to the Municipality. We got the 904 Grant. We will discuss it at the workshop.
3. We received a reimbursement from the Allegheny Grant
4. Contacted Darla we can apply the CORONA relief funds. Jerry will figure it out with Darla, she feels we do have something to able to qualify.

f. Finance/Budget/Grants: Ray Suhevich

1. Budget let us know if we need to add or take off. (Dr. Carpenter – status of 2019 audit)

g. Parks/Recreation: Janet LoAlbo

1. Parks and Rec Board update-Oct 6 had a meeting.
2. October 16th movie-need to block street
3. Boy Scouts will be on site for a food drive. Will have a food drive at the farmers market.
4. Holy Family School would like to do a project for the community.
5. New projector purchased.
6. 21st October community garden meeting.
7. Boccia Court -set up
8. Pickle Ball Court-purchased items-concerns-
Dave Matlin, has anyone talked to Mr. Pepper regarding the concerns that residence that live around the court.
9. Grass cutting of parks every other week.

h. Communications: Sylvia Provenza

1. Newsletter-update deadline Monday, November 30th.
2. No meetings with the Historical Society until further notice.
3. Wednesday, October 28th Community dinner, host Verona Council
4. Inner Groove back patio- meeting Chamber of Commerce at 5:30PM Tuesday, October 20th
5. Wednesday , October 28th DPW required seminar (virtual)
6. Spoke to Mr. Zappala regarding the cameras at Cribbs.

7. October 22nd ethics seminar at 2:00PM (ALOM)

V. Reports of Special Committees

A. Allegheny League of Municipalities: (ALOM)

B. Council of Governments: (COG)-nothing

C. Tax Collection Committee:

VI. Comments from the Public

Council will hear comments on public-related items at this time. Please approach the podium and clearly state your name and address, limit your comments to **three (3) minutes**

1. Angela Occipintt-521 Center-sewer lines on Center?? Does anyone know why the Blue lines and yellow lines Sewers are collapsing is what they said. Matt- CDBG funding for spring. We will talk to DPW to be sure about the sewers. Spring alley streetlight is out. The alley is dark. Thank the Mayor for everything he does for the community. Disheartening that he was not included in the choosing of the police car.
2. Kat Hoguet, 443 North Ave.- complained about the landlords. Issues about rentals. Sewage lines issues. Issues regarding everything that has to do with 443 North Ave. Thanked Dave Matlin, and Jerry for their responding.
3. Tim Long-323 Penn St- weeds are out of control at Cribbs. Unacceptable. Issues on weeds.
4. Don & Rhoda Worf-636 3rd St-public docks issues. Damage-and garbage needs to address. Garbage truck cuts corner sharp and ruins the asphalt. Stench from the truck.
5. Nancy-spoke about the docks.
6. Laura Jacko-North Avenue-Kimberly Roller sent letter regarding shade tree commission- It was missed 1st Dr. Carpenter made motion for shade tree, 2nd Sylvia Provenza, all aye motion passed.
7. Jennifer Marasco-455 North Ave- Thank you for the trash can at the bottom of the Street. Issues regarding North Avenue. Asked what they are remodeling next to eye place.
8. Kimberly Roller-853 1st St. spoke about issues that are going on. Landlords, rats etc.
9. Lisa L.-453 North Ave, thank everyone for listening to us. Concerned about 443 North Avenue. Disgraceful. Thank you, Mayor,
10. Rhea Homa-742 Brunot St- thank you for putting agenda on website. Apology to mayor. The car purchase was not done right.
11. Chris McBride-439 North Ave, we understood that it was single family homes on North Avenue. House has insect issues. Negligent landlords. We've been told 525 North Avenue has been sold and transferred to apartments. We need families that will be vested in the community.
12. Vince Flota-2 things fertilization of field-issues regarding the fertilization, when was this done. Mayor needs a public apology.
13. Nancy personally extends apology to the Mayor.

X. Adjourn 1st Janet LoAlbo, 2nd Raymon Sucheovich

XI. Upcoming Public Meetings

<i>Day and Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
1 st Tuesday/month @ 7:00PM	Parks & Rec Board Meeting
2 nd Tuesday/month @ 7:00 P.M.	Verona Council Public Session
Quarterly 2 nd Tuesday/month @ 6:30 (Beginning 1-2020)	Shade Tree Commission
3 rd Tuesday/month @ 7:00 P.M.	Verona Chamber Meeting
Final Tuesday/month @ 7:00 P.M.	Verona Council Work Session
4 th Wednesday/month @ 4:00-6:00 P.M. Methodist Church, Center Ave.	Community Dinner
3 rd Thursday/month @ 7:00 P.M.	Verona Historical Society Meeting
4 th Wednesday @ 7:00 Harmarville	COG