

Regular Meeting Minutes

Verona Borough Council

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

ZOOM-COVID19

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call**

President Pat
McCarthy
Dr. Carpenter
Mike Forbeck
Ms. LoAlbo
Mr. Matlin
Ms. Provenza
Mr.
Suchevich
Mayor Ricupero
Mr. Alexander
Mr. Kenna

IV. **Registered Comments from the Public**

- V. Council will hear comments on all **agenda** items at this time. Please approach the podium and clearly state your name & address and limit your comments to **three (3) minutes**.
1. Rhoda Worf 636 3rd St would like council to hire Doug Shields as interim Borough Manager. Read a list of what she would like Council to do. When posting ad position of manager also put ad for code enforcement officer to help Mark Stanton.
 2. Jessica Varone 722 Brunot St, request more than 24 hours to list agenda. Be clearer as what is on the agenda. Is there a hiring committee for manager, what are requirements? Time frame? Will there be an interim manager?

3. Dan Showalter 440 North Avenue, thanks Ray, Sgt. Jerry for driving around for Christmas, thanks Mayor Dave too. Mr. Showalter would also like Council to hire Doug Shields as interim Borough Manager.
4. Laura Jacko, 437 North Avenue, Echoing the same concerns to hire the right person. Verona should be honored to have Doug Shields as Borough Manager.
5. Kimberly Roller 853 1st St, why the Manager position has not been posted? Interested in the proposal for treasurer. Alleys need repaired that Alleys should be addressed.
6. Vince Flotta, 323 Penn St, mirrored what everyone said regarding hiring a Borough Manager. Need to hear the plan from Council.
7. Trish Hredzak Showalter, 440 North Ave, echo what everyone else has said regarding an interim manager. Consider two other proposals from Mr. Kenna-all members of Council should be transparent. We need to hear from Council when we call them.
8. Jen Marasco, 455 North Ave, agreeing with everyone regarding an interim manager. Need to hear from members of Council we expect transparency. She finds members that didn't answer her as rude and she is very angry that she did not get response.
9. Rhea Homa 742 Brunot St, regarding filling the position of Borough Manager. We need a plan in place. Concerns about transparency with Council. I understand that there is personal bias against Doug Shields. Rehiring Jerry is not an option in my opinion. Ms. LoAlbo, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Suhevich, Mr. Forbeck why are you against Doug Shileds. We will remember when we vote as to how you reacted to this situation.

VI. Borough Manager Report: Jerry Kenna

1. Meeting Minutes December 8th, Motion to accept 1st Sylvia Provenza, 2nd Janet LoAlbo all ayes, motion passed.
2. Budget-Jerry made necessary changes-sat down with Dr. Carpenter and Mr. Matlin- Motion to accept,
1st Ray Suhevich, 2nd Janet LoAlbo-

Questions: Mayor question on cameras in cars (it is in the budget), Dr. Carpenter-paving alleys is it in the budget.

Dave Matlin is working on the street priority list. Dave Matlin we will get with DPW to cold patch. Question on snow plowing ARB – Jerry, PENNDOT we will maintain the BLVD and the State will be sending us revenue of \$3,111 (Winter maintenance agreement)

Mayor-goes from James St to the VIADUCT. Dave Matlin plan on Borough Manager?

The number is set on \$70,000 you will be underbudget. Nothing legally needs to be done.

Motion on floor 2021, the budget passed. All ayes

3. Cleaning person retired. Do you want to bid out and interview to pick best person? 2 days a week they

clean. Put an ad in the paper, plus a background check will be

Needed because they clean Police side. Under bid threshold. Hourly rate and what needs to be clean. Jean's Custom Cleaning cleaned for us before. Ask the Chief if she has background check

Mayor's Report-

1. Cribbs Field: when will they start demo. Would like the field closed when the work begins. Mayor will let the Chief know. Playground will need to be closed. Dave Matlin said that Matt may know when they should start.

c. Council President's Report: Pat McCarthy

1. Regarding hiring Borough Manager- We have talked to different people we finally got the ad to advertise. Asking that Mr. Forbeck, Mrs. Provenza, Mr. Suhevich will do interviews for full time position.

To have transparency and things move smoothly, Mr. Kenna agreed to stay around until a manager is

hired. This is the way we will proceed.

Dr. Carpenter has not seen the final advertisement and the Council should see it.

Mr. McCarthy was under the impression that Mr. Forbeck sent the final document to Council.

The final document-Mr. Forbeck worked with Craig to incorporate all that was sent to him, Mr. Forbeck. Motion to advertise for Borough Manager, Mrs. Provenza does not believe that the \$\$ amount should be in the document and it should be negotiable. She was told that it has been taken out. Mike will screen share the final document for everyone to see what is in the advertisement. Mike took under advisement all the comments that he was given and added paragraphs.

Resumes will be accepted until January 20th the ad will go out Dec. 30th 2021.

Mike will tell Jerry when to send the advertisement.

Another question why this was only shared with Council and not public. (Dave Matlin)-Dave Matlin feels that there should be interim manager-he feels that it will be another few months before we can hire. We will need an interim so things will go smoothly. I feel this was done behind closed doors.

Mike Forbeck, has issues with Doug Shields get someone who would move into the full time position without interim and just hire someone right away.

We should not rush to hire. We plan on transparency. Janet LoAlbo agrees with Mike.

Dr. Carpenter disagrees. Dr. Carpenter does not like the plan. She feels that there should be an interim that the cost will be minimal. We need someone to focus on Verona. Council needs to be informed on the entire process.

As far as the advertisement is concerned, I wanted to get it out ASAP.

Dave Matlin-the process was not a good plan.

Sylvia does not matter who we get they will be new to Verona. Mr. Shields said that he would help find a Manager. We should be working together. There were only three people at the ZOOM meeting. Mike was not there because he had a project and could not attend.

Ray was told he could not be there because of the SUNSHINE ACT. People are speaking for me and I have not said anything. I am not being sneaky.

Dr. Carpenter feels that it should be more transparent.

Mayor stated how he felt about all this I think what you are doing to the Manager he said he was retiring the end of January the ad should go out as soon as possible. Not anyone knows what is needed to hire a Borough Manager. Brought up by Mr. McCarthy to get in touch with these people. This should move forward and quit arguing. Mayor feels that Mr. Kenna has been put in a difficult position. I do not have a problem with Mr. Kenna staying for finance. Make a motion to bring this person in or not. We should make a motion either hire or not hire this guy.

Jerry suggested see if anyone else wants to be interim interview them go from there. Interview Doug Shields or interview others that are interested.

Advertisement on floor from public

1. Dan Showalter 440 North Ave-clarification on end date on applications? We are asking Jerry to stay longer-it sounds as though you are forcing his hand.
2. Kimberly Roller-1st St, I do not know why it was not shared (application) with Council-not sure what's going on. How long will Mr. Kenna stay if there is Who prepared this? An interim would make more sense. Work with Jerry.
3. Joe Warren-asked who prepared this plan and the timeline makes no sense. Interim Borough Manager would make more sense.
4. Dr. Carpenter, answered Joe Warren-Mr. Forbeck prepared the application per the President's request.
5. Mr. Forbeck (we) Nancy, Dave Matlin developed the ad, and I ran it over to Craig, because we wanted it out.
(Mr. Forbeck understands there should be an interim but who would that be)?
6. Rhoda Worf, 636 3rd St I agree with Jerry, interview for an interim. We have a lot of people that are willing to help.

7. Stefani Garifay, she has a lot of issues regarding this entire process. Was terribly angry with Pat McCarthy, and the rest of Council. Council needs to start listening elections are coming up.
8. Laura Jacko, 437 North Ave, we should interview for an interim. Has issues with process. Let us stay transparent.
9. Vince Flotta, 323 Penn St, I agree with posting the job and change the end date. If Jerry can be a full-time manager until we get one but so be it.
10. Jen Marasco, 455 North Avenue-Mr. Forbeck why did you not share with the rest of the Council, more issues on how things are moving forward.
Mr. Forbeck-The job description was given to everyone. It was the ad that was not.

Motion from Mike Forbeck 1st to place full-time manager ad as soon as possible, 2nd Ray Suchevich, (motions amended to change to January 20th.)

Dave Matlin no –

Roll call - was made to vote on this it passed 6 to 1.

Motion to hire an interim -Borough Manager while we are hiring a full time Manager-

Motion to interview Doug Shileds as interim and with anyone else coming to the table as interim.

Motion to interview -1st Dr. Carpenter (amended), 2nd Mrs. Provenza, (amended) all ayes motion passed

President McCarthy- question time limit? January 20th Interviews end by January 30th then Jerry would be training a week or two.

VII. Council Committee Reports

a. Mr. Alexander-

1. Prepared and posted a tax ordinance, Motion to pass 1st Dr. Carpenter, 2nd Mrs. Provenza all ayes, motion passed
2. Motion to pass Winter Maintenance Resolution PennDot 1st Ray Suchevich,
- 2nd Dave Matlin all ayes, motion passed
3. There was an Executive Session on legal issues.

b. Mr. Matlin

1. Thanks DPW for their work in clearing the roads.
2. Any comments on organizational chart council may have.

c. Dr. Carpenter

1. Ordinances that we did not get to last year.
2. Working on in sending the ordinances ECODE 360
3. DPW thank you

e. Police/Fire: Mike Forbeck

1. We must finalize the job description as ordinance.
2. Thank you all.
3. DPW thank you all you do.

f. Finance/Budget/Grants: Ray Suchevich

1. Budget done a passed.
2. DPW thank you for all you do.
3. Keep roads clean from snow.

g. Parks/Recreation: Janet LoAlbo

1. We need 3 board members
They would like to renew their positions to be reappointed for 5 years until 2025
Timothy Long
Rhea Homa

Laura Jacko

Motion to pass positions 1st Janet LoAlbo, 2nd Dr. Carpenter motion passed

h. Communication- Sylvia Provenza

1. Newsletter for April May June
2. Chamber of Commerce renewal letters going out.
3. Historical Society meetings cancelled until further notice
4. Twin Boro Ministries no dinner tomorrow.
5. December 19th was the Christmas Parade, Thanks Mayor, Fire Dept., Police Dept.
6. Special thank you for John Henry (he is grateful for all that gave toys)
7. DPW thank you for all you do.
8. Kimberly Roller thank you.

Craig suggested -Ordinance meeting can we move our night.-

Allegheny County of Municipality-ALOM-
Council of Governments-COG-Nothing
Project we can apply for, PA small business grant

VIII. 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. Rhoda Worf-636 3rd St revisit STOP sign on South and 3rd? Electronic sign-Homes that need numbers visible on them. -letters to be sent and store garbage in cans.
2. Jessica Varrone, 722 Brunot St-issues regarding hiring Borough Manager. Resident thoughts.
3. Laura Jacko, 437 North Avenue, posting of Borough Manager end date.
4. Trish Hredzak Showalter, 440 North Ave what timeline is needed for the President to respond
5. Vince Flotta, 323 Penn St, thanks for the toy collection
6. Dan Showalter-440 North Avenue, Mayor thank you, I apologize to Ray Suhevich.
7. Rhea Homa- 742 Brunot Street, thank you Mr. Suhevich. I apologize.
8. Kimberly Roller-853 1st St-comment about disappointed on Council President-be transparent

Dr. Carpenter-clarification on Sunshine Act-Craig wrote a lengthy opinion on Doug Shields. Executive session deliberation is not allowed. A decision must be made in public.

Adjourn- Motion to adjourn 1st Ms. Provenza, 2nd Mr. Suhevich all ayes motion passed

XI. Upcoming Public Meetings

<i>Day and Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
1 st Tuesday/even months @ 6:30PM The meetings will be virtual until further notice.	Parks & Rec Board Meeting
2 nd Tuesday/month @ 7:00 P.M.	Verona Council Public Session
Quarterly 2 nd Tuesday/month @ 6:30 (Beginning 1-12-16)	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
1 st Wednesday @ 6:30 PM	Lower Valley Athletic Foundation Meeting