

Regular Meeting Minutes
Verona Borough Council
Tuesday, January 12, 2021

ZOOM -COVID 19

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

President Patrick McCarthy-
resigned

Dr. Carpenter
Mike Forbeck
Ms. LoAlbo
Mr. Matlin
Ms. Provenza
Mr. Suchevidch
Mayor Ricupero
Mr. Pitsch
Mr. Alexander
Mr. Kenna

IV. Registered Comments from the Public

- a. Jeff Pepper, 310 5th St (jeffpepper53@gmail.com) (speak on Riverbank Park pickleball). Successful pickleball -appreciate opportunity. Problem unlocking gates. Police need to unlock gates. I strongly believe that gates be open 24/7. North American Fencing bid to update the fences.
- b. John Brady, 541 2nd St. fishdance@hotmail.com (not available)
- c. Laura Jacko-North Avenue-proposed plan to plant trees-type of trees, and where at Cribbs to plant. (Dr. Carpenter, is there a time frame we are looking at?) They want to know so that plans can be made. Dr. Carpenter, It will be approved at the workshop.

Dr. Carpenter, we can add agenda items to the agenda.

- 1. Dave Matlin

V. Comments from the Public. Please approach the podium and clearly state your name & address and limit your comments to **three (3) minutes**.

- 1. Rhoda Worf, 636 3rd St-I had asked about the speed sign on South, nothing has been done. Are we removing the paper recycling? Jerry, we are having a had time having them pick up. Mike, we are getting some credit for the tonnage. I think we should go with the Springdale company. Stanson Paper. We should reach out to them. 800 blocks of 3rd should be paved, its bad. Waiting to see police on ARB in the morning to slow down the speeding of

cars. Mayor there will be more visibility in the AM. We cannot have them in our crossing because we have lights (Matt).

Craig, it will be in today's paper and online.

2. Joe Warren, Vogels Lane, can there be a detailed report on break-ins from police? Mayor, it will be passed off to the officers as far as foot traffic on the steps near Vogels.
3. Vince Flotta- 323 Penn St, I would like Council to talk about Dan Kinzie's Plaque. People are stealing political signs out of yards. Spoke to the Mayor privately and the police regarding a dirt bike riding back and forth at all hours.

******Acting Council President Report-Dr. Carpenter**

Monday afternoon Mr. McCarthy resigned.

1. Motion to accept Pat McCarthy's resignation, 1st Mr. Suchevidch, 2nd Mr. Forbeck. Ray Suchevidch commented- thanks Mr. McCarthy for the dedicate years he gave to Verona, all ayes, motion passed.
4. Motion for vacancy board-nomination – Vince Flotta and Trish Hredzak- Showalter-
Vote for each person-Vince Flotta-Janet LoAlbo-no, Sylvia Provenza-yes, Dave Matlin-yes, Ray Suchevidch no, Mike Forbeck no, Dr. Carpenter yes (Mayor Ricupero breaks tie-yes) ---Vince Flotta is on the vacancy board.
5. Nominations for President/VP and President pro tem
President -Nancy Carpenter nominated-Janet LoAlbo yes, Sylvia Provenza yes, Dave Matlin yes, Ray Suchevidch yes, Mike Forbeck yes, Dr. Carpenter yes (President Nancy Carpenter) motion passed.
VP-Dave Matlin-nominated- all ayes motion passed.
President pro tem-Sylvia Provenza-all ayes motion passed.
6. Discussion on process to fill Council Vacancy. We will put an ad out for Council letter of intent by January 22nd . Mike Forbeck agrees. Resident of Verona for at least a year and registered voter. Expires December 31st of 2021. Also, text alert.
7. Announcement of Exec on Thursday Jan. 14th at 5:30-
Sylvia Provenza has a name of a person that would like to come in (Sylvia will email all)
8. Update on interim Borough manager search. -Spoke to ALOM regarding this.
9. Council, please check emails regularly. Please response to emails.
10. Exec regarding County Hauling will not return from EXEC session.

VI. Reports and Correspondence.

- a. Borough Manager's Reports: Jerry Kenna
 1. Meeting Minutes of 12/29/2020-motion to accept 1st Sylvia Provenza, 2nd Ray Suchevidch, all ayes motion passed.
 2. Bills Payable -motion to accept 1st Ray Suchevidch, 2nd Mike Forbeck, all ayes motion passed.
 3. Tax Collector & Special Taxes -motion to accept 1st Mike Forbeck, 2nd Ray Suchevidch (Ray how much was lost-Jerry will get the numbers before the end of the meeting) all ayes motion passed.
 4. Treasurer's Report – motion to accept 1st Ray Suchevidch, 2nd Janet LoAlbo (Dave Matlin, commented on expenses) Dr. Carpenter commented on payments on ALCOSAN) all ayes motion passed.
 5. Police Chief's Report -motion to accept 1st Ray Suchevidch, 2nd Dave Matlin, all ayes motion passed.
 6. Fire Chief Report -motion to accept 1st Janet, LoAlbo 2nd Dave Matlin, all ayes motion passed.
 7. EMS Report -motion to accept 1st Ray Suchevidch, 2nd Mike Forbeck, all ayes motion passed.

Jerry-

Earned income tax down \$66,747.47

RealEstate \$68,000 over from last year

Local Service taxes \$3000 less from last year

We have been waiting for one report for the 2019 AUDIT- PMRS (they have not sent out any reports since 2018) system overhaul. The AUDITERS will go ahead without the reports.

b. Mayor's Report: David Ricupero

1. Thanks, Mr. McCarthy, for time on Council.
2. Congratulations to all who are nominated.
3. Cribbs Field
4. Police-one of the officers left for another position-we will be hiring a new full-time officer. We are planning an officer appreciation day. Ordering a speed sign.

VII. Council Committee Reports

a. ENGINEER'S REPORT: Matt Pitsch

January 12, 2021

1. PA Small Water and Sewer Grant

Project completed, post work CCTV received, minor items remain.

Reimbursement request submitted to CFA

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 finalized. Advertisement sent to paper.

3. CDBG 2019 (Year 45)

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

County completed asbestos surveys, demos to be advertised and bid opening scheduled with COG for 1/11/21.

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

Cribbs Field Grant was awarded for \$200,000 (\$30,000 match), project awarded to Pampena Landscaping & Construction, we are also getting a quote for him to install a field drain.

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

Demo work beginning and materials have been ordered.

Awaiting sketch/rendering of marquee to submit for variance.

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. Project awarded to Jet

Jack, Inc. (\$41,122.25 grant/ \$22,142.75 match), awaiting contracts from County. Update from COG was contractor was missing some paperwork.

Paperwork is being corrected and work will be scheduled.

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 have been executed. Verona received the full amount requested of \$125,638 and will have a \$33,294 match.

Project specs and bid documents are being create so project can be advertised and bid.

7. Center Avenue Storm Sewer Extension

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

Project was not selected for as CDBG47 project. Project was budgeted for and will be bid in Spring.

8. CDBG 2021 (Year 47)

Pre-applications submitted to AVNCOG on 9/4

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

9. Tree Trimming/Pruning

The Borough request quotes for tree trimming/pruning services for several areas in the Borough due to safety concerns and for the decorative trees in the sidewalks.

Beaver Jack Tree Service was the low quoter out of three at \$11,520, I recommend awarding to Beaver Jack Tree Service.

Beaver Jack will be providing me notice once they have the work scheduled.

Mayor questions on deadline for Cribbs-should be done by mid-April (but not sure) Need the work completed before baseball starts.

Dr. Carpenter-is the \$\$ for the tree trimming –Matt said-motion was passed a few meetings back.

Dave Matlin-why were the bids lower?

Janet LoAlbo-regarding the Kinzie plaque

b. Solicitor: Mr. Craig Alexander

1. Sent a letter to County Hauling.

2. 03-2021resolutions- to raise sewer rates 7% passes to residents. Motion to accept resolution 1st Ray

Suchevich, 2nd Dave Matlin, all ayes motion passed.

3. 04-2021Resolution to police employee pension-1st Sylvia Provenza, 2nd Ray Suchevich all ayes motion passed.

c. Public Works/Refuse/Sewers: Dave Matlin

1. Echoing Mr. McCarthy's service – good health

2. County Hauling-docking \$\$ we still have the right to terminate contract. Every 30 days we will looking into how they are keeping up with their pickups.

3. Playground gate at Cribbs-we can potentially lock the gates to the fields and unlock the outside gates to the playground.

4. Landscaping contract – take the contract from last year and put it up for advertisement.

Jerry Kenna- the spillage on 3rd and Wood Streets was not picked up and cleaned. I sent the DPW up to

clean it up.

Mike Forbeck-cost recovery.

d. Ordinances: Dr. Nancy Carpenter

1. No update. -

2. Some of the committees will be changing.

3. I expressed my disappointment that Mr. Shields was not interested. When people have concerns I wish people would express them to Council.

e. Police/Fire: Mike Forbeck

1. Borough Manager Search Committee Update-we met last week-interview questions-we will meet and look over the resumes. We will do preliminary interviews.

2. Finalize Job Description-once it's finalized, we will have to put through ordinance-modify \$\$ expenditures. Motion to advertise the final once it's approved, 1st Sylvia Provenza 2nd Ray Suchevich all ayes motion passed.

3. Fire and Police Response-thank you all for your service to protect us.

f. Finance/Budget/Grants: Ray Suhevich

1. Accounting and Treasurer proposals. We have 3 bids back. Can we take to exec. Revue proposals.

g. Parks/Recreation: Janet LoAlbo

1. Thank Mr. McCarthy for your time and service.

2. Riverbank Park/ Pickleball court gate- openings-some confusion for gates to be open. We

can

open in the 9AM and close at (dusk) night.

Jerry Kenna, do we open the park when it is raining/snowing?

Dr. Carpenter, we can open certain times – (SIGN play at your own risk)

Liability risks-Craig the risk is minimal.

Ray Suhevich-you want o keep Cribbs closed. Playground can be opened.

Mayor- I agree with Ray. Riverbank Park should not be open 24/7.

Dave Matlin-I am not apposed 24/7 opening. But in this case, I agree with Ray and the Mayor, being close to homes.

Mike Forbeck I agree with all regarding the opening of gates.

Motion we open gates at 9AM to dusk. 1st Ray Suhevich, 2nd Mike Forbeck, all ayes motion passed.

4. Pickleball court in middle of court fencing work at Riverbank corner. North American Fencing,

\$175 bid. The latch will be at least 5 feet high. Motion to fix hole 1st Janet LoAlbo, 2nd Ray Suhevich all ayes motion passed.

h. Communications: Sylvia Provenza

1. newsletter article due March 1st donworf@veronanewsroom.com 412-828-9542 (Sylvia's#)

2. Chamber of Commerce no meeting. Hopefully, we will do the Easter Egg Hunt.

3. Historical Society-no meetings until further notice.

4. Twin Boro Ministry-grab and go dinners-Center Ave. 4:30-6:30 Methodist Church

5. Text-from Block Watch (Sylvia read the text)

6. Pat, thank you for your years of service.

VIII. Reports of Special Committees

a. Allegheny League of Municipalities: (ALOM)-Sylvia Provenza-Spring Conference rescheduled to June 17th -20th, 2021.

b. Council of Governments: (COG) nothing at this time.

c. Tax Collection Committee:

IX. 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. Vince Flotta-323 Penn Street, Thank you for the nomination tonight.

X. Adjourn: Motion to Exec. 1st Ray Suhevich, 2nd Sylvia Provenza all ayes motion passed

XI. Upcoming Public Meetings

<i>Day and Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
1 st Tuesday/even months @ 6:30PM	Parks & Rec Board Meeting

The meetings will be virtual until further notice.	
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