

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2020**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

John Devine	Brenda Strause
Dave Kavitski	Mike Strause
Brenda Legarht	Russ Stump
Dale Legarht	

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Thomas Fickinger, Council President
Leroy Bates, Vice-President
Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem
Michael Allison
Skip Butler
Elaine Holley
Rodney Hiester
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer
Christopher Hobbs, Solicitor, by telephone
Willard Shiffer, Mayor

ABSENT:

Council President Fickinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with all members of Council being present. A quorum was established.

○ PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1):

- 1. Russ Stump:** R. Stump stated that several trees have been removed on the Carbon Street side of canal and they will be removing more trees.
R. Stump wanted to provide council an update on the Autumn Stroll/COVID-19. R. Stump stated they attended the Leesport Craft Show to see how they handle the COVID-19 Restrictions. The Bicentennial Committee would be following the same.
R. Stump stated the Bicentennial Committee is looking for support from Council for

the Autumn Stroll this year. This will be the 25th year for hosting it. Council further discussed. Mayor Shiffer stated the Lion's Club was moving forward with the Halloween Parade. Rodney Hiester motioned to support the Autumn Stroll and Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 17th, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council. Poll vote was taken: 7 Yes 0 No.

L. Clark stated the Bicentennial Committee can use the hand sanitizer stands from the pool for the Autumn Stroll.

Leroy Bates motioned to order the portable toilets for Halloween Parade, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

2. **Michael Strause:** M. Strause discussed his concerns with the flooding on Spruce Street and asked whose responsibility it is to repair the pipe that runs underneath his driveway. L. Clark stated he spoke with John Emerich, the previous owner of the property and he stated that he installed the pipe by the driveway. The borough only helped him with the pipe. L. Clark stated BCM Engineers will be discussing the stormwater study later in the meeting.

○ **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Hobbs stated council could advertise for bids for the Armory Building but the realtor hasn't received any serious inquiries at the moment. Council tabled the advertisement for bids.

○ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **BCM Engineers:** D. Kavitski provided an update on the water project along with the Stormwater Study and projects. D. Kavitski stated to M. Strause that he doesn't advise cementing the pipe shut because it does still serve as drainage for stormwater runoff. D. Kavitski stated it should be repaired and M. Strause would have to coordinate with the Streets Department when the repairs are being completed.
2. **HHL:** No reports provided.
3. **NEFD:** Report in everyone's file.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Officer Ricigliano read over the monthly police report.
- Mayor Shiffer went over the Quality of Life properties.
- Mayor Shiffer stated Chief Trotter received a Thank You for the assistant with an incident with the State Attorney's Office.
- Mayor Shiffer brought up about possibly giving SRO Dissinger benefits. Mayor Shiffer stated the school would pay $\frac{3}{4}$ of the benefits and the borough would pay $\frac{1}{4}$ of the benefits. Solicitor Hobbs stated he would look into the Civil Service, etc. Council would further discuss at the budget meetings.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

- **Rental Inspections:** Secretary Dyer stated that Ed Wenger's last day with Light-Heigel is Friday, August 28th. Secretary Dyer stated the Marty Sowers will be taking over Ed's work load. Secretary Dyer stated that Marty wanted to ask council about pushing back the rental inspections for this year to 2021 due to the COVID restrictions, etc. Council further

discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to push back the 2020 Rental Inspections to 2021, seconded by Rodney Hiester, carried by Council.

- **Closing of Bank Accounts:** Michael Allison motioned to close the M&T Bank Proceeds Account and Fulton Bank HMGP FEMA Buyout Account, seconded Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **Trick or Treat Night:** Rodney Hiester motioned to tentatively have Trick or Treat Night on Saturday, October 31st from 6:00pm-8:00pm, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.

2. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

Michael Allison motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:27pm to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council. Council returned from Executive Session at 8:33pm stating they discussed a personnel matter.

Leroy Bates motioned to accept the resignation of Cindy Fenstermacher effective Wednesday, September 16, 2020, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.

Michael Allison motioned to advertise for a borough secretary, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

Elaine Holley motioned to appoint Mandy Miller as Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer with the authority to sign documents, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.

3. ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER)

- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the July 9, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the August 4, 2020 Special Council Meeting, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports for July, seconded by Rodney Hiester, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

4. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

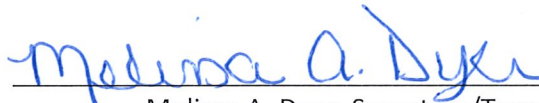
- **Streets/ Water Report:** T. Fickinger stated Len's report is in everyone's file.
- **Conrad Richter Drive:** L. Clark stated there have been cars parking along the road and someone scraped the yellow off the curb for no parking on Conrad Richter Drive. Leonard Clark motioned to amend the streets Ordinance with no parking on Conrad Richter Drive, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.

5. **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
- **Tree Removal:** L. Bates opened up the one bid for tree removal on Borough Property. Skip Butler motioned to award the bid Arbor Masters Tree Landscaping for \$47,913.80 pending the review of Solicitor, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
 - **Land Request/ Berger Road:** T. Fickinger stated a request to purchase borough land was received. Council further discussed. Council tabled to next month's meeting.
6. **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK): None.**
7. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER): None.**
8. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):**
- **Pool:** L. Clark stated the pool is closed for the season. L. Clark thinks there is a leak somewhere in the pool because they had to keep adding water to the pool every day.

○ **NEW BUSINESS: None.**

○ **PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: None.**

Rodney Hiester made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m., seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.



Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer