

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 21, 2017**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Officer Applegate	Ethen Shiffer
Ron Aungst	Jamie Shiffer
Aaron Maidenford	Charlie Zimmerman
Joan Schwer	Sharon Zimmerman

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Scott Zimmerman, Council President
Thomas Fickinger, Vice-President
Anthony Gurski, Pro-Tem
Leroy Bates
Leonard Clark
Terry Noll
Willard Shiffer, Mayor
Christopher Hobbs, Solicitor
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer

ABSENT:

Michael Allison

Council President Zimmerman 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 with the exception of Michael Allison. A quorum was established.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

- Charlie Zimmerman:** C. Zimmerman provided an update on the Hometown Hero Banner Program. C. Zimmerman stated that PPL charges \$25.00 per banner.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Hobbs stated another municipal lien has been paid.

SCHEDULED VISITORS:

1. **Ron Aungst, Arthur "Pat" Aungst:** R. Aungst presented donations to the Mayor and Council for the Police Department and Christmas Tree Lighting Committee.
2. **HH&L:** None.
3. **NEFD:** None.

4. **Hegins ALS:** A. Maidenford stated that ALS was previous done by West Schuylkill which is no longer in service. A. Maidenford stated Hegins ALS has been established and is now active. A. Maidenford asked council if they would designate Hegins ALS as the ALS for Pine Grove Borough. Thomas Fickinger motioned to designate Hegins ALS as the primary ALS for Pine Grove Borough, seconded by Anthony Gurski, carried by Council.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Officer Applegate read over the monthly police report.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed the budget and raising taxes.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed a vacant property with a rain gutters hanging. Mayor Shiffer stated this could be a safety hazard. Council further discussed. A. Gurski will fix the rain gutter at the vacant property.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**

- **Council Seat Correction:** President Zimmerman stated he wanted to make a correction on the term for Michael Allison. President Zimmerman stated the term for the council seat ends December 31, 2020 not December 31, 2018. Anthony Gurski motioned to approve the revised Resolution #12-17 with the term date ending December 31, 2020, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
- **Levan Tree Farm:** President Zimmerman wanted to thank Levan Tree Farm for donating the Christmas tree for the Borough Building.
- **Re-Organization Meeting:** President Zimmerman stated the Re-Organization Meeting is on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Resolution 13-17:** Leonard Clark motioned to adopt Resolution #13-17 prohibiting Category 4 Casinos, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.
- **Resolution 14-17:** Anthony Gurski motioned to adopt Resolution #14-17 approving the Schuylkill County Emergency Operations Plan, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.

2. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**

- **Vacancy Board:** Thomas Fickinger motioned to advertise for the Vacancy Board, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
- **Union Contract:** Thomas Fickinger motioned to approve the Union Contract with the Teamsters for a five year period, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.

3. **ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN)**

- **Approval of Minutes:** Anthony Gurski made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 16, 2017 Budget Meeting, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

Thomas Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 16, 2017 Regular Meeting, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.

Leroy Bates made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 28, 2017 Budget Meeting, seconded by Thomas Fickinger, carried by Council.

Terry Noll made a motion to accept the Minutes of the December 12, 2017 Special Meeting, seconded by Thomas Fickinger, carried by Council.

- **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** Passing the gavel, Council President Zimmerman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Anthony Gurski, carried by Council.
 - **Approval of Bills:** Council President Zimmerman made a motion to approve the Bills Approval List, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
 - **Ordinance 449, 2018 Tax Rate:** Anthony Gurski motioned to adopt Ordinance 449, 2018 Tax Rate with no increase, seconded by Thomas Fickinger, carried by Council.
 - **2018 General & Water Budget:** Thomas Fickinger motioned to adopt the General Fund & Water Fund Budget for 2018, seconded by Anthony Gurski, carried by Council.
4. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
- **Streets/ Water Report:** Tom Fickinger stated the Streets/Water report is in everyone's file.
 - **2018 Emergency Snow Removal Bids:** Thomas Fickinger motioned to advertise for bids for the 2018 Emergency Snow Removal, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
 - **Ordinance 448, Speed Limit Reduction:** Thomas Fickinger motioned to advertise Ordinance 448, Speed Limit Reductions, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.
5. **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (TONY GURSKI):** None.
6. **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
- **Swatara Watershed Flood Recovery Meeting.** T. Fickinger stated Guilford Mills Flood Project has been fully funded.
 - **Flood Recovery:** T. Fickinger stated they were looking to push back the ash bank/ railroad bed.
7. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (TERRY NOLL):** None.
8. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**
None.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Zoning Hearing Request:** President Zimmerman stated a Zoning Hearing request came in for 50 Spruce Street requesting a variance/exception for the property. President Zimmerman stated the Zoning Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Council further discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to

give authority to anyone on council to speak and formally oppose on behalf of the Borough during the zoning hearing, seconded Leonard Clark, carried by Council.

○ AUDIENCE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

- **Sharon Zimmerman:** S. Zimmerman stated that council is doing an awesome job.

○ PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

Can she have a copy of the 2018 Budget? A copy of the 2018 budget was provided to her.

Anthony Gurski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m., seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.



Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer