

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 9, 2020**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Cassie Kershner
Louise Miller
Joan Schwer

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Rodney Hiester

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 with the exception of Rodney Hiester. A quorum was established.

Leroy Bates motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:01pm to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:18pm with no further action taken.

○ PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1):

1. **Louise Miller:** L. Miller stated the Wood Carving Festival will be held on September 25th thru 27th. L. Miller asked for assistance with partial road closure for Christ St. Leonard Clark motioned to close parts of Christ Street for Wood Carving Festival on

September 25th through September 27, 2020, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.

○ **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Hobbs started to research old maps for the township property. Solicitor Hobbs stated properties were condemned back in the 1950's. Solicitor Hobbs stated this would be for the S.R. 125.

○ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **Louise Miller:** L. Miller stated she would like to lease land on Laurel Street to plant a garden. Council further discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to approve the lease with Louise Miller for 45 Laurel Street to plan a garden, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
2. **HHL:** No reports provided.
3. **NEFD:** No reports provided.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Officer Yarmush read over the monthly police report.
- Mayor Shiffer stated a request was received for fire police for 66th Annual Schuylkill County Volunteer Firemen's Convention Parade on Saturday, August 22nd in Ringtown. Michael Allison motioned to allow fire police to assist with the 66th Annual Schuylkill County Volunteer Firemen's Convention Parade on Saturday, August 22nd, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed certain properties with high grass and not being cleaned up. Mayor Shiffer asked council if it is ok to have Zerbe's Landscaping clean up the properties and bill the property owners. Council further discussed. Michael Allison motioned to have the Old Canoe Property cleaned up by Zerbe Landscaping, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council. Leroy Bates motioned to have the N Tulpehocken Street property by North End Fire Company to be cleaned up by Zerbe Landscaping, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council. Skip Butler motioned to 66 E. Pottsville Street property to be cleaned up by Zerbe Landscaping, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.
- Mayor Shiffer brought up about a sink hole on Mifflin Street. Council further discussed. L. Clark stated it is right in line with the sewer. L. Clark stated he let the JTA know about the area about a year ago. Mayor Shiffer will reach out to the JTA regarding the possible sink hole on Mifflin Street.

L. Clark stated there are tree branches hanging low on Carbon Street and property owner needs to have them trimmed. L. Clark stated 27 E. Wood Street is the address. Mayor Shiffer stated that he will have it taken care of.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

3. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):** None.
4. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

- **Ordinance 459:** Leroy Bates motioned to adopt Ordinance 459 changing the police retirement plan from 12 years of service vested to 8 years of service vested, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
5. **ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER)**
- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the June 11, 2020 Regular 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 June, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.
 - **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
6. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
- **Streets/ Water Report:** T. Fickinger stated Len's report is in everyone's file.
 - **Kubota Trade In:** Leroy Bates motioned adopt Resolution #07-20 authorizing the trade-in of the Kubota L2800 Tractor to Zimmerman Farm Services for the amount of \$5,500.00, seconded by Michael Allison.
 - **2011 Borough Truck:** L. Clark stated the 2011 GMC failed inspection due to the frame is ready to rust in half. Council further discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to purchase a new truck for \$33,550.00 in replacement of the 2011 Borough Truck, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.
 - **2012 Borough Truck:** L. Clark stated the 2012 GMC failed inspection due to the dump box rusting out. Council further discussed. Michael Allison motioned to purchase a new dump box for \$5,500.00 for the 2012 GMC, seconded Skip Butler, carried by Council.
7. **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
- **PPL Pole Mill Street:** L. Clark stated a resident requested to see if an additional PPL Pole Light could be put in by 30 E. Mill Street. L. Clark stated there is a section that is really dark and a resident's vehicle was hit at night. Council further discussed. Leonard Clark motioned to contact PPL to see if a light can be installed by 30 E. Mill Street, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.
 - **Lease Land Requests:** L. Bates stated a lease request came in for the Bergers Road/ Pleasant Valley Property. Council further discussed. President Fickinger will reach out to Wayne Lehman regarding the possible Upper Swatara Watershed project in this area for flood remediation.
 - **Tree Removal:** L. Clark stated there are 59 trees on borough land that are dead and need to be removed. Leonard Clark motioned to advertise

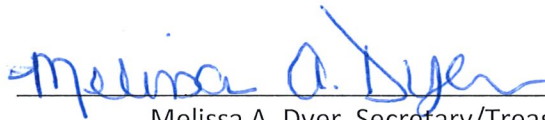
for bid of tree removal on Borough property, seconded by Michael Allison,
carried by Council.

8. FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK): None.
9. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER): None.
10. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):
 - **Pool:** L. Clark stated the pool is up and running. L. Clark would like to see if council would be interested in doing Lap Swimming on Saturday mornings. Council further discussed. C. Kershner provided council the background regarding lap swimming. Council decided to do it on trial basis.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: None.

Leonard Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m., seconded by Skip Butler,
carried by Council.



Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer