

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Sharon Zimmerman
Sgt. Tyler Dissinger
Chayce Lehman
Alec Carl
Cameron Gibson

Dawn Christensen
Joelle Bretz
Ken Gibson
Lizann White
Cameron Weiss

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Melissa Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer

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):

Ken Gibson, band director of the Pine Grove Area High School Band wanted to thank Pine Grove Borough for their support and for allowing them to host a Haunted Canal on October 24, 2020. Mr. Gibson stated that 150 cars went through and they had to turn away about 25 cars. Mr. Gibson apologized for the traffic delays through town and the numerous complaints that were received about the traffic. Mr. Gibson mentioned that the accident that shut down Interstate 81 did not help with the congestion of traffic. Mr. Gibson presented the Pine Grove Borough Council with an appreciation plaque and stated that he hopes council will

allow them to host another Haunted Canal next year if they are unable to use the school due to restrictions. Mr. Gibson also asked council if they would allow them to possibly decorate the canal for Christmas this year.

○ **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Machine Tax – Solicitor Hobbs stated that he would have numbers regarding the new prices for machine tax ready for the budget meeting being held on Monday, November 16th. He will review the machine tax prices that other municipalities are using and he will make sure the prices he is suggesting are fair and reasonable.

Skilled Machines – Mayor Shiffer asked Solicitor Hobbs if he could get in touch with Susan Smith from the Zoning Office at the Courthouse and have her return Melissa's calls regarding the zoning for the property on Tulpehocken Street that has skilled machines. Solicitor Hobbs stated he would reach out to Susan Smith regarding the zoning permit for that property and would have her touch base with Melissa.

○ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **HHL: None.**
2. **NEFD: None.**

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Sgt. Dissinger read over the monthly police report.
- Mayor Shiffer said that the police department will keep tabs on the problem properties in the Borough and will continue to cite any violations.
- **Handicapped Parking Space:** A handicapped parking space was requested by Belinda Garnes next to her home located at 229 S. Tulpehocken Street due to lack of parking as it is next to the eye doctor office and patrons of the business park next to her home. The handicapped space would be on Maple Street and not on S. Tulpehocken Street. Rodney Hiester made a motion to approve the handicapped parking space for Belinda Garnes next to her home located at 229 S. Tulpehocken Street, seconded by Len Clark, carried by council.
- **Signs:** Mayor Shiffer mentioned that there are multiple signs being posted through town for various sports teams, currently soccer and volleyball. Mayor Shiffer suggested that we get a point of contact for those who want to hang signs so that they can be reached to take the signs down after the allotted period of time and that the police department should be notified of any signs that will be hung in the Borough. President Fickinger suggested that a letter be sent to Pine Grove School District outlining the policy for hanging signs. Len Clark mentioned that point of contact information should be given to Secretary/Treasurer Melissa Dyer who could then notify the Police Department of the signs being hung in the Borough and the person to be contacted for removal once the time period allotted has ended.

- **School Bus parked on Ridgeview Drive:** Len Clark mentioned that a school bus is parked on the side of the road on Ridge Vista Drive that will become problematic in the winter with plowing. Mayor Shiffer stated he would ask the Police Department to speak to the homeowner about parking the bus elsewhere so that it does not block the road.
- **Flag Retirement Ceremony:** Mayor Shiffer stated that there is an American Flag Retirement Ceremony being held at the tank by the canal on Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Resolution #10-20 Bank Signers:**
Skip Butler motioned for Melissa A. Dyer along with Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer, Mandy Miller, Borough Secretary, Amanda Lutz, Thomas Fickinger and Leroy Bates as signers for all of the Fulton Bank Accounts, seconded by Len Clark, carried by Council.
- **Christmas Bird Count:**
Leroy Bates motioned for Dave Krueel to do his yearly bird count on or about Saturday, December 19th in the Black Creek area, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by council.

2. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER): None.

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

- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the October 8, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council. President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the October 19, 2020 Budget Meeting, seconded by Len Clark, carried by Council.
- **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports for October, seconded by Skip Butler, 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:** Report is in everyone's folder.
- Len Clark stated that blacktop was done in the Month of October for some leaks as well as the sides of some of the Borough roads.
- Len Clark said Well 7 had a new meter put in and Well 12 will get a new meter and depth probes.

- **Leaf Pick Up:** Len Clark stated that leaf pick up will go until December 3rd to get the extra leaves due to heavy rains that caused leaves to fall faster than expected.
- **Ordinance 461:** Leroy Bates made a motion to adopt Ordinance 461 accepting dedication of "Ridge Vista Drive" within the Pine Vista Estates Development, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by council.

5. **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**

- **Armory Building Bids:** Leroy Bates that bids received for the Armory Building will be opened at the budget meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020.

6. **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):**

- **Stormwater Grant:** Paperwork was in the process of being finalized and submitted to Dan Meuser for grant money for storm water pipes.

7. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):** None.

8. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):**
None.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:** None.

○ **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

1. **Sharon Zimmerman:** S. Zimmerman questioned when crosswalks are being painted in the Borough. Len Clark said the Streets Department already painted all curbs and crosswalks throughout the Borough. S. Zimmerman also stated that two of her ash tubs were stolen and they had her name and address on them in orange. Len Clark said the streets department will check ash tubs when ashes are collected and will notify the police department if they are found.

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

Rodney Hiester made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m., seconded by Len Clark, carried by Council.


Mandy L. Miller, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer