

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 8, 2020**

**GENERAL ATTENDANCE**

Mandy Miller  
Sharon Zimmerman  
Sgt. Tyler Dissinger

**COUNCIL ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

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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): None.**

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

1. **Municipal Liens:** Solicitor Hobbs stated that municipal liens were placed for past-due water bills and past-due Quality of Life violation services.
2. **66 Carbon Street:** Solicitor Hobbs briefly discussed 66 Carbon Street – the daughter of the deceased owner of the home plans to sell the property. Currently it is condemned with past-due water and sewer bills.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **HHL: None.**

2. **NEFD:** Report is in everyone's folder.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Sgt. Dissinger read over the monthly police report.
- Mayor Shiffer went over the Quality of Life properties and briefly discussed the past-due violations of 64 S. Tulpehocken Street. Rodney Hiester mentioned that the property may have been sold. Further research was to be conducted to verify that the property was sold and to notify the new owners of the past-due violations.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- **Haunted Drive-Thru:** Ken Gibson from the Pine Grove Area High School Band requested the use of Veteran's Memorial Drive for a haunted drive-thru on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Mike Allison requested that a hold harmless agreement be signed prior to the event and Solicitor Hobbs said that the Borough has one on file that can be sent to Ken Gibson for his signature. Len Clark mentioned to request that the band clean up the area after the event has ended. Rodney Hiester motioned to allow the Haunted Drive-Thru on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at Veteran's Memorial Drive, seconded by Len Clark, carried by Council.

2. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

Leroy Bates motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:16pm to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:21pm stating they discussed personnel matters.

Leroy Bates motioned to hire Candidate A as a part-time streets department worker, seconded by Rodney Hiester, carried by counsel.

Rodney Hiester motioned to hire Candidate A for the full-time office position, seconded by Elaine Holley, 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 September 10, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council. President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the September 21, 2020 Budget 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 September, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

4. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
  - **Streets/ Water Report:** T. Fickinger stated Len's report is in everyone's file.  
Len Clark stated that curb painting has started in the Borough.
  - **Ordinance 460:** Mike Allison made a motion to adopt Ordinance 460 Street Revisions, seconded by Len Clark, carried by council.
  - **Pine Vista Estates Phase II:** Daubert & Zimmerman would like to release the roads to Pine Grove Borough. Len Clark motioned to draft an ordinance and deed for the release of roads, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by council.
  
5. **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
  - No updates have been received on the timbering project.
  - Leroy will reach out to Matt Frederick regarding the Bergers Road tract.
  - Tulpehocken Rifle Range will be closed for Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct a bog turtle study.
  - T. Fickinger stated that Tulpehocken Rifle Range will give the Pine Grove Police Department exclusive use of the range when needed for qualifying.
  
6. **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):**
  - **Stormwater Grant:** Paperwork was started 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):**
  - **Dock at Canal:** Len Clark mentioned that the dock at the canal needs to be pulled up for repairs.
  - **Pool:** The pool was winterized this week.
  - **Park Grants:** Last Thursday, on October 1<sup>st</sup>, grants to update parks were awarded and published in the Republican Herald. Len Clark mentioned about contacting the American Legion and VFW for assistance to help upgrade the pedestrian walk-way and perhaps split the cost 50/50 with the Borough and perhaps could do the work "In Kind."
  - **PA Skills Games:** A business that has PA skill games has moved into the Borough and one of the officers will be looking into the business to ensure that proper zoning permits were applied for and granted.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:** None.

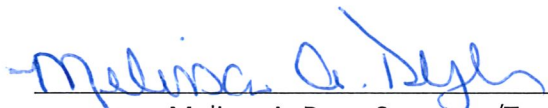
○ PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

1. **Sharon Zimmerman:** S. Zimmerman stated there are no street signs on canal street.

○ PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

1. What claims were filed – municipal claims against properties that owe for water bills and quality of life services.
2. Who is doing the bog turtle study? Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Leroy Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m., seconded by Rodney Hiester, carried by Council.

  
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Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer