

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

Mayor Griffin called the Regular Monthly Meeting of Latrobe City Council to order at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Griffin asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Secretary read Roll Call:

Fabian Giovannagelo - present

Richard Jim - present

Rosemarie Wolford – present

Michael Skapura - present

Deputy Mayor Kenneth Baldonieri - present

Robert Forish - present

Mayor Barbara Griffin - present

Also present were the following: Richard J. Stadler, City Manager; James E. Kelley, Solicitor; Joseph Bush, Public Works Director; James R. Bumar, Police Chief.

Mayor reported that Council held Executive Sessions on February 28, 2011 for personnel salary ordinance, and March 28, 2011 for pending litigation in reference to the Safe Routes to School Project.

Mr. Jim moved to adopt the March 14, 2011 minutes, second by Mr. Forish. Vote 7-0.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT

Total Expenses \$216,618.72

Total Payroll 84,740.67

GRAND TOTAL \$301,359.39

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS FROM MARCH 2011

Treasurer's Report

See attachment "A"

Police Report

See attachment "B"

Public Works Report

See attachment "C"

Fire Report

See attachment's "D"

Code Report

See attachment's "E"

Tax Collector's Report

See attachment "F"

Mrs. Wolford moved to approve the reports and bills presented for payment, second by Mr. Baldonieri. Vote 7-0.

Lieutenant Eric Eslary of Ligonier Township Police Department and Lieutenant Timothy Bliss of McKeesport Police Department demonstrated the use of their K-9 partners to Council and the Public as how they are used for narcotic detection, protection, and tracking. Officer Derk of the Latrobe Police Department took part in the demonstration by donning a bite suit and allowing McKeesport's K-9 Officer Diesel to use the "bite and hold" method.

CITIZENS REQUESTS

Ron Weimer, Chairman of the Planning Commission and Revitalization Committee Member, stated that Dunkin Donuts is doing a fantastic job. He said a street light is needed where the drive-thru is located.

City Manager Richard Stadler said the Code Officer heard from Allegheny Power and the street light was removed from the Railroad wall that had collapsed, and asked if we would like the light reinstalled there or another area. This light could be moved to the area near the Donut Shop.

Jim Bolton of 225 Irving Avenue stated he has attended Parking Authority meetings and they are doing a pretty good job after starting out in a hole. Mr. Bolton stated the Power Point presentation was informative and professionally done and that a million dollars or less should handle restoring the Parking Garage. Mr. Bolton also said he heard the Safe Routes crosswalks are deteriorating and a report should be made to the local newspaper and the County District Attorney for a criminal investigation.

Solicitor Kelley stated that core sample tests were completed and the problem lies with the manner the materials were placed on the street, and explained that discussion is underway for a civil claim against the contractor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

BOARD/AUTHORITY REPORTS

Latrobe Municipal Authority Chairman Charles Moff reported that LMA has few problems and is in good physical and financial shape.

Parking Authority Chairman Martin Molina and the Parking Authority's Solicitor Daniel Hudock, informed Council that the Parking Authority is considering doing away with the top floor of the garage and redoing the remaining floors; a complete reconstruction. Mr. Molina said they want to raise parking rates and have the reconstruction project put out to bid. He stated again that Parking Authority wants to do whole rebuild, not piecemeal.

Deputy Mayor Baldonieri and Councilmember Wolford said Mr. Chambers Power Point Presentation on restoration (not rebuild) would last ten years before any repairs and they want to see bid for restoration with design/build idea. They also explained that with design/build and restoration only it would take three to four months as opposed to a year for a rebuild. The city could also budget finances over the ten-year warranty for repairs needed at that time.

Councilmember Jim stated to do design/build on restoration and rebuild would cost too much.

Parking Authority Solicitor Hudock agreed with Mr. Jim.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Giovannagelo made a motion to approve the installation of a site light on the rear right corner of property owned by Heartland Restaurant Group (Dunkin Donuts) located at 300 Lloyd Avenue, second by Mr. Forish. Vote 7-0.

RESOLUTION 2011-21

Approval of memorandum of agreement with the Latrobe Police Department Collective Bargaining Unit for Canine Unit. Mrs. Wolford moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Forish. Vote 7-0.

RESOLUTION 2011-22

Approving purchase of computer and radio equipment through the Westmoreland County Drug Task Force Equipment Purchasing Program for the Latrobe Police Department. Mr. Baldonieri moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 7-0.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Giovannagelo made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance to vacate a portion of an alley bounded on the North by property of John Kolosnick, et. ux.; on the West by property line extended of Kolosnick; on the south by other lots of Kolosnick; and, on the East by a 20 foot alley, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 7-0.

RESOLUTION 2011-23

Acceptance of bid and awarding contract for underground electric line relocation contract. Mr. Baldonieri moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Forish. Vote 7-0.

Mrs. Wolford made a motion to approve a settlement with El Grande Industries, Inc. regarding a dispute pertaining to the 2008 street paving program, the settlement amount to be paid to El Grande Industries, Inc. being \$33,704.13, and further moved we ratify the actions of the City Manager and/or his designee in bringing this settlement to a conclusion, second by Mr. Baldonieri. Vote 7-0.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2011-24

Authorizing the City Manager to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement for the fireworks display for the Fourth of July Committee. Mr. Skapura moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Baldonieri. Vote 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Skapura asked the Solicitor if we have an agreement with the Railroad on vacating of street.

Solicitor Kelley said we do not have an agreement yet because Norfolk Southern is still negotiating with Mr. Giannilli.

Mrs. Wolford asked City Manager if the Company that is interested in the Transfer Station has contacted us.

Mr. Stadler said the Company has contacted us, and they cancelled the last scheduled meeting. A new meeting is to be scheduled for the end of the month.

Mr. Baldonieri asked the City Manager if we received an appraisal on the Sixth Ward Playground property yet. Mr. Stadler stated that he had just received a voice mail message on his cell phone and it can be discussed at the Executive Session after tonight's meeting.

An Executive Session is to be held immediately following tonight's council meeting for real estate and pending litigation for Safe Routes to School Project.

Councilmember Jim questioned if it was clear to the Parking Authority that we want a design/build with a ten (10) year warranty attached, or do we need a motion.

Solicitor Kelley said it was made clear on comments to the Parking Authority as to what council wants.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Richard Stadler reported that through the first quarter of this year compared to last year we are \$138,000 ahead in revenue, and \$76,000 less in expenses. Mr. Stadler stated that real estate tax collection is up \$84,000, Earned Income Tax is up \$12,000, Local Service Tax is up \$1,600 and the Transfer Station is up \$18,000.

Mr. Stadler reported that the city is having an influx of companies soliciting business from the storm we experienced on March 23, 2011. He explained that per our Ordinance we charge \$5.00 per day per person. He recommended the city raise this fee and also require more information from these companies. Mr. Stadler informed all city residents that solicitation is only to be conducted Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and no solicitation is allowed on Sunday.

Mr. Stadler stated that he is in contact with the Westmoreland Southwest PA Commission concerning energy audits to be conducted to the Municipal Building and the Fire Stations.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Griffin thanked Lieutenants Eslary and Bliss for the K-9 demonstration.

Mrs. Wolford made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara J. Buck, Secretary
