

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Mayor Wolford asked all for a moment of silence.

The City Secretary read Roll Call:

Eric Bartels - present

John Murtha – present

Christine Weller - present

Robert Forish - present

Deputy Mayor Gerald Baldonieri - present

Julie Bisi – absent

Mayor Rosemarie Wolford - present

Also present were the following: Wayne Jones, City Manager; James Bumar, Police Chief; John Brasile, Fire Chief; Zachary Kansler, Solicitor; Michael Gray, Public Works Director; Ann Powell, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Forish moved to adopt the July 10, 2017 minutes, second by Mrs. Weller. Vote 6-0.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT

Total Expenses \$242,817.76

Total Payroll 154,463.33

GRAND TOTAL \$397,281.09

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS FROM JULY 2017

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"

Mr. Forish moved to approve the reports and bills presented for payment, second by Mr. Baldonieri. Vote 6-0.

Latrobe Community Revitalization Program Director Jarod Trunzo reported that they were awarded a Rural Business Enterprise Grant from USDA to open a Business Incubator (see attachment "G"). Mr. Trunzo stated that they started the process three years ago and did not get approved the first year. But they stuck with it. He said the third floor of the Quatrini Rafferty building is being renovated and will offer free rent to start-up businesses that complete the application process and are approved. After admission into the program they will benefit from the contract with the Small Business Development Center, who will spend time with the business entrepreneurs for three to nine months, as long as they make a good faith effort to locate in downtown Latrobe. The businesses will also be able to apply for tax credit up to \$50,000. Mr. Trunzo stated that the current businesses can also be helped by teaming up with strategists, live videos, and webinars. He reported that he has had a couple informal conversations with interested business owners. The program will make sure the new businesses are a right fit for Latrobe. Mr. Trunzo said the application form will be on the website and they will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS (related to agenda)

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Bisi, Wolford.

No report.

Public Safety and Public Works Committee – Bartels, Forish

Mr. Bartels reported the committee is due to meet before the next agenda prep meeting.

Personnel Committee – Murtha, Wolford

Mr. Murtha reported that the City Manager and Public Works Director are conducting interviews for a Public Works position.

City Manager Wayne Jones reported that they have made a tentative offer.

Events Committee – Baldonieri, Murtha.

Mr. Baldonieri reported the Banana Split Event starts Friday the 25th through Sunday the 27th.

Parking Committee – Bartels, Baldonieri, Forish.

Working on a contract with a man concerning lot purchase.

GLSD Student Showcase Committee - Bisi, Murtha

No report.

BOARD/AUTHORITY REPORTS

Mayor Wolford reported that Parks and Recreation will have a meeting this Thursday and will discuss the Dek Hockey updates. Mayor Wolford said hopefully they will have something for the Agenda Prep meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Department - No report.

Police Department – Chief Bumar complimented Mike Gray and the Public Works Department, and John Brasile and the Fire Department, and EMS for Steelers Fest night. He said everything worked out great. Chief Bumar reported that K-9 Rocky is failing in health and the Department is looking at Rocky's possible retirement and replacement.

Council Member Julie Bisi arrived at 6:47 P.M. and took her seat.

Fire Department – Chief Brasile reiterated what Police Chief Bumar said concerning the Steelers Fest. Chief Brasile said a lot of cars got parked and everything went off without a hitch.

Code Enforcement – Enforcement Officer Ann Powell reminded residents, if they are setting up a fire pit to please get a permit.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Mr. Baldonieri made a motion authorizing the Solicitor to prepare and advertise a Quality of Life Ordinance, which will provide the City with mechanisms to combat blight, second by Mr. Forish. Vote 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Wolford stated that she and Public Works Director Mike Gray popped into a PennDOT office uninvited and met with a guy trying to have his lunch to ask questions about the bridge. Mayor Wolford said they did not like what they heard so Mayor contacted Representative Petrarca. Representative Petrarca gave her an email address for the PennDOT District Director of Contracting. Mayor Wolford stated she emailed him and explained that the bridge does not seem to be enough of a priority to them, but it is to us. She received an email back and he said they would get on it. The Assistant District Director met Friday with the bridge contractor to see about expediting the project. A meeting is to be scheduled with the City Council, residents and PennDOT about a revised plan. Mayor Wolford said they needed to better communicate with the City. Mayor said she would like to see if Representative Petrarca, or someone to represent him, can attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZENS REQUESTS

Ralph Jenko of 921 Walnut Street addressed Council concerning the Quality of Life Ordinance. Mr. Jenko stated he supports it although he advised by making an ordinance with out any means of enforcement ends up being a source of frustration for a lot of people. Mr. Jenko said that good homeowners and citizens of the city do not really need an ordinance to do the right thing, and when they find out the ordinance is there without any type of power of enforcement to encourage people to appropriately behave it becomes frustrating. He said he heard there will be a fine rate structure. He said this will be a culture shock to anyone that learns about this and thinks a warning period would be appropriate. He said we should have consideration to remediation for senior citizens that may not be able to completely or as quickly comply.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Jones reported that there was a meeting regarding MS4 for sediment going into water tables. He said it will be discussed at the agenda prep meeting. Mr. Jones said there is a significant cost factor, that is an unfunded mandate from DEP. There are possibilities of cost sharing. City Manager Jones reported that the budget is 60% in to the year with revenues at 64%, that puts revenues ahead, and expenditures at 47%, that is less than budgeted. Mr. Jones also reported that Citizens Fiber is in negotiation with the City's contractor Cohen Law and all is running smoothly. Cohen Law will have a contract with Citizen's for Council to

review. The City Manager also reported that an Employee Handbook is in the works, and he is making changes that apply specifically to Latrobe.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wolford echoed Police Chief Bumar, Fire Chief Brasile, that the Police, Fire, and Public Works Department did what they do every day, and thanks. Mayor Wolford said even with the bridge out we managed to get through two of our events smoothly. She stated the next big event is the Banana Split Festival.

Mayor Wolford asked Chief Bumar to let us know what we can do for Rocky.

Mr. Bartels made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Baldonieri. Vote 7-0.

Regular Meeting of Council adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara J. Buck, Secretary
