

**LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mayor Bartels called to order the Regular Monthly Meeting of Latrobe City Council at 7:03 P.M.
Mayor Bartels asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mayor Bartels asked all for a moment of silence.
The City Manager read Roll Call:

Deputy Mayor Ralph Jenko –present
Robert Forish– present
Jim Kelley – absent
Ann Amatucci – present
Bridget DiVittis – absent
William Yuhaniak – absent
Mayor Eric Bartels – present

Also present were the following: John Greiner, Solicitor; Robert Derk, OIC/Acting Police Chief; John Brasile, Fire Chief; Scott Wajdic, Public Works Director (absent); Ann Powell, Stormwater Director; Terry Carcella, City Manager; Jim Nieusma, Code/Zoning Officer; Karen Meholic, Director of Finance & Administration.

CITIZENS' REQUEST (related to agenda)

Several landlords spoke about their concerns regarding the blight project and the inspections of rental properties. Landlords are concerned that this is intrusive and will cost the landlords more money along with the tenants. Several council members spoke out to reassure the landlords, that were present, about that the spirit of these inspections are solely based on health, safety and welfare of the residents that are renting. The city is not looking to impose high inspection rates. Mayor Bartels informed citizens that the committee is made up of 2 members of council, the city manager, the county, a realtor, and various institutions. Several landlords spoke up about making the inspections for private homeowners as well. Mayor Bartels said they are examining that as well. Mayor Bartels also informed the citizens that Rental Registration is already a part of the code and there is no fee. Mrs. Amatucci asked if there is a way to have a committee of landlords before anything is decided, feeling there is a lot of unrest in this room. Mayor Bartels informed the landlords and citizens that there has been discussion several times at other meetings.

Mr. Jenko moved to adopt the August 8, 2022 minutes seconded by Robert Forish. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Forish moved to approve the August invoices seconded by Mr. Jenko. Vote 4-0.

City Manager Report

City Manager, Terry Carcella – Rentals in the City of Latrobe, Law 132-8 requires rental properties to be registered by the end of December 2022. No cost for registration, but if not registered a cost will be generated. Mr. Carcella spoke to giving credits regarding rental inspections which would include working smoke detectors, working furnaces and running water/sewage. Tenants also need to be responsible for the rental. Mr. Carcella reiterated that this inspection of rentals is not to hurt the landlords that take care of their rentals.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT FOR AUGUST

Total Expenses	\$429,977.15
Total Payroll	\$128,638.91
GRAND TOTAL	\$558,616.06

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Bartels, Jenko and Kelley – Budget is in progress.

Public Safety and Fire Committee – Forish, Kelley - No report.

Public Works Committee – Forish, DiVittis – No report.

Personnel Committee – Bartels and Jenko – Discussion later in meeting.

Events Committee – Mrs. Amatucci reported that the Banana Split Festival was a success. Mr. Jenko also commented on the Italian Festival which was also a success. Mayor Bartels thanked all involved with the Italian Festival.

GLSD Student Showcase Committee – Bartels – No Report.

BOARD AND AUTHORITY REPORTS

LMA – No report.

Library – No report.

Latrobe GLSD Parks and Recreation – No report.

RESOLUTION 2022-49

Appointment of Acting Police Chief and Office in Charge. Mr. Forish made a motion seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. Vote 4-0.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS FROM JULY 2022

Treasurer’s Report See attachment “A”

Police Report See attachment “B”

Public Works Report See attachment “C”

Fire Report See attachment “D”

Code Report See attachment “E”

Tax Collector’s Report See attachment “F”

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department

OIC/Acting Police Chief, Robert Derk – The transition from Mr. Sleasman’s retirement after all sick, vacation and personal days accumulated are used. Acting Police Chief, Robert Derk, the department, prior to OIC Derk taking over went well, officers have helped with the process. OIC Derk asked if council had any questions regarding his report. No questions were asked. OIC Derk informed council that the new police unit is at Blackout Tinting getting all the upfitting’s on the unit and should be ready in a couple of weeks. OIC Derk spoke about being shorthanded with the auxiliary police. He feels that the hourly rate is too low. OIC Derk approached Superintendent, Mike Porembka to discuss raising the hourly rate. Mr. Porembka agreed to raising rate to \$12.50 from \$9.75 for 2022-2023 school year and 2023-2024 to \$15.00/hour. The school district and the city split the cost 50/50. OIC Derk feels that this is part of the reason no one is interested in applying. Council to consider this matter. Mayor Bartels asked of the time change affecting the lights at LES. OIC Derk assured that all lights are working properly.

Code/Zoning Department

Code Enforcement Officer, James Nieuwma – Mr. Nieuwma stated he had 42 complaints last month with eighteen resolved and fifteen carried over to September.

Stormwater

Stormwater Director, Ann Powell – Mrs. Powell informed council that she has a list of projects for the fall. Sulphur Run, Princeton Street and Raymond Avenue are having the drainage issues fixed to prevent the ice formation in the winter. No discussion.

Public Works Department

Public Works Director, Scott Wajdic (absent). Mayor Bartels informed members of council and citizens that the paving and Courtyard Plaza are behind schedule due to the contractors being behind. Milling will start on August 14, 2022.

Fire Department

Fire Chief, John Brasile – Very busy month of August. Three house fires in August at Spring Street, Forbes Avenue and Fourth Avenue. No injuries and with minor damage. Chief Brasile informed citizens that he gives out free smoke detectors and will come and change the batteries if needed. No discussion.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2022-50

Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of LED Lighting. Mr. Carcella explained that since we are not financing and using ARPA funds, we will see an immediate savings on electric invoices. The savings is approximately 50%. Mr. Jenko inquired about the time frame. Mr. Forish made a motion seconded by Mr. Jenko. Vote 4-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-51

Appointment of a Seasonal Employee for the Public Works Department and a Part Time Union Clerical Employee. Randy Komperda, seasonal hired with an hourly rate of \$25.00; Nancy McCune hired as part-time Maintenance/Clerical employee with a rate of \$22.58 not exceeding 35 hours per week. Mr. Forish made a motion seconded by Ann Amatucci. Vote 4-0. No Discussion.

ORDINANCE 2022-06

A Resolution Amending Chapter 132 of the City Code to include certain requirements concerning Vacant Properties and Rental Properties. Mr. Greiner explained Ordinance 2022-06 advertised for consideration this evening for the Public Hearing held earlier tonight. Mr. Jenko made a motion. No one seconded, motion failed. Mrs. Amatucci moved to table the ordinance based on the lack of answers for the landlords and business owners seconded by Mr. Forish. Mr. Jenko stated that there are two parts to the ordinance. 1. Renter Registration and 2. Vacant Buildings. Wanted to move forward on the blight. Mr. Greiner explained that it could be done. Mrs. Amatucci requested to amended previous motion to and to table only Section 5 of the ordinance. Council voted on adopting Sections 1 through 4. Mr. Forish made a motion seconded by Mr. Jenko. Vote 4-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-52

Authorizing the Contract for Uniforms with Unifirst Corporation. Unifirst will supply uniforms to a limited number of employees with a significant savings. Mrs. Amatucci made a motion seconded by Mr. Forish. Vote 4-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-53

A Resolution Authorizing the Application for CDBG Grant Funds. Mr. Jenko explained the resolution will enable the city to use funds for certain ADA curb cuts and thermos plastic crosswalks at Jefferson Street. Mayor Bartels reminded everyone that this is just for the application. Mr. Forish made a motion seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. Vote 4-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-54

Authorizing the Purchase of a Police Department Vehicle. Purchase price of vehicle is \$35,847.62. Mr. Jenko made a motion seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. Vote 4-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-55

A Resolution Authorizing the Contract of Consulting Services with Grass Roots Solutions. This resolution is for help from DCED in defraying the costs with financial and budget issues. Mr. Forish made a motion seconded by Mr. Jenko. Vote 4-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-56

Approving the Investment Policy Statement for the City of Latrobe Police Department. Routine matter whenever someone leaves. Mr. Forish made a motion seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. Vote 4-0.

EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL ACTION / SETTLEMENT POLICE DEPARTMENT GRIEVANCE

Mr. Carcella negotiated a matter with one of the police officers. Mr. Forish made a motion seconded by Mr. Jenko. No discussion, all in favor.

RESOLUTION 2022-57

Authorizing the Contract for Code Inspection Services with TKL Code Inspection Service, Inc. Mr. Carcella explained that he has been getting complaints with the current Inspection Service. Mr. Jenko made a motion seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. Vote 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Greiner spoke of his previously submitted letter of resignation as solicitor for the City of Latrobe. Mr. Greiner went on to thank all members of council. Mayor Bartels expressed his gratitude to Mr. Greiner for staying until a new solicitor was appointed. Mayor Bartels asked to adopt a motion to choose a new solicitor. Motion made by Mr. Jenko to appoint Lee Demosky seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

OPEN FORUM FOR CITIZENS' REQUEST (not related to agenda)

No comments.

Regular Meeting of Council adjourned at 9:00 P.M with a motion by Mr. Forish seconded by Mr. Jenko. All in favor. Approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Carcella, City Manager