

WEST GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL –Meeting Notes

May 5, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the West Grove Borough Council was held on Wednesday May 5, 2021. The meeting took place via Zoom Conference. The President, David Prosser called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. David Prosser, President
Mrs. Kristin Proto, Vice President
Mayor Stephen Black
Mr. Christopher Freese
Mr. Bill Temme
Ms. Elizabeth Garduno
Ms. Karen Beltran
Mr. Gregory McCummings, Secretary

MINUTES:

April 7, 2021: Mr. Temme made a motion and Mrs. Proto seconded to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2021 Borough Council with the requested changes.

Motion Passed

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Temme made a motion and Mrs. Proto seconded to approve the April Financial Report.

Motion Passed

TRANSFERS:

Mr. Temme made a motion and Mrs. Proto seconded to approve the May Transfers.

Motion Passed

BILLS:

Mr. Temme inquired about the invoice for the elevator repairs. Manager McCummings indicated that the sump pump system in the basement of the municipal building failed which caused water to back up and flood the elevator pit. Repairs have been made to the system including upgraded electric and replacement of the dead sump pump. Public Works will investigate potentially upgrading the alarm system to alert someone should the system fail again. Mr. Temme made a motion and Mr. Boyce seconded to approve the April bills.

Motion Passed

VISITORS:

Chief Justin Gattorno and President Neil Vaughn from the West Grove Fire Company provided an update on their long-range facility planning. At this time, they are exploring all of their options which may include building a new station in or somewhere around the Borough. They intend on keeping a presence in the Borough or very close by as they

have a strong volunteer base in the community. The company is expecting delivery of a new engine by the end of 2021 and they have placed an order for a new ambulance as well. The Fire Company will be providing a picture of their fleet to the Borough in the near future as a token of their appreciation for the Borough's continued support.

Lori Schwabenbauer provided an update from Avon Grove Library. In 2020 the library provided the second most children's programs in the system behind only the County Library in Exton. Most programs had to be moved online but they were able to continue to serve the community by doing so. As the restrictions continue to be eased the library will begin to offer more programs in person including outdoor activities in the parks. The library is partnering with Penn Township again this year to offer movie nights in their park. In 2020 the library was closed exactly 4 months due to the pandemic however they were able to be open for a total of over 1,700 hours for the year. Lori noted that West Grove Borough is one of 3 participating municipalities that continue to provide the requested \$5 per capita funding support for the library and thanked the Borough for the support. Lori will be participating, on behalf of the library, in the upcoming Comprehensive Planning meeting in May covering community facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were made

FINANCE:

Discussions continued regarding the need for accounting support to get the system aligned with the state chart of accounts and account procedures as requested by the audit team. Manager McCummings presented the idea of a not to exceed agreement of 10 hours per month for the second half of 2021. At the proposed rate of \$150/hour the spend would be \$9,000 for 60 hours. The Borough solicitor indicated that budget appropriations can be made by a motion and a vote by Borough Council since the spend was not originally budgeted for in 2021.

Mr. Temme made a motion to appropriate \$9,000 for accounting support in the remainder of 2021 and Mr. Proto seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

ZONING OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT:

Mr. Prosser inquired about the roosters listed on the report. Roosters are prohibited in the Borough by ordinance so the property owners have been issued notice of violations that the roosters must be removed from the premises. While on the topic Mr. Prosser wished to discuss chickens being kept in the front yard of properties in the Borough. It's currently not something that is covered by the animal ordinance and we have a home in the Borough who is keeping chickens in the front yard. Mr. Prosser asked that we reach out to the owners to see if they would be willing to move the pen to a more suitable area behind the home and if not we will have to address this with an update to the ordinance to prohibit the activity.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The wastewater treatment flows report was presented. The month of March averaged over 250,000 gallons per day however we recovered in April and dropped back below 250,000 per day. Manager McCummings updated Borough Council on the submission of the quoted sewer collection system repairs from the last round of camera work for the Community Project Funding through Representative Houlahan's office. The submission has made it to the level of being presented to the House Appropriations Committee so we are in the running for the funding.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Lieutenant Jason Ward. Lt. Ward provided an update on behalf of the Regional Police Department. The new and improved first quarter report was delivered to the Borough today and it includes new article submissions from the Public Safety Commission, Citizens Advisory Board, the Chief, a police officer, and the police Chaplin. Lori Schwabenbauer volunteered to participate in the Citizens Advisory Board or other available committee's as well.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Mrs. Proto provided an update that the April meeting that focused on Housing and Economic Development. The discussions centered around affordable housing and possible zoning adjustments related to mixed use spaces. The upcoming meeting will cover Community Facilities including the Library, the Fire Company and the Police. The meeting will take place on Tuesday May 11th at 7PM. President Prosser thanked Mrs. Proto for organizing the annual clean-up day including having the scrap metal dumpster delivered to the park for residents to use.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Parcel 5-3-9 Update: The revised appraisal has been received and was passed along to Judy Thomas who is the Preservation Programs Coordinator for Chester County Parks & Preservation. Communication was received that the Borough has been granted a Waiver of Retroactivity which allows us to possibly purchase the property and submit a grant request following the purchase. The grant program would potentially fund 50% of the purchase price for the property. Borough Council agreed to discuss the topic in executive session at the end of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Proto provided an update on the initiative to improve resident communications using a free email system that individuals can sign up for. Mayor Black expressed concern that residents have to take the initiative to participate in local Government but supported the idea to provide updates to the community. The revisions to the website are almost complete which will allow folks to change the language on the site. Usage of the community room and in person Borough Council Meetings were discussed. Because we do not have a system set up for hybrid meetings President Prosser felt it needed to be a unanimous decision to proceed.

Mr. Temme made a motion to have the June Borough Council Meeting in person and to allow usage of the community room and Mr. Freese seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

MAYORS COMMENTS:

President Prosser inquired about the Emergency Declaration for COVID and the Mayor believes it should remain in place until the Governor of Pennsylvania removes it for the state. Happy Spring to everyone, please stay vigilant with regards to the pandemic so we can get through this and enjoy spending time in person once again.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Public Safety Commission Meeting – Thursday 5/13/2021 @ 7:30pm (ZOOM)
- Comprehensive Plan Meeting – Tuesday 5/11/2021 @ 7:00pm (ZOOM)
- Primary Election Day – May 18, 2021

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Following the upcoming events Borough Council met in executive session to discuss a possible real estate transaction.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Temme made a motion and Mrs. Proto seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Gregory J. McCummings, Secretary