

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
MILLVALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Council Chambers, 501 Lincoln Avenue
Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Workshop Meeting Convened

The Millvale Borough Council Workshop was called to order at 5:02 pm by Council President James Machajewski.

Roll Call

Council Members: Al Atkinson, Paul Bossung, Katie Dembowski – absent, Patty Sorg, William Stout, Jack Varley, James Machajewski.

Also in attendance: Engineer Jenn Slagle, Borough Manager Eddie Figas, Zoning and Planning Director John Roth, Public Works Foreman Joe Kypka, Office Administrator Michele Kranik
Solicitor Cambest joined the meeting at 6:15pm.

Covid-19 Updates

Discussion was held regarding ACT 15; Council meeting adjustments – no adjustments or changes.

Determination on the public hearing status with Solicitor Cambest. Will continue discussions in September's meetings.

Discussion was held regarding implementation of the credit card system – Freedom System software installed on Point of Sale computer, as well as credit card reader. Online e-commerce system is set up and will be live on the Boro website soon. Training for both systems to occur later in August.

Discussion was held regarding upcoming Holidays and Holiday Events (Halloween, Christmas Senior Luncheon). It is too early to tell at this point; will have a better idea in October.

Correspondence

None.

New Business

Discussion was held regarding the Vacant Property Recovery Program in regards to 410 Stanton Avenue (79-G-154) and Skender Homes, owned by John Skender. Discussion was held regarding any possible conflicts of interests and resolutions.

Discussion was held regarding DEP stream redesignation and management report – Girty's Run.

Discussion was held regarding Keystone Real Estate Tax Liens. Would like to move to next year, and combine 2017 and 2018.

Discussion was held regarding Hahn Revolving Loan Fund request.

Discussion was held regarding the Stanton Avenue Land Slide and updates with Seavey Road issues.

Administration has reached out to Reserve Township and Shaler Township, respectively.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of 2 iPads for Public Works and Code Enforcement through Allegheny Cares funding at \$1,736. Also an addition purchase of 1 Laptop at \$2,599.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of street cameras, also through Allegheny Cares funding.

Discussion was held regarding MCDC Garden Property tax abatements for 2019 and 2020.

Discussion was held regarding Zaheen Hussein, the Sustainability Coordinator. He will be leaving this position to continue his education; discussion held regarding a proclamation for Zaheen.

Events/Programming

No updates.

Zoning/Community Development/Code Report

Discussion was held regarding the Quality of Life Ordinance, which is a ticketing process for property violations. We will issue tickets for code violations with a small fine, and the property owner will have 30 days to remedy the issue. If it is not remedied, another fine will be issued and property owner will have 10 days to fix the issue. If issue is not addressed/ignored – we will reserve right to file with the magistrate.

Discussion was held regarding updates to the Dumpster ordinance.

Discussion was held regarding the Stormwater Act 167 Ordinance.

Borough Engineer

Gateway Engineers

Ms. Slagle reported on engineering activities for the month of July.

C-42000-2020 General Engineering

Review of damage to Sheridan Street.

C-42004-2020 MS4 Compliance Work

Gateway continues to plan for 2020 tasks. No new updates. Gateway intends to schedule a meeting with the Borough in the upcoming weeks.

C-42007-2020 Millvale Road Program

No new updates.

C-42010-0005 CDBG Grants

Allegheny County has waived the local funding match requirement in an effort to ease the strain on municipal budgets, due to COVID-19. The revised CDBG award amount has been increased to \$33,000.00 from the original amount of \$22,000.00. The funds will be available after July 1, 2020. Gateway prepared specifications and bid documents for the project which is scheduled for a bid opening on August 28, 2020.

C-42018 Spring Street Slide

The contractor has addressed the punchlist items, but is waiting to remove the silt sock until the slope has substantial vegetation. The Borough can release the bonds and any additional items can be addressed under the maintenance bond.

C-42019 Mary Street Slide

There are no new updates. As requested, Gateway will perform a field visit the week of August 3 to assess the current conditions.

C-42021-2019 Demolition Contract

This project is complete.

C-42021-2020 Demolition Contract

This project includes 3 properties in the base contract with 3 optional properties. Bid opening occurred on May 11, 2020 at the Borough office. Two bids were received with Allen Demolition, LLC as the low bidder. Gateway will process award documents upon contract approval by Borough Council. An agreement with the owners of 17 Friday Street is in the process of being executed. Once an executed agreement is received, the award process may begin.

Public Works

PWSA – Work done on Gerwig and Sedgwick.

GRJSA – Sinkhole on North Ave, line partially collapsed.

JEM Industries started painting crosswalks last night.

Natural Playspace work is on hold at this time due to other pressing projects.

Creek cleanout was successful.

Catch basin repairs are on hold at this time due to other pressing projects.

Roof repair – Vogel Roofing did repairs.

Frederick Street Extension work – good progress on work being done.

Discussion was held regarding the Solar Grant. No updates.

Police Report

Discussion was held regarding interviewing a part-time officer candidate.

Planning Commission

No report due to no agenda.

Items from Council Members

Vice President Atkinson mentioned debris on Bismark street.

Councilman Stout mentioned three items: 1. Questions about permits for the Millvale Moose; 2. Questions about parking issues on Fornoff Street, as well as the if the dog food company was also serving as a dog boarding establishment, including a dog walking park; 3. Comments on more detailed meeting minutes.

Councilwoman Sorg discussed the recent “Back The Blue” counter rally that was held in Shaler Township that countered a Black Lives Matter rally, and the recent transphobic comments that were made. Proposed an inclusivity statement from the Borough. This topic was then saved for Executive Session for further discussion.

Unfinished Business

Discussion was held regarding the extension of the food pantry give away (Farmers to Families produce), and request for usage of the Millvale Community Center for this distribution. Farmers to Families will be extended through October.

Discussion was held regarding the Allegheny Cares Fund Agreement. Topic was tabled for next week's agenda.

Discussion was held regarding the Riverfront Lease and Sale Appraisal date.

Discussion was held regarding the Sternwheeler Lease.

Discussion was held regarding Allegheny Cleanways Parking at Riverfront – 2 spots @ \$50 per spot per month.

Discussion was held regarding Riverfront Park Entrance Mural. Project will be coordinated with Tri-Boro Eco District and PennDOT.

Discussion was held regarding the crosswalk project - \$4400 per crosswalk for repairs (5); 10 sidewalk repairs (\$66000) - \$99000 currently available in Road Fund.

Discussion was held regarding Evergreen Ave DLC updates.

Discussion was held regarding 2020 Demo Updates – Advertised as a remote meeting.

Discussion was held regarding Millvale North Ave Gateway Art installation project. Installation complete, mural to be unveiled on 8/8/2020 from 12pm-1pm.

Discussion was held regarding Borough Side Lot Purchase of 9 Sedgwick Street. Finalizing details.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

Council then moved to Executive Session.

James Machajewski, Jr., President

Eddie Figas, Borough Manager