

DAUPHIN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2023

Council meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL

Council President	Brian Cuddy
Council Vice-President	Kevin Musselman
Councilman Pro Tem	Jeffrey Thrush
Councilman	David Grbich
Councilman	George Bechtel
Councilwoman	Kathryn Burton
Councilman	Steve Harris
Jr. Council Member	Jocelyn Long
Mayor	Michael McKenna
Treasurer	Cindy Long
Administrator/Secretary	Linda Durgin (absent)

Public Comments

- Jim Stupe of McNaughton Company introduced himself. McNaughton is planning to build 114 townhouses on Stoney Creek. They are currently working on a sewer module with DEP and Light-Heigel. McNaughton is in the process of submitting calcs to DEP and are hoping to move forward as quickly as possible.
- Patrick Booton, of 1021 Hagy, is a Lions Club member. She stated that the Borough used to have a sign of approximately 18" x 18" for the Lions Club at the entrance of Dauphin from 322 West. The Lions Club would like to put another sign at the entrance of Dauphin. Council President Cuddy assigned further discussion to the Community Affairs committee.

Acceptance of Minutes

A motion made by Councilman Bechtel and seconded by Councilman Thrush to accept the Minutes of the November 8, 2023 Borough Council Meeting was passed unanimously.

Dauphin Borough/Middle Paxton Township EMC Report

- No report.

Joint Fire Commission Report

- Currently a total of \$270,174 in the replacement fund.
- Year to date receipts from the Fire Company's annual newsletter and solicitation for funds total \$3,260.
- Replacing the halogen lights on the engine.
- \$7,100 for leased copier
- Applying for grant for 40 – 50k for commercial washer/dryer to clean gear.
- Middle Paxton Township submitted a grant application on behalf of the fire company to add a 4th bay to the building.
- No December meeting, will meet again in January.

Parks and Recreation Report

- No report. No November or December meetings.

Engineer's Report

- CFA met and did not decide on water grants.
- Power is now on at the bridge.
- A lot of activity on zoning permits.
- 408 Claster and 211 Erie will move forward with citations. One is for trash, and one is not to code.

Solicitor's Report

- 408 Claster is suspected to be operating as an unregistered rental. There is an older gentleman living at the house. The NOV sent is based on codes violations.
- Follow up on dog on Hillside: letters went out, no new reports. Please forward complaints as needed.
- Zoning Hearing Board – no notice received of appeal. The deadline has lapsed and believes the issue is “put to bed.”
- More discussion to follow regarding rental fees only due when occupied.

Mayor's Report

- The Fire Company responded to 13 calls for the month of November. There were 4 Duty Officer calls. There were 2 criminal investigations in September.
- PA State Police tagged the Trailblazer across from the Post Office. No one will come to tow it.
- Xander is moving the gazebo project to the Spring. Will provide updates when the time comes.
- There was 1 noise complaint.
- 11/13 there was a power outage throughout the Borough due to an accident.
- The Christmas Tree lighting went well.
- Mayor McKenna was Santa for the Lions Club Christmas party.

Sewer Delinquency / Rental Property Reports

- No questions

Treasurer's Report

- A motion to accept the November 2023 Treasurer's Report was made by Councilman Bechtel, seconded by Councilman Grbich and passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Council President Cuddy stated that the New Community Building committee continues to work on project. There are preliminary plans drawn.

New Business

- Council President Cuddy stated that the Finance committee provided a balanced budget, and it has been advertised for 30 days.

A motion to pass the 2024 budget was made by Councilman Bechtel, seconded by Councilman Harris and passed unanimously.

- A motion to pass Resolution 2023-8 to keep the fiscal year 2024 tax rates the same as the previous year was made by Councilwoman Burton, seconded by Councilman Bechtel and passed unanimously.

Rates are:

General Purpose 4.65

Fire Tax .35

Road Tax 1.00

- The Final Draft Agreement was shared with Council. Mike Cassidy was not present but shared his thoughts/comments with Council on the agreement. Eric Clancy, Tom (attorney for LDI), and Mark (builder with Vanguard) were present.

Councilman Bechtel raised a question on Exhibit B which showed a difference between the EPA approval of residential use for EDU purposed, and the drafted agreement that stated commercial use for EDU purposes, in addition to LDI receiving a credit toward the tap in fees. Councilman Bechtel shared that this is setting a precedence for McNaughton, it is not a benefit to the Borough, and the citizens in Dauphin owning/residing in apartment units do not receive the same billing rates, in addition to the cost of repairs to the pipe and pump station being the responsibility of the Borough upon completion on construction. Councilman Bechtel would be in favor of each unit paying \$60 per month and reducing, not eliminating, the tap in fee.

Eric Clancy responded that the developer has already agreed to pay a set minimum amount per month regardless of actual EDU usage. The actual EDU usage is estimated to be less than what the minimum approved payment covers. Additionally, the crediting of tap in fees will only be for Phase 1 of the construction. Phase 2 of development will have tap in fees. Phase 3 is still in the process of land development and no discussion or decision has been made at this time.

Council President Cuddy read an excerpt of a comment from Mike Cassidy regarding the crediting of tap in fees.

Eric Clancy explained the credit request is for the connection from the pump station to the main manhole. The responsibility for the connection from the townhouses to the pump station will be on LDI.

Keith Heigel pointed out that discussion of Phases 2 and 3 are not part of this current agreement. Councilman Grbich stated that he concurs with a lot of Councilman Bechtel's concerns; however, if the Borough says no, we're not getting enough, we will end up getting nothing.

A motion to approve the Final Draft Agreement was made by Councilman Musselman, seconded by Councilman Grbich and passed with Councilman Bechtel being the only no vote. No Council members abstained from the vote.

- Mike Keffer of Light-Heigel spoke about the control panel in the pump station. The panel is from 2008 and has an erratic operation and has been short cycling requiring a lot of manual intervention from Borough staff to continue operating. Envirep will install a new control system which will take the better part of a day to complete. Envirep has assured us that they will manually maintain operation of the pumps during the repair until the new panel is fully functional. The total cost of this is \$5,041.69 and the new panel should be here within 2-3 weeks.

A motion to move forward with the pump station repair was made by Councilman Grbich, seconded by Councilman Thrush and passed unanimously.

- It was discovered that Borough Council and staff were having trouble accessing/sending/receiving emails. Councilman Grbich is looking at options to move off of the complimentary email service that was previously provided by Comcast. Current options:

- The Borough IT contractor, Larry Rank of Tech-Port Services, can host an email server for the Borough.
- Councilman Grbich is awaiting a quote from Comcast for additional email addresses on the account.
- Councilwoman Burton suggested using Gmail.

Councilmen Grbich and Harris and Councilwoman Burton will look further into the above options. Solicitor Statler will provide legal information for email requirements.

Correspondence

- A letter was received from Bryce Tobin thanking Council for the donation toward his Eagle Scout project.

- The Tree Lighting Committee thanked Council for the donation toward the Tree Lighting event.

- Regarding the elections:

- This December meeting will be the last for Councilman Thrush. He was presented with an unofficial work vest as a token of thanks for his service on Council.
- Chris Smith will be taking Councilman Thrush's place on Council effective January.
- A Reorganization meeting will be held on January 2 at 6:30 p.m. with the regularly scheduled monthly Council meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.
- Jim Fisher, unofficial liaison from Middle Paxton Township, is stepping down after 2 terms with the Township. The Borough thanked him for his service in the community.

- Councilman Bechtel inquired about the streetlight requested during the 10/03 Council meeting. Mayor McKenna and Councilman Grbich stated that PP&L is unwilling/unable to install a light where requested.

Committee Reports

Administration – Cuddy, Bechtel, Grbich

- The 2024 Budget has been passed.

- Annual reviews will be completed with staff at which time increases in wages will be conveyed.

Public Works – Musselman, Thrush

- Councilman Musselman stated that a new handrail is needed on Erie Street and will need to be replaced as soon as possible. The current handrail is broken and unrepairable.

Community Affairs – Burton, Harris

- Councilwoman Burton provided updates regarding the dog situation on Hillside. Multiple calls were made to the dog warden. Councilwoman Burton spoke with the State Police, the attorney for the State Police, and PA Dog Law. It has been suggested that Council further review and/or update ordinances.

- Councilman Harris looked into GoGov, the competitor for Savvy Citizen. GoGov requires an app to be downloaded on a mobile phone, they do not provide service for landlines. His recommendation is to proceed with using Savvy Citizen. Councilman Harris will get pricing. Residents will receive notifications for both Middle Paxton Township and the Borough.

Junior Council Person – Jocelyn Long

- No report

ADJOURNMENT FROM COUNCIL

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Attest:

Approved:

Linda S. Durgin
Administrator/Secretary

Brian Cuddy
President, Borough Council