

## **Valencia Borough Council Meeting**

*Meeting Minutes*

6-10-2024

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*Present:* President Rob Vigue, Vice President Torey Verts, Council Member Roger Grey, Mayor Lori Trosky

*Guests:* Allen Pinkus, Rich Trosky, Mike Sirianni, Darlene Zabish

### **Call to order**

The regular meeting of the Valencia Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Valencia Borough building at 61 Almira St., Valencia, PA 16059.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Roll Call**

All members of Council and the Mayor were present.

### **Changes to the agenda**

It was noted that item #10 was a duplicate item and was deleted from the agenda.

### **Minutes**

Council members waived the reading of the minutes from May. There were no changes to the minutes. Council Member Grey made the motion to accept the minutes, Vice President Verts seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: 3.0.0

### **Financials**

President Vigue read through financials including the Treasurer's Report, Expenses, and Income. Vice President Verts stated that since there was not a complete bank statement for May due to the issues with the bank account, there was not a complete list of deposits or checks that had cleared. Due to computer access, information was not able to be verified in QuickBooks. \$50,000 was taken out of the Liquid Fuels account in May to pay for the Butler Street project. Council Member Grey explained to visitors what liquid fuels was. Council members agreed not to list the ARPA account for next month since the account is officially closed. Vice President Verts pointed out that Valencia Borough had not received their real estate taxes from St. Barnabas for this year and that the taxes were due by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

President Vigue will write a letter to St. Barnabas.

Vice President Verts made the motion to accept the financials with the acknowledgement of an incomplete bank statement and not verifying accounts in QuickBooks. Council Member Grey seconded. Motion carried.

Vote 3.0.0

### **Paying of bills**

Vice President Verts requested that all Council members look through the bill spreadsheet since there were very expensive invoices this month. All outstanding invoices are now caught up on.

Vice President Verts made the motion to pay the bills. Council Member Grey seconds. Motion carried.

Vote: 3.0.0

President Vigue will mail out the bills. Mr. Pinkus asked about the financial state of the borough. Council members explained the current financial situation and why it is happening. Mr. Sirianni asked about options the borough had to rectify the financial situation. President Vigue stated that the borough has already made cutbacks to the bare bones, but other options included getting help from St. Barnabas, increasing taxes, and cutting some services.

### **Public Comments**

1. Mike Sirianni – Mr. Sirianni would like to build a garage on his property. Vice President Verts explained the zoning certificate application process and that the garage would need to be approved by Zoning Officer Chris Rearick. Mr. Sirianni will need to digitize his plans to send to Mr. Rearick. Vice President Verts will send Mr. Sirianni an email regarding the application process and setbacks.
2. Allen Pinkus – Mr. Pinkus gave a description of his previous experiences and former jobs. He asked what purpose does Valencia serve as a municipality in Pennsylvania. He stated that he doesn't see the potential for Valencia and that it is an historic relic with nothing to offer. He stated that he doesn't care what happens to Valencia as long as St. Barnabas and the Woodlands are okay. He asked what is the pay off for residents doing anything. Vice President Verts stated that the pay off is that you are volunteering for your community.
3. Darlene Zabish – Here to observe.
4. Mayor Lori Trosky – Mayor Trosky gave an update. She would like to turn the park into a memorial park for people who used to live in Valencia. President Vigue stated that since the borough leases the park year to year, St. Barnabas can take back the park at any time and all of the work that would have been put into it. Mayor Trosky has also been filling the food pantry box. Vice President Verts thanked her for her efforts in doing this.
5. Rich Trosky – Mr. Trosky gave an update on the park. The tractor broke down and is out of order temporarily. Mr. Trosky is fixing it and should have it running soon. Mr. Trosky has been keeping up with the mowing even though the tractor is broken. Council members thanked him for his efforts. Mayor Trosky stated the Parks and Recreation Committee needs extra help.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Planning Commission update**

Vice President Verts gave a Planning Commission update. She took pictures of Three Degree Road prior to the work done by Peoples Gas so that there would be documentation of the original road.

Commissioner Mullins resigned. There is an interested candidate for his replacement.

#### **Change order**

Change order #5 was submitted to Council for the Butler Street Extension project in the amount of \$1167.00.

Vice President Verts made the motion to accept the change order, Council Member Grey seconded.

Motion carried.

Vote: 3.0.0

#### **WM Aiken & Son invoice**

An invoice from WM Aiken & Son was submitted to Council for the Butler Street Extension project in the amount of \$112,316.24.

Vice President Verts made the motion to pay the invoice. Council Member Grey seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: 3.0.0

#### **Documentation of executive session**

On 5/22/24, Council held an executive session from 11:00-11:27 a.m. with their solicitor to discuss litigation purposes.

#### **Butler Street Extension Project**

The project is complete. It was noted that there may be some minor add-ons later. Vice President Verts completed the MIP report for the last invoice and will complete the report for the next invoice as well as the final progress report.

#### **NextTier Bank Update**

President Vigue gave an update on the issues that the borough has been having with NextTier Bank.

#### **Audit Update**

The audit is still not complete. Vice President Verts asked when Council will receive the final results of the audit. President Vigue will contact the auditor to ask about the status of the audit. He will also look up the report that is associated with the audit to see when it needs to be completed.

#### **Liquid Fuels Audit Update**

Vice President Verts spoke with the representative for the liquid fuels audit. The liquid fuels auditor will need to come to the borough for a day to complete the audit for the years 2021-2023. Vice President Verts will set up a date for the audit and requested that the other council members assist with the audit on that day. Both council members agreed to help.

#### **MS4 Update**

Council Member Grey and Vice President Verts met with Rich Craft concerning MS4. It was recommended to wait for the report from last before making any changes to this year. The current MS4 status has been documented. Council Member Grey and President Vigue got water samples from the different check points around the borough and submitted them. Planning Commission will devote part of a meeting to discuss MS4 compliance points of public awareness and education.

#### **Park Update**

The update was covered in public comments.

#### **Insurance**

Vice President Verts will set up a meeting with HA Thomson insurance company to go over the policy for this year and to have insurance questions answered.

#### **Utilities to automatic pay**

Council members discussed the possibility of auto-paying some utility bills. Council decided to hold off at this time to making any changes of how bills are paid.

**Secretary transition**

Council is still searching for a secretary. An ad will be placed in the Butler Eagle for the position. Vice President Verts will prepare an interview question list. President Vigue will update the laptop. Council Member Grey will notify other Council members when invoices and checks come in.

**NEW BUSINESS:****Street signs repair and replacement**

Council members discussed missing streets signs in the borough. President Vigue will look into the cost of replacing signs and will provide that information to Council. President Vigue will also contact the Treasury Department for unclaimed money owed to Valencia Borough.

**Correspondence**

Council Member Grey went through correspondence. There has been ongoing correspondence from the IRS regarding W2 submissions. President Vigue will talk to Anne about this to see what happened in the past regarding W2s. There was a deed transfer report for 82 Butler Street.

**Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be Monday, July 8, 2024 at 6:30.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Council Member Grey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Verts seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: 3.0.0