



Valencia Borough Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

7-8-2024

Call to order

The regular monthly 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

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

Guests: Josh Zimmerman, Rich Trosky, Judie Goertz, Brian Himmelstein, Julie Himmelstein, William Powell, Leslie Powell

Changes to the agenda

Additional items were added to the agenda including Change Order #6, appointing a treasurer and increasing the bond limit, W2 forms, street signs, and executive session documentation.

Minutes

Council members waived the reading of the minutes from June. President Vigue made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes from June. Council Member Grey seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: 3.0.0

There were no changes to the minutes from June 10, 2024.

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 3 checks from June still had not cleared as of June 30th. President Vigue stated that the check for police cleared in July. Vice President Verts stated that the items highlighted represent a list of items that still need to be rectified. President Vigue stated that the borough had received real estate income from St. Barnabas as well as all of the reimbursements from the bank.

Vice President Verts made the motion to accept the financials. Council Member Grey seconded. Motion carried.

Vote 3.0.0

Paying of bills

July bills were presented.

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

Vote: 3.0.0

Public Comments

1. Josh Zimmerman – Mr. Zimmerman stated that he is here because he is trying to get more involved with the community.
2. Judie Goertz – Ms. Goertz stated that her property is infested with groundhogs that are living on the property next door which is owned by St. Barnabas. She said that she is in communications with a maintenance person named Corey from St. Barnabas regarding the groundhogs. Corey told Ms. Goertz that they will try to trap the groundhogs.
3. Brian Himmelstein – Mr. Himmelstein stated he is here to catch up on what's been going on.
4. Julie Himmelstein – Ms. Himmelstein stated she is here observing.
5. William Powell – Mr. Powell stated that he is still trying to find someone to do the yard and that he is having a hard time finding quotes. President Vigue stated that he will assist Mr. Powell in finding some help.
6. Leslie Powell – Ms. Powell stated that she is here observing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Change order

Change order #6 was submitted to Council for the Butler Street Extension project in the amount of \$7435.60.

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

Vote: 3.0.0

Planning Commission update

Vice President Verts stated that the Planning Commission meeting will be this Thursday and that it had been postponed because of the federal holiday.

Butler Street Extension Project

Vice President Verts gave an update on the MIP reports that are required for the Butler Street Extension Project. She stated that she submitted the final reimbursement and progress reports to the county and that there are no more MIP reports to do. The final reimbursement will be coming soon.

NextTier Bank Update

President Vigue gave an update on the issues that the borough has been having with NexTier Bank. He stated that there have been no more attempted hacks and that the bank has reimbursed all of the money. The bank has doubled up on security and is working with law enforcement on the matter.

Audit Update

The audit is still not complete. President Vigue stated that they are still looking for verification of one item – a deposit of \$6000. President Vigue stated that they can't track down which month it was. Mr. Himmelstein stated that the deposit might have gone into the Capital Improvements fund since. Vice President Verts requested that the 2023 statements and invoices get returned from the auditor ASAP because they will be needed for the Liquid Fuels Audit in September.

Liquid Fuels Audit Update

The Liquid Fuels Audit has been scheduled for September 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. Vice President Verts requested help from other Council members to prepare for the audit. She stated that Council will need the bank statements and invoices back from the auditor soon so there will be enough time to organize them.

MS4 Update

Council Member Grey gave an update on MS4. There are currently no changes to the situation and the next move will come from the engineer. Council Member Grey stated that Council has done everything they need to for this year.

Park Update

Mr. Trosky gave an update on the park. The parts for the tractor came in and he is working on fixing it. The weed growth has slowed so he hasn't had to do much mowing. Mr. Trosky asked how Council is paying for this. Vice President Verts stated that receipts are needed for reimbursements so that there are accurate files. Mr. Trosky stated that he has also found beer cans in the trash cans at the park.

Insurance Meeting

The meeting with HA Thomson has been scheduled for Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. Vice President Verts spoke to the insurance representative today who said that Council needs to appoint President Vigue as Treasurer and that the bond limit needs to be increased. Council Member Grey made the motion to appoint President Vigue as Treasurer and to increase the bond limit. Vice President Verts seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: 3.0.0

Secretary transition

Council is still searching for a secretary. The people who responded from the ad in the Butler Eagle did not have the skills for the position or were not interested in it. Vice President Verts will look for other places to post the position. All Council members agreed that they were ok with splitting the original position into two separate smaller positions of a bookkeeper and a secretary in order to potentially get more qualified candidates.

Street signs repair and replacement

President Vigue had no updates on the street signs. He is still contacting people.

NEW BUSINESS:

Documentation of executive session

On 6/13/24, Council held an executive session from 12:00-12:39 p.m. with their solicitor to discuss litigation matters.

W2 Forms

The borough received quarterly W2 forms that need to be filled out and sent to the state. The deadline for submission is July 31st or else the borough will be fined. President Vigue will talk to the former secretary regarding this.

Planning Commission Appointment

Vice President Verts stated that Commissioner John Mullins submitted his resignation from the Planning Commission last month. She thanked him for his dedication and contribution for serving on the Planning Commission for the past 6 years. She stated that there is someone who is interested in being on the Planning Commission – Josh Zimmerman. Council asked Mr. Zimmerman to tell them about himself and why he wants to be on the Planning Commission. Mr. Zimmerman stated he has a background in mechanical engineering, he has led engineering teams, and that he has done design and sales. He stated that he wants to be more involved in the community that he lives in and wants to do what he can to help. Council had a discussion and deliberation on appointing Mr. Zimmerman. All members of Council were in favor of Mr. Zimmerman serving on the Planning Commission. President Vigue made the motion to appoint Josh Zimmerman to the Planning Commission. Vice President Verts seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: 3.0.0

72 George Street - Blight

President Vigue brought up a potential blight issue with the property located at 72 George St. He stated that the property has not been maintained properly. There is a portable garage that has collapsed that has black water in it and is sticking out into Lee Street. This presents some health and safety hazards. President Vigue stated that he found out about this from a neighbor who wants something done about it. Council discussed sending warning letters to the owners of nuisance properties. The letters would reference the nuisance property ordinance stating the property in question was in violation of the ordinance and that the existing problems would need to be remediated. President Vigue stated he would write the letters. All members of Council and the Mayor will sign them. President Vigue made the motion to write a letter stating the property is in violation of the nuisance ordinance and that the problems must be remediated. Vice President Verts seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: 3.0.0

59 Butler Street - Driveway

President Vigue has been speaking with the owner of 59 Butler Street regarding the driveway. The driveway had to be dug up for the Butler Street project to install inlets and lines. There are before and after pictures of the driveway before the work was done. President Vigue stated that the driveway was a mess prior to the project and that it had broken up asphalt. The driveway was redone during the project and is now smooth and flat and everything was still intact after the storm. President Vigue will reach back out to the owners and show them the before pictures. Mr. Himmelstein stated that the driveway was in bad shape 8 years ago during a different project.

61 Dodds Ave

The property located at 61 Dodds Ave is in violation of the nuisance ordinance. President Vigue stated this has been an ongoing issue. Mayor Trosky stated that the grass hasn't been cut in a very long time and that there is furniture that has been thrown off the porch and into the yard. President Vigue will print out pictures and will send the photos with the letter. President Vigue made the motion to write a letter stating the property is in violation of the nuisance ordinance and that the problems must be remediated. Council Member Grey seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: 3.0.0

Mr. Himmelstein stated that the county has a human services component to this and that Council should contact them. Vice President Verts said she would try to find that information. Mr. Himmelstein stated that Council had sent violation letters in the past.

Dodds Ave Clean Up/Ditches

There are some ditches on Dodds that still have debris in them from the storm. Some of the pipes are blocked. President Vigue, Mayor Trosky, and Mr. Trosky volunteered to clean up the debris.

George Street Water Issue

Vice President Verts was approached by resident Marguerite Martin regarding questions with her water. Ms. Martin has had to change her water filter out very often. The water company has flushed the lines but her water filter is still brown. President Vigue will follow up with Ms. Martin.

Correspondence

The borough received a real estate transfer for \$294.00. The borough received a taxes collection sheet for property taxes.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Monday, August 12, 2024 at 6:30.

Recognition

Council Member Grey recognized Vice President Verts for the amount of time and effort she has put into the borough. He thanked her for her hard work.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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

Vote: 3.0.0