

BOROUGH OF WHITE OAK
Minutes of June 15, 8:00 PM
Council Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our meeting was held at the White Oak Athletic Association Gymnasium located at 1798 Lower Heckman Road, White Oak, PA. Public access to this meeting was granted following mask and social distancing requirements.

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Charles Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Charles Davis

ROLL CALL: Charles Davis requested the roll call. In attendance was:

Elected Officials:

Mayor Ina Marton
Charles Davis, President
Edward Babyak
Louis Bender
George Dillinger
Julie Opferman
George Pambacas

Borough Staff and Professional Services:

Patricia McGrail, Borough Solicitor
Kenneth Hillman, Borough Engineer
John Palyo, Borough Manager
MaryAnn Winemiller, Admin. Asst.

MINUTES: George Pambacas made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2020 Council meeting. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Patricia McGrail announced that prior to the Council meeting on June 15, 2020, Council had an Executive Session to discuss personnel and pending legal matters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Glen Beech – 421 Oliver Drive

On June 10th our area lost power for 23.5 hours, Mr. Beech stated that he felt that Council should have intervened in the situation, he saw no increase in Police Patrol during this time, Mr. Beech took a survey of his neighbors. At the request of his neighbors Mr. Beech provided the results to Council. Mr. Beech also inquired to why White Oak Borough doesn't have a Mission Statement. Mayor Ina Marton stated that the Street Department was out cutting trees that had fallen and were blocking roads that evening.

Councilman Louis Bender stated that he personally seen police and the Volunteer Fire Companies on numerous calls and we need to develop a contingency plan when the Police are busy.

Council President Charles Davis stated that he will direct the Office of Emergency Management to have a plan in place for the next incident.

Todd Harcum – 419 Oliver Drive

Mr. Harcum expressed the same concerns as Mr. Beech for how the event was handled by the borough.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Charles Davis

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Ina Marton provided the Police Activity Report for May 2020.

Arrests: (4 adults /0 juvenile)	4
Assault	1
Drug Offenses	2
Theft	1
Summary of Traffic Violations	30
Total Incidents	649

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: George Dillinger presented the Finance report.

George Dillinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for May 2020. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

George Dillinger made a motion approving the Check Register for the month of May, which includes Electronic Fund Transfers and General Fund Checks in the following ranges (205751 to 205842) totaling \$375,150.35. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

George Dillinger made a Motion authorizing the following Interfund Transfers for the month of May. Louis Bender seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

From	To	Amount
Liquid Fuels	General Fund	10,168.67
Solid Waste	General Fund	78,950.33
Capital Projects	General Fund	131,758.50
Post Retirement	General Fund	786.55
Total Transfers		\$221,664.05

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CABLE: George Pambacas presented the health, environment and cable report.

George Pambacas made a motion to authorize payment to Dave Collura, for Wildlife Control Services, in the amount of \$600.00 for the month of May 2020. George Dillinger seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

George Pambacas made a motion to satisfy the following liens as paid in full. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

Lot & Block	Lien Number
461-H-62	GD-16-002721
461-S-45	GD-16-004474
550-P-06	GD-19-003682

George Pambacas made a motion to exonerate the following liens and to take such action as may be necessary to mark the docket for each lien signifying that the liens are exonerated as part of our Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Tri-COG Land Bank. The TCLB was created to revitalize neighborhoods by transitioning blighted properties back to productive reuse. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

Lot & Block	Address	Lien Number
551-A-114	1808 Ohio Avenue	GD-19-003779
551-N-133	2214 Hemlock Drive	GD-19-003647

George Pambacas made a motion to Suspend the solid waste billing while the properties are owned by the Tri-COG Land Bank for 1808 Ohio Avenue and 2214 Hemlock Drive. (Services will be reactivated once the TCLB sells the property.) Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

PARKS AND RECREATION: Julie Opferman

A discussion occurred on whether White Oak Pool will not open this year due to the ongoing Pool Pump Project and COVID 19. Julie Opferman deferred the pump project update to the Engineer. Council deferred the decision until Julie Opferman had another discussion with the Pool Manager about staffing. Charles Davis referred the issue to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

George Pambacas asked about a decision on Community Day which is less than 6 weeks away. A discussion ensued on what cost would the borough incur if we cancel Community Day with contracts we have already entered into? John Palyo stated he would have Michelle Gessner look into what cost we would incur for cancellations. Fireworks are currently up for discussion by Borough Council.

PLANNING AND ZONING: Edward Babyak

The monthly permit/violation reports for May are available for review during normal business hours.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT: Louis Bender

No Report

PUBLIC WORKS: Charles Davis

The monthly reports for May are available for review during normal business hours.

George Pambacas added that the Public Works Department did a great job mulching the Hiking Trail at the Heritage Hill Park complex. He's received several compliments regarding the improvement. George Pambacas announced that the Heritage Hill and Bishop Playgrounds are open and posted with necessary COVID-19 restrictions.

George Pambacas stated he would like to make a motion to rescind the vote to re-instate employee # 2601041 in the Police Department. George Dillinger seconded the motion. Council President Charles Davis asked for a Roll Call Vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes Votes: George Pambacas, George Dillinger

No Votes: Louis Bender, Edward Babyak, Julie Opferman and Charles Davis

The vote did not pass with a two yes vote and four no votes.

PERSONNEL: Charles Davis

Louis Bender made a motion for approve the Last Chance Agreement presented to Council on June 8, 2020 establishing terms and conditions for the re-instate of a former police officer, that held the employee number of #2601041. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. Council President Charles Davis asked for a Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Yes Votes: Louis Bender, Edward Babyak, Julie Opferman and Charles Davis

No Votes: George Pambacas and George Dillinger

The motion passed with four (4) yes votes and two (2) no votes.

Councilman George Dillinger commented that legal counsel drafted a very well written agreement, but his vote of No represents that the Police Officer should not be reinstated.

TAX COLLECTORS' REPORTS: Charles Davis

George Dillinger made a Motion to accept the Tax Collectors' Reports and pay the commissions and fees due. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Current Real Estate – Real Estate Tax Collector (Lisa Pitchford) collected \$1,279,228.69 current Real Estate Tax for the collection period of May, 2020.

Commission Due	\$7,147.50
Costs	.00
Total Due	\$7,147.50

Delinquent/Liened Real Estate

Keystone Collections Group, Delinquent/Liened Real Estate Tax Collector(s) collected \$2583.91 plus costs in delinquent Real Estate Tax for the collection period of May 1, 2020 – May 31, 2020.

Commission Due	\$42.20
Costs	\$.00
Total Due	\$42.20

Earned Income Tax

Keystone Collections Group, Current/Delinquent Earned Income Tax Collector(s) collected \$84,733.91 in current and delinquent Earned Income Tax for the collection period of May, 2020.

Commission Due	\$1236.15
Costs (refunds/postage and/or costs)	\$99.68
TCC Annual Fee	\$0.00
Total Due	\$1335.83

Berkheimer Associates, Current/Delinquent Earned Income Tax Collector(s) collected \$ 71.56 in current and delinquent Earned Income Tax for the collection period of May, 2020.

Commission Due	\$1.02
Costs (refunds/postage and/or costs)	\$0.00
Total Due	\$1.02

Mercantile/Business Privilege and Local Service Tax

Keystone Collections Group, Current Act 511 Tax Collector, collected \$2,121.76 in current Local Service Tax for the collection period of May, 2020.

Commission Due	\$131.57
Refund	\$0.00
Costs (postage and/or costs)	\$0.00
Total Due	\$131.57

Keystone Collections Group, current Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collector, collected \$70,700.45 in Business Privilege and \$28,488.41 in Mercantile Tax collections for the May, 2020 collection period.

Commission Due	\$2,975.73
Costs	\$0.00
Total Due	\$2,975.73

Keystone Collections Group, delinquent Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collector, collected \$.00 in delinquent Business Privilege Tax and \$.00 in delinquent Mercantile Tax for the collection period of May 1, 2020 – May 31, 2020.

Commission Due	\$.00
Costs	\$.00
Total Due	\$.00

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Ken Hillman

George Pambacas made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report and pay the fees due to Senate Engineering Company for Invoices 57460, 57463 through 57471, dated May 29, 2020, totaling \$16,935.33. George Dillinger seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

Julie Opferman made a motion to approve Change Order #2 submitted by Merit Contracting in amount of \$15,552.66 for the WOAA Gym Lighting Project referencing the two site lighting poles and lights as specified by our Engineer in response to a safety issue with three existing wooden poles and authorize the Borough Manager to sign the above listed request on behalf of the Borough. George Pambacas seconded the motion. Ed Babyak questioned the location of the lighting project. The motion was unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Patricia McGrail presented the Report in Executive Session

Louis Bender made a motion to accept the Solicitor's Report and pay the fees due to McGrail & Associates, LLC for Invoices # 36084 through 36090, dated May 18, 2020, totaling \$2,620.00 and Invoices # 36138 through 36144, dated June 12, 2020, totaling \$2,690.00 for a grand total of \$5,310.00. (These are invoices for the months of April and May). George Dillinger seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES: Patricia McGrail

Resolution #2020-16

George Dillinger made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Council of the Borough of White Oak authorizing the disposition of certain records. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Eric Penska – 207 Circle Drive

Sent a letter to White Oak Borough Council concerning the requirements to have chickens on your property in White Oak Borough. Borough Solicitor Patricia McGrail said she and Brian Dinkfelt, White Oak Borough Code Officer would review the ordinance for revision and provide feedback to Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council Member Julie Opferman brought up the discussion on locating some assistance for our Code Enforcement Officer. Council recommended that Steve Pholar submit a proposal to assist Code Enforcement Officer Brian Dinkfelt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Meetings are subject to change due to COVID-19 Pandemic Restrictions

- July 13, 2020, 6:45 PM – Council Workshop Meeting (Open to the Public)
- July 20, 2020, 6:45 PM – Council Workshop Meeting (Open to the Public)
 - 8:00 PM – Council Meeting (Open to the Public)

ADJOURNMENT: Edward Babyak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

John Palyo

John Palyo
Borough Manager, Secretary & Treasurer

Date Approved by Council