CLEARFIELD BOROUGH

**BOROUGH 2023 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**December 21, 2023**

Clearfield Borough Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 21,2023 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Clearfield Borough Building.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**: Stephanie Tarbay, Barb Shaffner, Steve Harmic, Brande Plyler. Scott Ortasic, Annjane Ross,

**ABSENT**: Steve Livergood, Nichole Norris, Mayor Mason Strouse,

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Solicitor Chip Bell, Chief Vincent McGinnis, Street Department Todd Kling, Deputy Chief Yankavich, Borough Secretary Betsy Houser

**MEDIA:** Jeff Corcino, Cherrie Dysard

Stephanie Tarbay called for a Motion seeking approval of the minutes of November 16, 2023, Clearfield Borough Council Meeting. **MOTION** was made by Barb Shaffner and seconded by Annjane Ross. **MOTION** Carried.

Stephanie Tarbay called for a Motion seeking approval of the minutes of the Borough Council Special Meeting December 5, 2023. **MOTION** was made by Barb Shaffner and seconded by Brande Plyler. **MOTION** Carried.

**Communications:** None

**Public Audience** Tony Yankavich asked why he couldn’t be on the agenda, but was told due to the sunshine law it is to be a 24 hour notice. He asked Betsy Houser to send a prepared budget that he prepared for the 2024 general fund for the Clearfield Borough. It showed comparative information for 2021,22,23. He handed out a sheet. He read from it until his five minutes were up. Stephanie asked him to stop respectively and wrap up his thoughts, Tony said he is being silenced. Tony said this is unheard of, it is inexcusable. Stephanie thanked him and asked him to sit down. Tony said anyone raising taxes on the taxpayers of Clearfield County is also failing their duties and responsibilities to the taxpayers of Clearfield Borough.

Rick Mattern spoke with Stephanie Tarbay today, and would like to have on record in regard to the relief board money for the Clearfield Fire Dept. Apparently, it is being held up for an investigation. He asked the solicitor for information on this. Chip addressed this, we received the money, we need to talk to the finance department and turn it over by the reorganizational meeting. Rick thanked Chip very much.

**REPORTS OF BOROUGH OFFICERS**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**: A copy of the Fire Department's report is on file. Andrew Smith wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He introduced the new incoming fire department 2024/25 officers. Chief Michael Yankevish, Deputy Chief, Tristen Buck, Assistant Chief Brett Collins, Captain John Steiner, 2nd Lieutenant Phoebe Kearney, and 1st Lieutenant Cheyene Rowels. Andrew said he is taking a career change in public safety education. He wanted to thank everyone for everything, he thanked the street dept. for all their help too. Stephanie thanked him and the new incoming fire department officers.

**POLICE:**

**STREET:** A copy of his report is on file. He said they first winter weather came and they responded appropriately. Stephanie thanked him for everything.

**MAYOR**:

**SOLICITOR:** A copy of his report is on file. He has an Ordinance to advertise for passage if it is appropriate, we need to pass this after the motion for the budget.

**ENGINEER:**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**MOTION** was made by Steve Harmic and seconded by Brande Plyler to approve repairs on the 2013 Ford Expedition, that includes rear fender repairs, removing rust and paint on quarter panel, paint and clear coat at $2,788.38, quoted from D. Fenton Fabricating & Mechanical. **MOTION** Carried.

Todd Kling remarked that some could be done in house and lower this amount.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

**MOTION** was made by Barb Shaffner and seconded by Brande Plyer to advertise for Gas and Diesel Bids.  **MOTION** Carried.

**PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

Note: We will be sending out final notice for Mechanical Device Fees.

**MOTION** was made by Steve Harmic and seconded by Brande Plyler to provide public notice for Borough Council and Committee meetings to be held in 2024. **MOTION** Carried.

**MOTION** was made by Scott Ortasic and seconded by Brande Plyler to advertise for the Reorganization meeting to be held January 2 at 6pm. **MOTION** Carried.

Dollar General – Land Development & Subdivision Review – Borough Request for Extension of Time.

The plans are not finalized.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**MOTION** was made by Barb Shaffner and seconded by Annjane Ross to approve the 2024 Budget. **MOTION** Carried. Steve Harmic remarked, with the hard work Mr. Yankavich did in the investigation, Scott Ortasic asked how much tax increase will cost on average. Both Steve Harmic and Scott Ortasic nayed.

**MOTION** was made by Barb Shaffner and seconded by Stephanie Tarbay to pass the Ordinance to increase the tax rate. **MOTION** Carried. Steve Harmic voted nay.

**MOTION** was made by Barb Shaffner and seconded by Annjane Ross to approve the bill list as presented. **MOTION** Carried.

**MOTION** was made by Barb Shaffner and seconded by Annjane Ross to approve authorizing the solicitor, Chip Bell to get bank quotes for equipment. **MOTION** Carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Stephanie Tarbay thanked the out going council members.

Reminders and correspondence:

Since 12/24/23 is on a Sunday, Christmas is on Monday, the Borough will be closed the 26th.

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED 6:20pm

Submitted By: Betsy Houser, Borough Secretary/Administrative Assistant