

COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE MEETING

APRIL 3, 2023

Present: Mayor David Velegol, City Attorney Mike Gaudio, City Manager Joe DiBartolomeo Jr. and City Clerk Dave Kurcina
Council: Tammy Johnson, Charles McCoy, Alexis Russell, John Casinelli, Nick Cekinovich and Wendy DeAngelis (via phone)

Also: Police Chief Larry Rea and Captain Rick Rienard

Place: Council Chamber

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Public Request

Frank Rocchio - There is a project coming up soon through the West Virginia Economic Development Authority. The organization is Jefferson Metals Recovery LLC which is pursuing a new solid waste project to construct a blast furnace and a mini sinter plant for the manufacturing of a Pig Iron plant. This would be on Route 2 along Veteran's Drive. There is technology in position for this facility that would have the best of best interest of our citizens. The Mayor noted that this facility would be built with the newest technology. Farley Wood from Empire Green Energy stated that the proposed Pig Iron Plant would employ 400 people.

David Lengyel (1073 Neville Street) – Mr. Lengyel said that there is a sink hole next to his house. He would like the City to divert or control the flow of water that is running off the hill. Joe said that the City will be there on Wednesday to look at this issue.

Ray Hall – Mr. Hall lives on Highland Street. There are still waste water problems near his home and he is requesting to have the street sweeper clean the street more often and to have the “Super Sucker” take care of the area in question more often.

Medical Waste Facility & Empire Updates

Motion by John Casinelli/ 2nd by Alexis Russell to go into Executive Session at 6:11 p.m. on a Contract Issue. Motion Carried Unanimous

Motion by Alexis Russell/ 2nd by Tammy Johnson to come out of Executive

Session at 6:20 p.m. Motion Carried Unanimous

Wastewater Grants

Joe Edmiston is working on the Wastewater Grants. He is finalizing the paperwork to get the \$10.3 million into our account.

Water and Wastewater Update

The bidding for the Wastewater Project will take place in 2 months. The bidding for the Water Project will be in June.

Firehouse Update

Joe Edmiston has a call on Wednesday to move the funds on the \$2.7 million Grant for the Firehouse. As soon as the money is transferred the Firehouse project can go out to bid.

Electrical Street Light Update

The Mayor stated that the drawings are being finalized for the 77 poles. However, only 18 poles will be covered which include sidewalks, poles and electrical. He also stated that the City has gone back on the Grants and resubmitted for more money for the lights. The City should hear in October if the additional Grant Money has been approved.

Allegheny Creek Park Update

There is a proposal from Vince Dowdle for \$6,000.00 for a survey. This survey is needed before any design is to get started.

Building Permit Ordinance

Joe will have a rough draft for council. He noted that is 90% complete.

Grass Cutting

The Mayor noted that the City may need to come up with a new strategy for grass cutting. John stated that the Mayor, City Attorney and the City Manager can come up with an ordinance and procedure and present it to council. It was also noted that the grass cutting crew needs to be separate from the City Park Employees. This item will be on the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting

Swim Team at Follansbee Pool

The swim team will start on the 1st of June and continue through the last week of July between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There is a cost associated with them using the Pool. This item will be on the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting

Community Days

The Mayor is asking for \$20,000.00 from Council for the annual event. He will provide Council with a report. This item will be on the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting

Follansbee Night at Washington Wild Things

The event will take place on Friday June 2nd . 400 people on average attend this event.

Wild & Wonderful Wednesdays

This event will start on Wednesday May 31st.

Public Works Director Position

Applications are due on April 5th. This item will be on the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting

Public Works Labor

Applications are due on April 5th. This item will be on the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting

Fire Department Update & Compliance Issues

Joe that stated that City cannot afford to have a paid Fire Department. He noted that City Council has jurisdiction over the Fire Department. He spent a lot of time researching the State Codes for the Volunteer Fire Department and the Fire Department is currently out of Code. There are liability issues and safety issues. He also stated that the Fire Department is not in compliance with the State Code (2939. Sub Paragraph I specifically Title 87). The Fire Department needs to make sure the personnel are properly trained and equipped and if not, there could be Liability issues. In addition, Joe noted that mutual aid agreements with neighboring Fire Departments haven't been renewed every 2 years, which is a requirement by the State. He also believes that the Police Chief and the Fire Chief cannot be the same person. Council has never seen the Constitution of the Fire Department, the bylaws and the rules and regulations. Furthermore, he has asked for this information and to date, it has not been received. Larry stated that he sent an E-mail to Joe requesting an itemized list of what he was wanting from him. Joe wants all the information that Larry has sent to the State Fire Marshall. The Mayor noted that the paperwork is not being done by the Chief.

Building Permits

Empire Storage Buildings – Farley Wood was at the Meeting and said that he has spoken to Wheeling-Nippon Steel about using River Road to transport items from their barge to the area at the former Follansbee Steel site. They are in the process of writing a right of way agreement. They are moving forward with keeping the barge unloading traffic off of Route 2.

Work Shop Items

- a. Park Planning Board Committee – The 1st Meeting will held on Tuesday April 18th.
- b. Recording of Council Meeting – The Mayor will get an RFP on this subject.
- c. Appointed vs. Elected Police Chief – It was discussed to put this issue on the ballot as a survey for the General Election in June. This item will be on the Agenda for the next Regular Council Meeting.

2nd Ward Handicap Parking

Charles stated that a Handicap Parking Spot located at 641 Allegheny Street need to be removed. This item will be on the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting

Main Street Flowers

The Mayor noted that only 1 bid was received for 85 Flower Baskets. This item will be on the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting

Community House

John would like for Joe Edmiston to get a list of all the Grants that are available for City Parks. A list needs to formulate as to what is needed for the Community House.

Supervisor Park Hires

Applications are due March 31st. This item will be on the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting

Summer Park Hires

The applications are due March 31st. This item will be on the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting

Fire Incident Report

Chief Rea reported that the Reports are up to date.

Building Enforcement

John stated that his Committee is getting ready for the next Fiscal Year.

City Manager Comments

Joe is working on the Business Franchise Ordinance and he is updating the B & O Ordinance. He is also reviewing the Personnel Policy and Procedures. Alexis noted that Council needs to address the cut in on Mark Avenue by Empire Green Energy. The cut in was not approved by Council.

Spring Clean Up

This will take place on the last week of April during regular garbage collection day.

**Motion by Nick Cekinovich/ 2nd by Alexis Russell to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.
Motion Carried Unanimous.**

David P. Kurcina, City Clerk