

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 13, 2023

Present: Mayor David Velegol, City Attorney Mike Gaudio and  
City Clerk Dave Kurcina  
Council: Tammy Johnson, Charles McCoy, Nick Cekinovich,  
Alexis Russell, John Casinelli and Wendy DeAngelis

Also: Public Works Director Steve Meca, Police Chief Larry Rea, Police Sargent  
Rick Rienard and Field Crew Supervisor Bill Secrist

Absent: City Manager Joe DiBartolomeo

Place: Council Chamber

Time: 6:00 p.m.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Charles McCoy who was named Brooke High School teacher of the year.

### Public Request

**Alfred DeAngelis** – He stated that at the last meeting it was mentioned that the Police Chief makes a little over \$9.00 per hour. He noted that Chief actually makes \$14.42 per hour.

**Frank Rocchio** - He started a nonprofit Advocacy Organization. They will be hosting a community event at the Follansbee Senior Center on April 6th at 6:00 PM. He wants to extend the invitation to Council and the community. There will be representatives from climate reality project and other speakers will be at the event. Also, there will be a speaker to talk about how zoning ordinances benefit communities from going from unhealthy environmental practices to healthy environmental practices.

**Tammy Johnson** - She would like to thank Steve and his crew for installing the solar streetlights and she would also like to thank Chief Larry Rea and the Police Officers.

### Medical Waste Facility Building Permit

The Mayor stated that Empire Green Energy Chairman Bill Torto wants to do a hard reset with the city of Follansbee and re-examine their business model. Mr. Torto informed the Mayor that Empire Green Energy is terminating their pursuit of the Medical Waste Facility and he apologizes on how it was handled in the beginning and wants to work closely with the City going forward with talks continuing over the next couple of weeks. The Mayor would like to thank Bill Torto, City Attorney Mike Gaudio, City Manager Joe DiBartolomeo, Jackson-Kelly and most important he thanked the citizens of Follansbee.

### **Norfolk Southern Railroad/ East Palestine issue**

This issue has been tabled for tonight's meeting.

### **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by John Casinelli/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Cekinovich to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimous**

**Motion by Nick Cekinovich/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charles McCoy to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2023 Committee As A Whole Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimous**

There are corrections that need to be made.

### **Police Department Report**

**Motion by John Casinelli/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tammy Johnson to approve the January Police Report.**

**Motion Carried Unanimous**

**Motion by John Casinelli/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charles McCoy to approve the February Police Report.**

**Motion Carried Unanimous**

### **Fire Department Report**

**Motion by John Casinelli/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tammy Johnson to approve the Fire Department Report.**

**Motion Carried Unanimous**

### **Grant Writer Report**

There was no report given. The Mayor stated that Joe has submitted 3 Congressional Grants. 1 for the Water System, 1 for the Street Lights and 1 for the City Plaza.

### **Financial Data**

The Financial Data was not available. The Mayor stated that last month the receipts were abnormally high at \$890,000.000. Last month was the first that it was entirely in the AccuFund Software and the Water and Wastewater receipts were not taken out. Also the ACH's were not included.

### **Bills of Account**

The Bills of Account were not available. There was Invoice that the Mayor would like for Council to approve.

**Motion by John Casinelli/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wendy DeAngelis to approve an Invoice from Jackson-Kelly in the amount of \$7,900.95 for their work on the Medical Waste Facility. Motion Carried Unanimous**

### **UDAG Bills**

There were no UDAG Bills.

## New Business

- a. **Public Works Director Position –**  
**Motion by John Casinelli/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Cekinovich to advertise for the Public Works Director Position in house first then advertise externally. Motion Carried Unanimous**
  
- b. **Front Office Personnel –**  
**Motion by John Casinelli 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alexis Russell to advertise for a Front Office Position. Motion Carried Unanimous**  
The Mayor stated that there are currently 3 Full Time Employees and 2 Part Time Employees. 1 Part Time Employee will be eliminated.
  
- c. **Secrist Building Permit –**  
**Motion by Nick Cekinovich/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Casinelli to approve the Building Permit for Mr. Mark Secrist. Motion Carried Unanimous**
  
- d. **Park Board –** The Mayor noted that this will be a Planning Board. John would like to have a representative from each Ward serve on this Board and they could bring back recommendations to Council. Alexis stated that the Board should start out as Council Members and then bring in Ward Representatives.  
**Motion by John Casinelli/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Cekinovich to approve the establishment of a Park Planning Board and then work out the details. Motion Carried Unanimous**
  
- e. **Recording of Council Meetings –** John wanted to know how the RFQ will be written for the advertisement. Hiring an outside Company would be in the best interest of the City. There was a Motion made by John Casinelli and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tammy Johnson to approve the advertisement to record the Council Meetings. Upon further discussion, there was no vote and the RFQ will be written and presented at the next Council Meeting.
  
- f. **Code Book Update –** To get all of our Codified Ordinances converted to a web format and have it hosted by American Legal Publishing, it will cost \$1,250.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> year. It was also discussed to pay 40% of the total invoice now and the rest at a later time. The decision was made to pay the total amount at this time.  
**Motion by Nick Cekinovich/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charles McCoy to approve an Invoice from American Legal Publishing in the amount of \$16,850.00 to update the Codified Ordinance Book. Motion Carried Unanimous**
  
- g. **Main Street Flowers –**  
**Motion by John Casinelli/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tammy Johnson to advertise for 80 flower baskets. Motion Carried Unanimous**

**h. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Water Board Member –**

**Motion by Charles McCoy/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Cekinovich to appoint Kenny Rhodes as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Water Board Member for a 2-year term. Motion Carried Unanimous**

**i. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Water Board Member -**

**Motion by Nick Cekinovich/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Casinelli to appoint Mark Schwertfeger as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Water Board Member for a 2-year term. Motion Carried Unanimous**

**j. 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Water Board Member –**

**Motion by Alexis Russell/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tammy Johnson to appoint Jim DeMaria as the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Water Board Member for a 2-year term. Motion Carried Unanimous**

**Motion by Wendy DeAngelis/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Casinelli to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Carried**

**David P. Kurcina, City Clerk**