

West Wyoming Borough Council Meeting – May 11, 2020

The monthly meeting of West Wyoming Borough was called to order by Chairman Gary Stavish via Zoom Cloud Video Communications software. Roll call was taken by Secretary Jill Lukesh and the following were in attendance: Chairman Stavish, Councilman Colarusso, Vice Chairwoman Maureen Zabolski, Councilman Dolan, Mayor Joe Herbert, Solicitor Linell Lukesh, Treasurer Kendzor, and Secretary Jill Lukesh. Also in attendance were Tax Collector Robert Connors, Police Chief Nocera and Borough Fire Chief Len Hromek. Absent was Engineer Mike Amato.

OLD BUSINESS- None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gary Stavish - Chairman-Personnel:

Chairman Stavish called for a moment of silence to honor Councilman Dan Grescavage, who passed away recently. Councilman Grescavage served the Borough of West Wyoming with dedication in various roles for 17 years. Council will honor Councilman Grescavage in memoriam in the near future.

The Unimart gas station on the corner of West 8th St and Shoemaker is now accepting the Borough’s gas card. The police and DPW can go there, instead of going to West Pittston.

Randy Colarusso - Public Facilities:

Councilman Colarusso called upon Treasurer Kendzor for the reading of the Treasurer’s report. It is as follows:

**West Wyoming Borough
Treasurer’s Report
As of May 10, 2020**

CASH ACCOUNTS

**COMBINED GENERAL, HIGHWAY
AID AND SEWER FUNDS**

GENERAL FUND				
ESSA BANK REFUSE	\$147,560.52	PLGIT	\$662,727.06	
FNCB DEBT SERVICE ACCOUNT	\$5,679.71	ESSA	\$147,560.52	
FNCB GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$ 420,229.97	M&T	\$343,302.45	
FNCB PROPERTY PROCEEDS	\$68,015.81	FNCB	<u>\$917,302.45</u>	
FNCB REFUSE ACCOUNT	\$290,472.89		<u>\$2,071,000.61</u>	
PLGIT EARNED INCOME TAX	\$182,149.63			
PLGIT PAYROLL	\$1,464.11			
PLGIT GENERAL	<u>\$2,022.62</u>			
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$1,117,595.26</u>			
HIGHWAY AID FUND				
PLGIT	<u>\$283,351.98</u>			
TOTAL HIGHWAY AID FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$283,351.98</u>			

SEWER FUND	
M&T SEWER	\$343,410.58
FNCB SEWER OPERATING FUND	\$132,904.07
PLGIT SEWER CREDIT CARD	<u>\$193,738.72</u>
TOTAL SEWER FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$670,053.37</u>
TOTAL COMBINED CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$2,071,000.61</u>

Councilman Colarusso made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Zaboski to approve the Treasurer's report. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Colarusso commented that the West Side COG took over operation of the tub grinder. Insurance payments should decrease. It was also noted that there is garbage at the mulch pile. Because of this, a suggestion was made to possibly put a camera at the DPW building and to limit the time that the compost yard is open. The tub grinder gets damaged due to the grinding of garbage.

Councilman Colarusso commented that DPW is requesting a trailer, a trailer hitch and a tarp.

Maureen Zaboski - Administration/Finance, Health and Sanitation:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Zaboski and seconded by Councilman Colarusso to pay all outstanding bills approved by the Finance Committee. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Tax Collector Robert Connors was asked about extending the face value period for real estate taxes, as suggested by the County. He said that most of the residents pay in the rebate period (about 1200 bills). There are about 150 bills that would be paid at face value. He recommended that we extend the deadline to August. Councilwoman Zaboski made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dolan to extend the face value period for the real estate property tax until August 18, 2020. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Zaboski made a motion seconded by Councilman Dolan to approve the renewal of Joyce Insurance and Assured Partners for 2020-2021. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilwoman Zaboski and seconded by Councilman Colarusso to pass the resolution appointing Jill Lukesh as liaison between West Wyoming Borough and Berkheimer. It also authorizes the liaison to obtain tax information and records from Berkheimer. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Zaboski stated that the yard waste collection schedule is posted on Facebook and the Borough Web site. Also the document shredding event is still in place for 9/12/2020.

Motion by Councilwoman Zaboski to transfer \$182,149.63 from PLGIT EIT to FNCB General, second by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion Councilwoman Zaboski to transfer \$193,738.72 from the Sewer Credit Card Account to FNCB Sewer, seconded by Councilman Colarusso.

Mike Dolan - Public Safety/Code Enforcement:

Monthly Fire Chief's Report:

13 Alarms: EMS Assist 1, Hazardous Condition 1, Water Problem 1, Water Leak 1, Public Service 5, Good Intent 3, and Authorized Controlled Burning 1.

Borough Fire Chief Len Hromek asked about the details of authorized burning and what the most current ordinance is for what is allowed with an authorized burn.

Chief Hromek also inquired about the right of entry to a private residence when a fire is reported. A smoke detector went off and it was reported by a call center. The resident refused the fire department entry. Does the fire department have the right to enter a residence after a refusal? Mayor Herbert provided that once an alarm sounds the property belongs to the fire department until the fire chief determines that it is safe. When it is deemed safe and up to standards it goes back to the owner or renter. This statute is dated and the Solicitor will find out what the current law is.

Police Chief's Update:

There isn't any new vehicle maintenance. They do need summer tires. Two additional police officers are eligible for FFCRA. The officers that were quarantined due to Covid-19 have been cleared and are back on duty.

Chief Nocera requested a full-time officer. The department does not have enough officers to cover all of the shifts. The State Police moved West Wyoming's Police Department status to part-time instead of full-time because of the lack of coverage. They also advised that they are lacking in manpower, as well.

Chief Nocera said there will be no Buckle-up Grant program for the borough this year because there isn't enough manpower to operate the program. There was further discussion about the police department.

Code Enforcement Report:

The issue on 6th street was investigated and addressed by Ken Shefler. He submitted his report. The guy was originally doing storage but he is going to get a paint booth and get approved for it. Ken Shefler will eventually issue a permit of occupancy.

The exit signs and fire protection were also improved.

They were told to stop work by 5 pm.

The action on Apollo Drive quieted down. Ken will put up another Cease and Desist order and this one will be laminated. They cannot continue to operate in any way.

Linell Lukesh – Solicitor:

We need to get the sewer fee analysis report from Mike Amato.

The alley near Sarah Bevan's property at 276 West 8th St. was never named. There was a question as to whom the alley belonged and who is responsible for maintaining it. Ms. Bevan took care of the grass cutting for years, but is no longer able. The alley actually is the borough's property and should be maintained by the DPW.

A motion was made Councilman Colarusso to approve the West Wyoming Borough Business Registration Ordinance. Motion seconded by Maureen Zaboloski. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

An Executive Session was then held regarding Borough legal issues.

Mayor Joe Herbert:

Police Report for the month: 68 calls, 1 criminal arrest, false alarms, burglar attempts, fraud, harassment, suspicious activity, motor vehicle accidents (they are down due to the pandemic), 7 service calls and 6 miscellaneous calls.

The Mayor spoke with the State Police over the status of the West Wyoming Police being placed on part-time status. The Mayor agrees with the Police Chief about getting a full-time police officer. Council said they would look into the issue.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Dolan. Seconded by Randy Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed.