

**BOROUGH OF WHITAKER  
MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 11, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mike Bogesdorfer, President of Council, called the regularly scheduled council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mike Bogesdorfer, President of Council, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**RECORDING OF MEETING**

Mike Bogesdorfer, President of Council, read the following statement, "This meeting is being recorded for a matter of record and in assistance in the preparation of the minutes."

**ROLL CALL**

Council Present: Mike Bogesdorfer, President of Council; David Funk, Vice President of Council; Richard Lassige; Albert Race; Christopher Prilla; Matthew Pasquantonio; Dawn Jensen; Mayor.

Others Present: Joseph Dalfonso, Solicitor; Gina Rosso, Solicitor; Michele Lippert, Borough Secretary

Council Absent: Dan Urban

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mike Bogesdorfer, President of Council, announced that an Executive Session was held on June 4, 2024 regarding litigation and personnel issues.

**FILL VACANT MAYOR SEAT**

*Notifications of interest were received from James Ascencio, David Lippert and Dawn Jensen to fill the remainder of Daniel Lassige's term as Mayor.*

Introduction of candidates - David Lippert withdrew his letter if interest. James Ascencio & Dawn Jensen stood, addressed council, introduced themselves and spoke about what they would bring to the borough as Mayor should they be nominated.

## **Call for nominations:**

Dawn Jensen - nominated by Chris Prilla & Dave Funk

As there were no other nominations the nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote:

- Dan Urban – **ABSENT**
- Matthew Pasquantonio – Dawn Jensen
- Rich Lassige – Dawn Jensen
- Mike Bogesdorfer – Dawn Jensen
- Dave Funk – Dawn Jensen
- Al Race – Dawn Jensen
- Chris Prilla – Dawn Jensen

Dawn Jensen was welcomed to Council.

- **Motion to adopt Resolution 6 of 2024 providing for the appointment of a registered elector of the Borough to fill the Mayor vacancy in accordance with the provisions of section 45901 of the Borough Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:**
  - Motion – Chris Prilla
  - Second – Dave Funk
  - Voice Vote – All in Favor

## **MOTION CARRIES**

**Appointed Mayor is sworn in, fills out Affidavit of Residency and takes seat.**

## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Motion to accept the minutes of the May 14, 2024 Council Meeting:**
  - Motion – Albert Race
  - Second – Rich Lassige
  - Voice Vote – All in Favor
  - Dan Urban: Absent

## **MOTION CARRIES**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance:** The financial report for May 2024 was presented by David Funk.

**Motion to accept the financial report and pay the bills as presented.**

***Additional motion to hold Glenn Engineering's Checks.***

- Motion – Albert Race
- Second – Rich Lassige

## **ROLL CALL:**

**Dan \_X\_ Matt \_Y\_ Rich \_Y\_ Mike \_Y\_ Dave \_Y\_ Al \_Y\_ Chris \_Y\_**

## **MOTION CARRIES**

### **Streets, Roads & Property:**

Al Race reported there was a “No Burning” sign & pole stolen from Sherman Street. Stated everything else is good. Sue read the public works report regarding work completed in the borough by public works. Public Works will be cleaning out the sewer drains July 8, 9, 10 11, 12, 2024.

### **Recreation:**

None.

### **Police & Personnel:**

Albert Race stated the Durango had a tire that was repaired at Whitaker Tire.

### **Health & Sanitation:**

Rich Lassige reported 7 notices were sent, 4 complied 3 were given citations, 2 were repeat violators. There were had 2 court hearings, 1 was fined 1 was postponed, 12 door knockers issued, 10 complied, 2 were extended.

### **Fire & EMS:**

Michele Lippert stated Baldwin EMS answered 23 calls in May. There was not a fire report.

## **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Whitaker Sewage Committee:**

Rich stated on the engineer's report and there is a motion tonight for this.

### **Planning Committee:**

No report.

### **Tax Collection Committee:**

Minutes for April 11, 2024 read by Michele Lippert.

### **Whitaker Community Cares/Recreational Facilities :**

- Regular - The next meeting is June 20, 2024, 7 pm at the fire-hall.
- Community Day is September 28, 2024 2pm to 7pm.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Dawn Jensen reported 79 calls for the month of May.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

None.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Dave Funk read the report for May 2024.

### **BUILDING INSPECTION/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Michele Lippert read the report for May 2024

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Matt Pasquantonio brought up 254 Washington Avenue. Regarding parking and the driveway. This is causing parking issues. Stated he spoke with Ed Crates who stated Whitaker is in the dark ages, there is nothing he can do. Matt looked up the international building code and quoted the code that pertains to this. Joe asked if council would permit him to talk to Ed. Council agreed.

Al Race brought up 216 Frank Street. The Secretary advised Al know that Ed Crates is completing the occupancy inspection next week.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Motion to accept the proposal from Culkan to replace the motor in the 2011 GMC Dump Truck for \$ 4,925.00, includes labor and 3 year/100L warranty.  
*Council inquired if towing is included.*
  - Motion – Matt Pasquantonio
  - Second – Rich Lassige

### **ROLL CALL:**

**Dan \_X\_ Matt \_Y\_ Rich \_Y\_ Mike \_Y\_ Dave \_Y\_ Al \_Y\_ Chris \_Y\_**

### **MOTION CARRIES**

- Motion to adopt resolution 5 of 2024 for GROW Grant.
  - Motion – Rich Lassige
  - Second – Chris Prilla
  - Voice Vote – All in Favor

### MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to authorize the secretary to accept the final bid for the Kubota on Municibid when auction has ended on June 20, 2024. This bid must meet or exceed the \$600.00 reserve price
  - Motion – Matt Pasquantonio
  - Second – Al Race

Dan \_X\_ Matt \_Y\_ Rich \_Y\_ Mike \_Y\_ Dave \_Y\_ Al \_Y\_ Chris \_Y\_

### MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to hire Trina Moon as a Public Works employee for \$11.00 per hour, effective immediately.
  - Motion – Al Race
  - Second – Matt Pasquantonio

Dan \_X\_ Matt \_Y\_ Rich \_Y\_ Mike \_Y\_ Dave \_Y\_ Al \_Y\_ Chris \_Y\_

### MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to give Kelvin Brooks a .50 per hour raise effective July 1, 2024.
  - Motion – Dave Funk
  - Second – Chris Prilla

Dan \_X\_ Matt \_Y\_ Rich \_Y\_ Mike \_Y\_ Dave \_Y\_ Al \_Y\_ Chris \_Y\_

### MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to give Neal Jones a .50 per hour raise effective July 1, 2024.
  - Motion – Dave Funk
  - Second – Chris Prilla

Dan \_X\_ Matt \_Y\_ Rich \_Y\_ Mike \_Y\_ Dave \_Y\_ Al \_Y\_ Chris \_Y\_

### MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to give Susan Lippert a 1.50 per hour raise effective June 10,2024 and promote from assistant supervisor to supervisor.
  - Motion – Chris Prilla
  - Second – Matt Pasquantonio

Dan \_X\_ Matt \_Y\_ Rich \_Y\_ Mike \_Y\_ Dave \_Y\_ Al \_Y\_ Chris \_Y\_

### MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to *ratify* the 3 year contract with Precision Copier for a Postage Meter. The annual amount will be \$467.40.
  - Motion – Rich Lassige
  - Second – Al Race

Dan \_X\_ Matt \_Y\_ Rich \_Y\_ Mike \_Y\_ Dave \_Y\_ Al \_Y\_ Chris \_Y\_

### MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to accept the resignation of Jean Warren as Assistant Secretary effective June 4, 2024.
  - Motion – Chris Prilla
  - Second – Matt Pasquantonio
  - Voice Vote – Not All in Favor

Dan \_X\_ Matt \_Y\_ Rich \_Y\_ Mike \_N\_ Dave \_Y\_ Al \_N\_ Chris \_Y\_

### MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to authorize the submission of a PA DCED application (EDCDI) requesting \$50,000 with a borough match of \$10,000 for the handicap restrooms at the ball-field.
  - Motion – Chris Prilla
  - Second – Rich Lassige

Dan \_X\_ Matt \_Y\_ Rich \_Y\_ Mike \_Y\_ Dave \_Y\_ Al \_Y\_ Chris \_Y\_

### MOTION CARRIES

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Whitaker Community Cares** meetings and events:

- Regular - The next meeting is June 20, 2024, 7 pm at the fire-hall.
- Community Day is September 28, 2024 2pm to 7pm.

## **CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION**

Bob Silvasy 155 Magnolia Avenue - inquired if there will be street sweeping, he was advised no as the inlet bags will be installed in the sewer drains. The bags replaced the need for street sweeping.

Joe Gunning 202 Dora Street - inquired about the end caps (handicap ramps). He stated every borough was allocated money to do repairs, and all it looks like the borough does is to slap yellow paint on them. Mike Bogesdorfer advised our borough was not allocated any funds. Council asked where this is located that the paint is just slapped on, he stated Oak, Dora, Whitaker Street, Mike stated that if the state does Whitaker Street, the state would need to take care of that. Whitaker Street is a state road, Joe was not aware of that. Rich Lassige advised that there would be a representative from Senator Brewster's office at the borough building the next day at 1:00 pm. Rich mentioned Joe should come and speak with him. Joe brought up the trash & weeds on Whitaker Street. Mike advised that is the resident's responsibility, and again stated it is a state road, he needs to call the state. Joe congratulated the new Mayor, Dawn Jensen. He stated he hopes to see improvements and talked about a stop sign with graffiti on it. Talked about new signs are needed in the borough and at the fire department. Joe brought up houses on Whitaker with cars up on blocks and parked in the middle of the yards. Rich stated he took care of the car. Joe also stated there is a residence on Dora that has waist high grass, did not know the address, Rich said he would go over and take a look.

Lori Urban - 271 Washington Avenue - inquired about the poison ivy at the garage on pine street. Wanted the borough to take care of it, council advised no the borough cannot spray private property and if they started they would then have to do it for all of the borough when it is the resident's responsibility.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Motion to adjourn the meeting:**

- Motion – Chris Prilla
- Second – David Funk
- Voice Vote – All in Favor