

**BOROUGH OF WHITAKER
MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 13, 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; Dawn Jensen; Mayor.

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

Council Absent: Matt Pasquantonio

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mike Bogesdorfer, President of Council, announced that an Executive Session was held on August 6, 2024 regarding litigation and personnel issues.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to accept the minutes of the July 09, 2024 Council Meeting:**
 - Motion – Dave Funk
 - Second – Al Race
 - Voice Vote – All in Favor

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

- Motion – Chris Prilla
- Second – Al Race

ROLL CALL:

Dan _Y_ Matt _X_ Rich _Y_ Mike _Y_ Dave _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

Streets, Roads & Property:

Al Race reported that the 2011 dump truck is at Ackerman's having the inspection completed since they did not put the sticker on since they neglected to put it on when they completed it last year and also putting in the headlight. Public Works have started repainting the cross walks. Mike wants a 4 way cross walk at Mifflin & Whitaker Street.

Sue read the report of work performed in the borough.

Recreation:

None.

Police & Personnel:

None.

Health & Sanitation:

Rich Lassige reported there were 27 mail outs; 11 complied, there are 5 homes for sale in the borough, pending the sewer lateral testing results, 5 citations, 2 rental occupancy, 2 rentals are vacant. Notified Glenn Engineering regarding storm sewer on 837 that continues to clog, Glenn is supposed to send Randy out to give a quote to repair drain so it quits clogging. Looking to put a wall around the drain.

Fire & EMS:

Dan Urban reported Baldwin EMS answered 26 calls in July. Year to date is 178 calls. There were 9 fire calls, with 5 of those being in the borough.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Whitaker Sewage Committee:

None except the drain on 837 as reported above.

Planning Committee:

No report.

Tax Collection Committee:

Secretary Lippert (Next Meeting September 2024)

Whitaker Community Cares/Recreational Facilities :

- Regular - The next meeting is August 15 , 2024, 7 pm at the fire-hall.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dawn Jensen reported 93 calls for the month of July 2024. PSP did not answer any calls.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Dave Funk read the report for July 2024.

BUILDING INSPECTION/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Secretary Lippert read the report for July 2024

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Motion to approve the Borough Secretary a maximum of 30 hours per week for the remainder of the fiscal year.
 - Motion – Chris Prilla
 - Second – Al Race

Dan __ Matt __ Rich __ Mike __ Dave __ Al __ Chris __

There was a counter Motion to table the Motion for now

- Motion to adopt resolution 7 of 2024 approving an amendment to resolution 10 of 2023.
 - Motion – Dave Funk
 - Second – Rich Lassige
 - Voice Vote – All in Favor

MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to authorize the COG to apply for an additional GEDTF grant for the PW Garage, grant opens August 19,2024.
 - Motion – Dan Urban
 - Second – Chris Prilla

Dan _Y_ Matt _X_ Rich _Y_ Mike _Y_ Dave _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to authorize the COG to apply for an LSA grant for a new police vehicle, for \$60,000, grant opens September 1, 2024.
 - Motion – Rich Lassige
 - Second – Al Race

Dan _Y_ Matt _X_ Rich _Y_ Mike _Y_ Dave _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to authorize the COG to apply for an LSA grant for police tasers & AED's, for \$36,500, grant opens September 1, 2024.
 - Motion – Dan Urban
 - Second – Chris Prilla

Dan _Y_ Matt _X_ Rich _Y_ Mike _Y_ Dave _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to authorize the COG to apply for an LSA grant for inlet sewer bags, for \$70,000, grant opens September 1, 2024.
 - Motion – Rich Lassige
 - Second – Dave Funk

Dan _Y_ Matt _X_ Rich _Y_ Mike _Y_ Dave _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to authorize secretary to accept quote for emails to be created thru Hostinger for \$1.59 per email account, per month, on a secure hosting site will be CJIS compliant for police emails. This will include 3 police emails, 1 public works supervisor email, 1 borough email, 1 council email & 1 mayor email (should the councilman & mayor assume the risk.)
 - Motion – Chris Prilla
 - Second – Dan Urban

Motion was amended to exclude 1 Council & 1 Public Works Supervisor

- Motion – Rich Lassige
- Second – Dave Funk

Dan _Y_ Matt _X_ Rich _Y_ Mike _Y_ Dave _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _N_

MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to support Whitaker Fall Festival with a donation of \$1,000 to Whitaker Community Cares.
 - Motion – Chris Prilla
 - Second – Rich Lassige

Dan _Y_ Matt _X_ Rich _Y_ Mike _Y_ Dave _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to authorize the secretary to apply for the Co Stars WEX Bank Fleet Sunoco account.
 - Motion – Rich Lassige
 - Second – Chris Prilla

Dan _Y_ Matt _X_ Rich _Y_ Mike _Y_ Dave _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to authorize the secretary to attend a 2 day webinar August 19 & August 21 from 9 to 12 both days with DCED for a municipality budget workshop total cost for the 2 days is \$80.00.
 - Motion – Chris Prilla
 - Second – Rich Lassige

Dan_Y_ Matt_X_ Rich_Y_ Mike_Y_ Dave_Y_ Al_Y_ Chris_Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to accept quote from Culgan to complete inspection and repairs on the 2011 Dump Truck.

Motion was amended as truck is already at Ackerman's

Other councilmen stated that the truck should not be at Ackerman as there was a motion earlier in the year to change vendors.

NO VOTE WAS TAKEN

- Motion to have police officers complete vehicle checklist at the beginning/end of each shift as per Whitaker Borough Manual Chapter 12.
 - Motion – Chris Prilla
 - Second – Al Race
 - Voice Vote – All in Favor
- Motion to accept quote from Verizon to install internet (2yr. contract) at the PW facility for \$58.33 per month.
 - Motion – Chris Prilla
 - Second – Rich Lassige

Dan_Y_ Matt_X_ Rich_Y_ Mike_Y_ Dave_Y_ Al_Y_ Chris_Y_

MOTION CARRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Whitaker Community Cares meetings and events:

- Regular - The next meeting is August 15, 2024, 7 pm at the fire-hall.
- Free Lunches June 24 to Aug 16, Mon - Fri 11:30-1:30 at Mon View.

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

Kelly Prilla 219 Magnolia Street, thanked the secretary for her prompt action with dealing with Penn Dot regarding the "sink hole" issue on Spur Road. She also feels the secretary should be able to get the 30 hours a week that council keeps tabling.

James Malloy 128 E Schwab, stated there are several ground hogs, skunks and raccoons around, he was advised to call Xpel. He also stated people keep putting their garbage out too early and the critters are tearing the bags open spewing garbage all over. He stated there are 2 houses on River View that is overgrown, Rich advised those are vacant houses and the borough is not able to locate the owners or executives of the homes and the borough is not able to do anything with the properties. James asked how many police we have on staff, he was advised 3 including the chief.

Bob Silvasy 155 Magnolia Street, he wanted to advise of the kids selling water at Mifflin & Whitaker Street, they are stopping traffic running out in the middle of the road. They leave all of their trash out there and do not clean up after themselves. He was advised that Chief & Randy both have run them off. Bob gave kudos to the public works department for all of their hard work. Bob stated there is a lot of damage happening at the ball-field, damage to the tables, the playground, the dugouts, etc. The gang box was left open for the ball team to put the bases away so they aren't stolen at the end of their game, this was for a time frame of no more than an hour and in that time frame someone took the hammers out of the gang box and damaged the dug out benches and poles, Bob wants to know if police could patrol once in a while, he feels police presence will elevate some of the vandalism. Council stated Community Cares should have someone down there to watch for the vandals, Bob state they do not have enough volunteers. Bob asked if one of the council members could go and sit down there and wait until the team shows up. Mike Bogesdorfer stated no, that is a WCC issue not a council issue. Division was made between the Borough & WCC. Mike Bogesdorfer stated we don't have the officers to go over there all of the time, Bob stated he is not asking for all the time but once in a while would be a great help. WCC has over 600 man-hours of volunteers this year and WCC not the borough paid \$1000 each for the tables and every 2 weeks there is damage to them. Bob is just asking for some help. Bob advised there is a Stat Med Vac training Thursday August 15, 2024, from 7pm - 8 pm, it will involve surround volunteer fire companies, they will be landing in the outfield at the ball-field and WCC has given their consent. Dan Urban stated that the ball-field is designated as a landing zone and is the safest place for Whitaker & the surrounding areas for Med Vac situations. Bob also thanked council for their generosity of the \$1000 donation, however they are canceling Community Day on the September 28, 2024 due too lack of volunteers so council can reallocate the funds. Hoping to be able to draw more people in to volunteer. Bob asked about the restrooms at the ball-field and offered his knowledge and skills to lend another set of eyes on the plans. Rich Lassige advised right now they do not like the plans. Council wants the existing bathrooms torn down, the engineering has just as add on and that is not what council wants.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

- Motion – Dave Funk
- Second – Rich Lassige
- Voice Vote – All in Favor