

Eagles Mere Borough

Minutes

October 4, 2021
Regular Meeting

The Eagles Mere Borough Council meeting was called to order at 7 PM on the above date by President Feese with the following Council members in attendance in the room: Cole Lee, Doug Smith, and Rick Liebert, and Lee Middleton present by conference phone. Mayor Richard Lobach was not able to be present. Street Superintendent Jeremy Moore and Secretary/Treasurer Dave Carson were also in attendance.

In the Gallery: Residents Jay Wilkinson, George Watson, Gerry and Suzanne Ganse, and Kathy Martin.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Motion to Revise the Published Agenda- A motion to revise the published and posted Agenda to include under New Business the road bonding requested by the timbering company was made by Cole Lee and seconded by Rick Liebert. The motion Carried.

Public Issues and Comments – Jay Wilkinson commented on a previous meeting when the naming of Council vacancy replacements was discussed. He encouraged Council to be timely in replacing the Mayor. He inquired about the status of the Field of Dreams parking area maintenance. He also commented of the height of the recently replaced sidewalk at Laporte and Sullivan avenues.

Minutes- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous Regular Meeting of September 7, 2021 was made by Lee Middleton and seconded by Rick Liebert. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve the interim financial report through September 30, 2021, as distributed with the minutes, was made by Lee Middleton and seconded by Rick Liebert. The motion was approved.

Open Records Officer:

- No requests received

Zoning & Ordinance Officer report:

- The building on the corner of Fern and Allegheny Ave has been deemed to be a Public Nuisance is scheduled to be removed in October.
- Maria Casey has replaced her sidewalks and is now in full compliance.

Street Superintendent Report:

- The Superintendent has prepared his budget requests and recommendations for the Infrastructure Committee.

Mayor's Report: No Report

Points of Interest and Information from the Secretary:

- The Borough has received Realty Transfer taxes for August in the amount of \$2641.10 (Rubel > Sabol, and Ball > Olson)
- Our revised grant application, submitted in conjunction with the EMA and Conservancy, for the Clay Ave. drainage improvements has been reviewed by the Sullivan County Conservation District and we have received approval and an award of \$42,498.50 for a phased plan to implement the improvements. We can submit a follow-up plan for another grant in 2022 to do additional work. The Conservancy has subsequently said they will withdraw from the collaboration because they are only interested in work on the Green and parking lot. Planning and final design for the work and preparation of the DEP application for the outfall are underway. The SulCo Conservation District will be notified that completion of the project by December 17, 2021, (as they specified) is unlikely due to the DEP application process and its comment periods.
- Our Liquid Fuels accounts and activities for 2019 and 2020 were audited on September 29, 2021. Based on the exit interview, a final report will indicate there are no issues.
- The Borough, on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Relief Association, has received \$5,935.34 (a pro rata share of state funds collected on fire premiums sold by out of state insurance companies). The Borough must transmit these funds to the EM Volunteer Fire Relief Association.

Committees:

Finance: Interim financial reports for the Borough through September 30, 2021 were attached. The Borough continues to operate on a firm basis with adequate cash flow. The budget amount in some categories has been revised to include revisions needed based on the adjusted tax rate.

Museum: The Museum is now operating on weekends only. Opening for Holiday weekends, during the winter/spring period, such as Easter has yet to be decided.

Infrastructure: -

- The committee has met to finalize recommended projects for the 2022 budget.
- In addition, it has received and considered a request to extend the sidewalk along the south side of Laporte Ave. to the Mt. View Lane intersection. This is an expensive and involved project which will require approval, permission, and funding by property owners along its path.
- The recent repair by PennDOT of Laporte Ave near the Ganse's property was reviewed. Further drainage remediation work is beyond the authority and budget of the Borough. Gerry Ganse requested that the Committee discuss further options to relieve the problem.
- The Becker/Zissman homeowners on Allegheny Ave. requested removal of a nearby street light. The committee recommended that no changes be made. Possible alternatives will be explored.
- The status of the Clay Ave grant funded project was reviewed.

Ordinance: No Activity

Website: Updates continue to be made as needed.

Continuing Business-

- The Secretary reported that a letter has been received from Counsel representing Dilks Lake Holdings, LLC contesting the Borough's recent action relative to Wingert Lane. Mr. Dilks believes this is not an open and active Borough street. After discussion, it was clear that Council believes this is and has been an open street and should stay a Borough street. Since the street is open, there is no need to consider the process to be used to "open" the street.

New Business:

- A letter of resignation, effective October 7, 2021, from Mayor Richard Lobach has been received. After discussion, it was moved by Rick Liepert and seconded by Lee Middleton to appoint Bill Feese to be Acting Mayor. The motion passed.
- Approval of bonding of roads agreement with Wheeland Lumber Co., per their request, was discussed. It was moved by Doug Smith to approve the agreement with Wheeland and to bond the roads to the maximum amount permitted. Cole Lee seconded the motion and it was passed by Council.
- Consideration of Borough support for the purchase of a new ambulance followed. After discussion, Lee Middleton moved and Doug Smith seconded the motion to donate \$1000 to the Fund. The motion passed.

Workshops/Conferences-

- No programs are on the schedule.

Payment of Bills- Approval to pay the bills, as reviewed by Dennis Craig, for the Borough and Museum was moved by Rick Liebert and seconded by Dennis Craig. The motion passed.

Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

David R. Carson
Secretary/Treasurer