REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Sept. 14, 2020

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
James Johnson
Samuel Lyons
Christian Marshall
Fred Mays
Ryan Rudegeair

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Jim Wetzel, Fire Chief
Kevin Anundson, Police Chief
Deb Eckelberger, Development Director
Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary & Community Development
Dillon Provenza, Venango Newspapers, Inc.
Cynthia A. Russell-Lynch, Franklin

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 101

Mr. Rudegeair moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 102

Ms. Jamieson indicated the minutes for the Aug. 24, 2020 special meeting should include the heading, "Resolution 100," for the action taken. Mr. Johnson then moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Aug. 3, 2020 as presented and the special meeting of Aug. 24, 2020, as amended. Mr. Mays seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 103

Mr. Rudegeair moved to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES – Ms. Russell-Lynch levelled numerous complaints against Spectrum and urged the City to find a new cable television/internet provider that would meet the needs of all City residents at a reasonable price. Mayor Baker indicated quite a bit of time remains on the City's current agreement with Spectrum but the City will be happy to entertain proposals from other providers when that agreement is up.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS – Resolution No. 104

Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for painting and replacing the fascia and soffit of the Wesleyan Methodist Church parsonage at 1333 Buffalo St., with the HARB-recommended stipulation that the architectural elements of the building's eaves be retained. Motion passed unanimously.

TENTATIVE APPROVAL OF FY-2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECTS– Resolution No. 105

Ms. Boughner explained that the City's total FY-2020 CDBG allocation of $304,077 includes $249,344 for projects and $54,733 (18%) for administration. She recommended that all the FY-2020 project funds be devoted to street improvements as the City was unable to complete any of the planned Liquid Fuels paving this year due to budget constraints relating to the pandemic. She presented for tentative approval the following list of streets for milling and paving under the City's FY-2020 CDBG program:

- 1200 Block of Buffalo (On Bike Loop)
- 14th – Buffalo to Liberty (On Bike Loop)
- Elk -- 13th to W. Park (On Bike Loop)
- Ninth Street – Elk to Liberty (On Bike Loop)
- Otter – S. Park to 12th
- 13th Street – Eagle to Chestnut
- 15th Street – Elk to End

Ms. Fletcher moved to tentatively approve the proposed street improvements for the City's FY-2020 CDBG application. Mr. Rudegeair seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SET DATE FOR FINAL FY-2020 CDBG HEARING – Oct. 5, 2020 -- Resolution 106

Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to hold the second and final public hearing for the City's FY-2020 CDBG program at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, prior to the Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

2021 MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION

Ms. Jamieson presented Council with the City's 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation to the pension plan of $584,613, including $211,178 for police, $190,159 for fire and $183,276 for non-uniformed employees. She said that amount will be taken into account in the City's 2021 budget.

SELECTION OF VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE – PML ANNUAL SUMMIT – Resolutions No. 107 and 108

Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Lyons seconded the motion to name Mayor Baker the City's voting delegate to the Pennsylvania Municipal League's annual summit. Mr. Lyons moved and Ms. Fletcher seconded a motion to name Mr. Rudegeair as the alternate voting delegate at

the summit. The motions passed unanimously.

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT HOURS – Resolution No. 109

Mr. Spaid advised the Council that if it approved hours for Trick or Treat, parents and residents could decide to participate or not. Mr. Lyons moved to approve the Trick or Treat hours of 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PARADE AND PARK REQUESTS – Resolutions No. 110, 111 and 112

Ms. Jamieson presented the following request for use of the City parks:

- Oct. 31, 2020 • 12th Street Island• Franklin Fine Arts Council• Downtown Trick-or-Treat Drive-Thru from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Lyons moved to approve the request and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- Nov. 21, 2020 through early January•Downtown Parks •Barrow-Civic Theatre• Downtown Parks Christmas Tree Extravaganza

As the event is a fund-raiser, the theater asked for the fees to be waived. Mr. Spaid advised, however, that the fees be maintained so as not to set a precedent. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the request with the regular fees applying. Ms. Fletcher seconded the request, which passed unanimously.

- Feb. 5, 2021• Downtown Parks• Franklin Fine Arts Council•Franklin On Ice Weekend

Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to approve the request, noting that it would be designed as socially distanced events. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager

- Raised the topic of the City's 2021 budget. She provided Council members with a list of immediate and future needs and asked Council members to share their thoughts and funding priorities. Mr. Rudegeair said he is hoping to get staffing levels back to normal. Mr. Lyons said he would like to keep the Miller-Sibley pool on the radar.
- Indicated she plans to bring back most laid-off staff members and re-open City Hall to the public on Oct. 5, 2020.
- Noted that it has been 11 years since the City timbered Barrett Flats and said she contacted Arnold Tree Service to review the tree stands there and report back on the what they feel is harvestable and the state of the market. She will then report back to Council.
- Indicated the final walk-through of the Buffalo Street Bus Shelter & Pedestrian Connection Project would be held Sept. 15, 2020, and invited Council members to a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020, being put on by CATA.

- Indicated the City's garbage contract will expire this year and she will put out an RFP for garbage services. She asked if anyone had any changes to suggest, and there were none.
- **Resolution No. 113** – Presented an offer for the purchase of two solar-powered radar speed signs with "Slow Down" messages for $5,839, which is $1,000 off the regular price. The offer includes a free battery charger and batteries. Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the purchase. Motion passed unanimously.
- Advised she would need an executive session for matters of personnel, negotiations and potential litigation.

Solicitor

- Said he, too, would need an executive session for personnel, contract issues and potential litigation.

Mayor • Appointments -- None.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Marshall

- Asked when the temporary speed bump would be installed on the 1400 block of Otter Street. Ms. Jamieson said it would be after the street is paved.
- Said his dog was nearly hit by cars in the 200 and 300 blocks of 14th Street and asked about the possibility of installing speed limit signs.
- Said he was happy to see some new downtown businesses opening.

Mr. Johnson

- Indicated the new Emmaus Haven homeless shelter in Oil City is beautiful, and it will soon be hosting an open house.

Mrs. Fletcher

- Asked about recent police and fire calls to the County's transitional housing apartment building at 808 Elk Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 114

Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to enter into executive session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss personnel, contract issues, negotiations and potential litigation. The executive session ended at 8:24 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary

Sheila R. Boughner