



Homestead Borough Council
Legislative Session

March 11, 2021
6:00 PM

Call to Order

Roll Call

President Dais	x	Vice President Cunningham	x
Rev. Benton	x	Mr. Borcik	x
Min. Burwell	x	Mrs. Burwell	x
Ms. Nesby	x	Mayor Esper	x
Borough Manager	x	Solicitor	x
Chief DeSimone	x	Fire Chief Eads	N/A
Code Enforcement	x	Public Works	N/A
Engineering	x		

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment – Items on Agenda

Name, Address - Comment

Department Reports

Public Safety

1. Police Chief’s report
 - a. Randy Ernst – spoke on pension and deduction issues
 - b. Name was given of the investment advisor for personal IRA deductions
2. Fire Chief’s report
3. Mayor’s report
4. Manager Update
 - a. Manager would like to have a resolution for recurring monthly bills that pertain to payroll deductions and utilities to make sure that bills are being paid timely. – Solicitor will send a resolution for April.
 - b. Earth Day is April 24, 2021 and would like to have a community-wide clean-up
 - i. Will need to get supplies

Department Reports

1. Building Code
2. Parking – report in packet
 - a. Council would like cards to be created that describes rules for Alley parking to be distributed to residents.
3. Public Works – report sent via email on 3-10-21

4. Engineering – report in packet

Agenda Items:

1. Motion to approve March bill list in the amount of \$434,028.46.

Motion: Ms. Nesby Second: Min. Burwell

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	YES	Mr. Borcik	NO
Min. Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes 6 - 1

2. Motion to approve minutes for February and January 2021, August 13, 2020, August 27, 2020, September 27, 2020, and October 15, 2020 with corrections to motions made to the 2/19/21 minutes based on Zoom recording.

Motion: Ms. Nesby Second: Min. Burwell

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	NO	Mr. Borcik	YES
Min. Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes 6 - 1 - 1 (Mr. Cunningham abstained on 8/27/20 and 9/27/20 as he was on vacation)

3. Motion to rescind the approval for the November 9, 2020 meeting minutes approved at the 1/14/21 meeting.

Motion: Mr. Borcik Second: Mr. Cunningham

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	YES	Mr. Borcik	YES
Min. Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes 7 - 0

4. Motion to approve the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Homestead Borough Investment Management and Advisory Services for Uniform and Non-Uniform pension plan administration.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham Second: Min. Burwell

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	YES	Mr. Borcik	YES
Min. Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes 7 - 0

5. Motion to approve Cell Phone policy for Borough-issued phones.

Motion: Ms. Nesby Second: Mr. Cunningham

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	YES	Mr. Borcik	YES
Min. Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes 7 - 0

6. Motion to approve the change to Section 4.15 of the Civil Service Commission amended rules and regulations: background checks can be done by qualified individual or qualified agency.

Motion: Ms. Nesby Second: Min. Burwell

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	YES	Mr. Borcik	YES
Min. Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes 7 - 0

7. Motion to reappoint Donald Majernik to the Civil Service Commission retroactively from January 31, 2020 for a 6-year term to expire on January 31, 2026.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham Second: Ms. Nesby

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	YES	Mr. Borcik	YES
Min. Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes 7 - 0

8. **TABLED**: Motion to approve a Standard Schedule policy for all staff except for the Police Department and Public Works Department.

9. Motion to accept the proposals from TEK Roofing for the roof repair to the Public Works building in the amount of \$400.00.

Motion: Mr. Borcik

Second: Ms. Nesby

President Dais YES
Rev. Benton YES
Min. Burwell YES
Ms. Nesby YES

Vice President Cunningham YES
Mr. Borcik YES
Mrs. Burwell YES
Mayor Esper

Motion passes 7 - 0

Approve Engineer's recommendations:

10. Motion to approve awarding the West Street Reconstruction (West from 17th to 8th Avenue) Project to Mele & Mele for \$397,237.70.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

Second: Ms. Nesby

President Dais YES
Rev. Benton YES
Min. Burwell YES
Ms. Nesby YES

Vice President Cunningham YES
Mr. Borcik YES
Mrs. Burwell YES
Mayor Esper

Motion passes 7 - 0

11. Motion to reject all bids for the CD 46 McLean Playground Drainage Project and readvertise.

Motion: Ms. Nesby

Second: Min. Burwell

President Dais YES
Rev. Benton YES
Min. Burwell YES
Ms. Nesby YES

Vice President Cunningham YES
Mr. Borcik YES
Mrs. Burwell YES
Mayor Esper

Motion passes 7 - 0

12. Motion to approve awarding the CD 46 Street Reconstruction to McKee Asphalt in the amount of \$126,267.50. (Paving includes Maple from 17th to 18th and E. 13th from McClure to Ann and Glenn to West.)

Motion: Rev. Benton

Second: Mr. Borcik

President Dais YES
Rev. Benton YES

Vice President Cunningham YES
Mr. Borcik YES

Min. Burwell YES
Ms. Nesby YES

Mrs. Burwell YES
Mayor Esper

Motion passes 7 - 0

13. Motion to approve awarding TEK Roofing to install the Public Works storage building in the amount of \$12,526.00.

Motion: Rev. Benton Second: Mr. Cunningham

President Dais YES
Rev. Benton YES
Min. Burwell YES
Ms. Nesby YES

Vice President Cunningham YES
Mr. Borcik YES
Mrs. Burwell YES
Mayor Esper

Motion passes 7 - 0

14. Motion to execute a new project partnership agreement with Alcosan to continue the Transforming 12th Street with the understanding there will be clear intentions on vacating or not vacating 12th Avenue for the project.

Motion: Mr. Borcik Second: Mr. Cunningham

President Dais YES
Rev. Benton YES
Min. Burwell YES
Ms. Nesby YES

Vice President Cunningham YES
Mr. Borcik YES
Mrs. Burwell YES
Mayor Esper

Motion passes 7 - 0

15. **TABLED:** Motion to approve Progressive Energy Consultants to negotiate lower electricity rates for a period of 24 months at a rate to be no higher than \$0.04910.

16. Motion to approve the termination of the contract with OnSolve, paying a termination fee in the amount of 50% of the invoiced amount, totaling \$1975.00 to end a service that the Borough stopped using in early 2020

Motion: Ms. Nesby Second: Min. Burwell

President Dais YES
Rev. Benton YES
Min. Burwell YES
Ms. Nesby YES

Vice President Cunningham YES
Mr. Borcik YES
Mrs. Burwell YES
Mayor Esper

Motion passes 7 - 0

17. Motion to approve the Satisfaction and Release of Restrictive Covenant with Voodoo Brewing and Voodoo Properties for property located at 205 E. 9th Avenue in Homestead, PA as all conditions have been met.

Motion: **Mr. Borcik**

Second: Mr. Cunningham

President Dais YES
 Rev. Benton YES
 Min. Burwell YES
 Ms. Nesby YES

Vice President Cunningham YES
 Mr. Borcik YES
 Mrs. Burwell YES
 Mayor Esper

Motion passes 7 - 0

Public Comment – General Information

- Tiffany Baker – Dad’s new truck was damaged while parked in front of his home. He has been parking on the sidewalk to avoid another accident that will be costly. Ms. Nesby gave a suggestion on where to park as per State and Borough law, parking on the sidewalk is prohibited and may lead to parking tickets.
- Debra Williams – lots need to be cleaned as well as the equipment in the parks. Park maintenance needs to be stepped up. The Chief stated that he has disinfectant that could be sprayed on the equipment by DPW.
- Henry White – sidewalks are not ADA compliant – no ramps – at Ann and McClure. He also suggested that there needs to be better advertising for a more diverse police force. The Chief responded with where ads were placed.
- Duane Schulte – Civic Service – there were 6 applicants for the police test and 5 test takers. There is also a TV and a recliner in an empty lot at East Pine Way/Glenn & Mifflin – 242 E. 14th Avenue. D. Hankins responded that those items have been picked up.
- Connie Portis submitted a written document that council consider the following:
 - Notifying residents of all open meetings via Robocall at least one week in adv and two days prior to the meetings (I received one call today).
 - Notifying residents via Robocall of all Homestead Borough open positions, including police openings, in consideration that not all residents have the internet.
 - If taxpayers dollars are used to pay phone bills of council members, numbers should be posted on the website and listed on the answering service in consideration that not all residents have the internet.
 - Update on the community clean up program, (not sure of the name of the program) mentioned at a previous meeting
 - Update on the lawsuit and what is not paid by the insurance and will be a direct payment from the taxpayers if any. And, will our insurance premium be affected?
 - I have attached, once again, two statements that I read and presented at meetings in 2020 - November 11 and October 15 and as I understood from the solicitor they can be included in the minutes for those dates.
 - Please enter this statement into the minutes.

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – 7:48 pm

Motion: Rev. Benton

Second: Min. Burwell

All in favor – motion passes

NEXT MEETING DATES

Zoning Board – March 24, 2021 6:00 pm

Planning Commission – March 24, 2021 7:00 pm

HARB – April 7, 2021 7:00 pm

Work Session/Caucus – April 12, 2021 5:00 pm

Legislative Session – April 15, 2021 6:00 pm

Approved



Vanessa McCarthy Johnson
Borough Manager

April 16, 2021

Date

Don Dais
President of Council