

# COUNCIL MEETING OF WESLEYVILLE BOROUGH

Borough Hall, 3421 Buffalo Road, Erie PA 16510

September 22, 2021 at 6:00pm

\*\*\* APPROVED MINUTES \*\*\*

1. **Call to Order:** Mrs. Julius, Acting President 6:00pm
2. **Invocation:** Mrs. Julius, Acting President
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mrs. Julius, Acting President
4. **Roll Call:** Mr. Bills, Mayor, Mrs. Julius, Vice President, Councilors: Mr. Petrini, Mr. Pitoynak, Mr. Silbaugh, Mrs. Roseberry Secretary  
**Absent:** Mr. Lombardozzi, President, Councilors: Mr. Briggs, Mrs. Lijewski
5. **Approve Agenda:** Motion made by Mr. Pitoynak, seconded by Mr. Petrini, no further discussion, unanimous voice vote, motion carries.
6. **Approve Meeting Minutes:** Motion made by Mr. Pitoynak, seconded by Mr. Petrini, no further discussion, unanimous voice vote, motion carries
7. **Citizens to Address Council: (5-minute time limit per signed-in citizen)** All signed up citizens have been allotted 5 minutes to address Council, when the timer goes off, please be seated so that the next citizen can speak. Council will take all issues under advisement
  - a. E. Paul Johnson – 3210 Skellie Avenue – Gave Council a copy of a few things I am going to talk about, first thing I am going to talk about is that I stopped down to Lawrence Park and talked to Jan Cabaday about this grant available for Municipalities that work together and the foot bridge is a big topic for Wesleyville and Lawrence Park. We could get \$100,000 for we apply for this grant and they are all for it if Wesleyville would go in with them and work to get this grant, I know that we only have another week to go for it basically if Wesleyville, which I wouldn't see it wouldn't, it's a big safety issue for our kids when they walk back and forth to school, we have it in place ever since I was a kid and we need to get it back in place again. It's a public safety for the kids walking back and forth to school. They go up on the railroad tracks and one of them gets hit its going to be a very bad situation and I know that they are using it now because you see the kids through there and using it anyway but not only can we use the grant we could work with Lawrence Park with getting the foot bridge done, but Jan and I talked about starting from Buffalo Road and also improving all the way down to the foot bridge and basically putting a whole new sidewalk in down through there and putting lights up because last year I was taking my brother back and forth to work and when you turn the clocks back, which we will be doing here shortly, or if you have a rainy day like we have now and in the mornings when I was taking him to work and the kids are walking to school and they go across that street on Buffalo Road underneath that bridge and you can hardly see them, it's a safety issue all the way around. I would like to see Council take a vote tonight to work with Lawrence Park on getting that foot bridge opened up. It's not saying we are going to be giving any money or anything we need to move forward as a community and as a safety issue and work together and try to get that project moving and getting it opened up as soon as we possibly can. The second thing I have here are pictures of another safety issue, I'm sure Regina you have seen this, its down there at the parking lot that was just put in, its something that has been a problem for quite some time, but I have seen kids down there with their skate boards down there and monkeying around, pushing each other and what have you but if one kid falls off there and breaks their leg or arm or even their neck, it's that sidewalk right there by the parking lot, if a kid falls of their and gets hurt even an adult falls back and fall and break their back or something like that, the Borough can get sued. We need to get a fence or something put up along that walkway right there on North Street and we should get it done real soon, because like I said it's a safety issue there and if somebody falls and gets hurt it's a Borough property there and maybe it's something you need to talk to Ed about but should get it fixed really quick. Asked Mrs. Julius, do you know what I am talking about here. Mrs. Julius: I do, ok just so you know what I'm talking about. Third issue here, which I have been bringing up since 2018 (presented meeting minutes from 2018 where it stated Mr. Johnson liked to discuss vehicle prohibited on municipal parking on certain hours per the Code Enforcement Officer is questioned and ordinances made) Council Vice President requests to look at the agenda of the next meeting, September 12, 2018. Municipal parking lot abandoned vehicles, Mr. Johnson requests Code Enforcement Officer to get with Wesleyville Police Chief and Mayor for wording for the current ordinance to basically change it and they were going to look into it back on October 24, 2018. Then again, I brought it up last meeting September 8, 2021 and it still hasn't been addressed. Looking at the pictures again we have quite a few cars there. Some of them have grass underneath them and it's

# COUNCIL MEETING OF WESLEYVILLE BOROUGH

Borough Hall, 3421 Buffalo Road, Erie PA 16510

September 22, 2021 at 6:00pm

## \*\*\* APPROVED MINUTES \*\*\*

getting worse. The guys can't plow down there, it's getting into winter time and just keep getting more and more cars down there. I gave you the that little synopsis on the last page basically what we have to do to the ordinance is change put on there, no parking allowed from on any municipal parking lot between the hours of 2am to 6am. At the last meeting someone made a comment that I left because I had...I don't know some issue; it was a comment that shouldn't have been made at a Council Meeting.

- b. Steve Alfieri – 2529 Station Road – I am a member of the Wesleyville Hose Company where I hold the rank of Fire Lieutenant. I would like to use my time to talk about the negativity that has and continues to be spread around regarding our volunteer fire and EMS service. Our members have been doing everything they can to try and keep our doors open, improve our skills and be able to run more calls and serve our community. It is very difficult to do so when there are so many people in our community constantly trying to destroy, demean, tear apart our department. Whether it is a discussion in the cereal aisle in the grocery store or on Facebook or via email people are constantly trying to cause trouble, make accusations and spread rumors. Wesleyville Hose Company has had to battle being ridiculed by other departments and people for years, saying that all of the misfits and problems go to Wesleyville because we will take anyone. Steve Samec and Matt Flak put their heart and soul into this place trying to improve it and earn back a respect in the county, only for people to continue for people to bad mouth us and try to stir the pot. Matt Flak complained to our department that he has been informed that some of our members have been telling Council other people that he is currently Chief, which is a complete falsehood. Firefighter Flak is and will always be past Chief of the department and is quite often referred to as past Chief Matt Flak because that is exactly who he is and is sign of respect and honor that he has earned for his service. At our monthly meeting last night, we granted him exempt status with the department due to his service as Chief and in part as an effort to help retain him as a member as he was prepared to resign from the department. However, even with all of the negative comments, rumors and lies being spread about our department we are not going anywhere. The people we still have are coming to drill are going to classes and are doing their best to keep our department alive and functioning. We just had 3 members complete EMR classes and 2 of them have passed the National Regresty exam and are fully credentialed, the 3<sup>rd</sup> member is taking her test shortly and we are confident that she will do well. With one member already enrolled in the EMT class held in Union City and 2 more members that are planning to attend the EMT class at Vo Tech starting in November. We just hosted a (E class) to get more of our members trained and be able to drive apparatus and respond to more calls. We are actively pursuing grants and funding to get the equipment and supplies we need and have already started making plans to have our yearly Christmas tree fund raiser. Do we answer every call, no, but that is why we work with our mutual aid departments, East Erie County EMS and Emerg Care to back us up? AS our EMS lieutenant, Darlene Alfieri stated during prior Council meeting, no who calls 911 is left bleeding on the sidewalk. It may not be us every time but someone will answer the call and provide aid. Many of our members and their families that put too much of their time, their effort and money and their heart and soul into this department to serve our community to have keyboard warriors and naysayers sit back and complain about the job we do. What we don't need are people constantly complaining about our response times or spreading rumors or lies and trying to cause trouble. What we need are people willing to help us and support us. What we need are people who are willing to help raise money, help run fundraisers, help maintain equipment. We need people willing to volunteer and take classes and become first responders, EMT and fire fighters. We need people to take the time to donate to our yearly campaign rather than throwing the request letter in the garbage. What we need are more people who are willing to help to be a part of the solution and not be a part of the problem. If anybody is interest in joining, I have applications to join the Fire Department, takes a lot of time takes a lot of effort but the easiest way to help us is to join us and become one of us and help support us. Mr. Petrini asked Mr. Alfieri if there is a designated Chief at this present time. Mr. Alfieri responded at the current time we do not have a designated Chief, I am Fire Lieutenant, Darlene is the EMS Lieutenant, we have a Captain and Steve is Fire Police Lieutenant and Missy Simpson is our Fire Police Captain. Our elections are in November, so at this time we are maintaining the department and in the November elections, hopefully we will be able to establish a solid instructor then.
- c. Justine Stewart – 2905 Woodlawn - To begin, I would like to thank you all for the unanimous decision last meeting to allow me to serve on the Wesleyville Planning Commission. I look forward to this opportunity and what we will be

# COUNCIL MEETING OF WESLEYVILLE BOROUGH

Borough Hall, 3421 Buffalo Road, Erie PA 16510

September 22, 2021 at 6:00pm

## \*\*\* APPROVED MINUTES \*\*\*

able to do as a commission. However, to get to the meat and potatoes of me standing up here tonight, we all know there is always some serious reasons or let's say controversial topics that I speak of while standing in front of you all. Tonight, is no different, however, once again these topics all relate back to the core of the concerns I have in general. That is the focus of bettering this community. Specifically, tonight what we are actually doing as a community and the information that is provided and/or obtained by council prior to making discussions. Let's recap some information. Our fire department has not been in well stable water in years. I spoke on this topic months ago and noted my concerns with the response times and the availability of volunteers. In attending meeting since, I have not heard much of a report and rather the words 'you have the report and if you have questions, you know who to ask'. Unfortunately, as a community member I have to trust that council members are reviewing this and it's a positive report. However, over the last few weeks I have been questioning this once again. I've heard from this council that the fire department reportedly doesn't have a chief at this time and that it is being questioned if you are able to be a fire department without a Chief... Yet this comment was made then individuals who are volunteers come to this meeting and are now requesting and stating that council said they would pay for half of the tires on a vehicle (which had already been paid for by the Fire Department). So, then council says okay... and approves this. Then those volunteers say the fire department has a grant for a power load stretcher and would like to have council provide the additional matching funds which surprisingly these matching funds add up to the same amount that council had been discussing as a donation to the department, however, had placed this topic on hold due to pending grants and/or funds from the county. But these volunteers came and said we need x amount to get this grant and it needs done within 30 days' time or they would lose the grant and council rushes and approves a motion. This is similar to several years ago when the Fire Department came to a meeting and requested \$25,000 for an ambulance without providing any back up as to why that money was being requested. Next a request is made for the fire department that they would like to see the borough vehicle (the 3rd police car) for a QRS vehicle be donated to them as well. Is our fire department even responding to a minimum of 75% of all calls? And when I say respond I mean in full force and with the ability to handle the situation...I believe it was last week I saw that there was a vehicle fire in the borough. So, I went to Facebook asking if anyone knew if the Wesleyville Fire department responded, because to my understanding there is not a chief. I was hit very quickly with a message and a call directly from a volunteer stating that many members were on their way to work and unable to respond but that a fire police was on scene and that Lawrence Park Fire department came out. I asked if this counted as a positive response and was told that the individual thought so. Right there is a huge concern with the question of in the report council receives what is considered a positive response. I would like to hear this answer at some point directly from council. Next topic that comes to mind was that on July 14th it was reassured to council that the Public Works department would not need to clean up debris following Wesleyville Community Day which to my understanding is not affiliated with the Wesleyville Borough and rather affiliated with the Wesleyville Community Foundation. However, at a meeting information was provided by the public works department to council and the community noting hours worked which specifically noted hours of clean up on the Monday following. I'm wondering how much that total came to and if council is not affiliated and assured there would be no clean up needed, has Council provided a bill of services to the Wesleyville Community Foundation for reimbursement? On that same date I spoke regarding concerns I had with the Foundation, has council completed any follow up to this? I'll note that Mr. Ed Rickrode was named as the President of the Foundation on that date, however, I have not had any success in contact with him and rather have heard rumors that he is not the president of such foundation. Let's make some changes and hold our money and spending accountable. Let's build a community for betterment and let's support a community for this mission. This means making and following through with the hard stuff as well. It shall be noted that these two topics are not the only two to be considered and rather only the two I have time to speak of this evening.

8. **Executive Session: 6:18pm**

9. **Reconvene: 6:55pm**

10. **Motions to be made after the executive session:**

- a. Motion made by Mr. Pitonyak, seconded by Mr. Petrini, for discussion, to approve to pay Craig Dyne at total of \$6,262.87 in retro- active pay from February 20,2020 and also to increase hourly wage to \$16.31. Mr. Petrini stated that the reason being that this is a pay raise that he should have received that was not given at the time after his 90-day

# COUNCIL MEETING OF WESLEYVILLE BOROUGH

Borough Hall, 3421 Buffalo Road, Erie PA 16510

September 22, 2021 at 6:00pm

**\*\*\* APPROVED MINUTES \*\*\***

period? Mrs. Julius responded Yes. This is something that Council neglected to do after his 90-day period and he was told that after 90-days should he continue on that he would that his pay raise would go up to that point, am I correct? Mrs. Julius responded, correct. I just wanted to make sure that everybody understood the reason that we are just not throwing money. No further discussion, unanimous voice vote, motion carries.

## 11. New Business:

- a. Motion made by Mr. Petrini, seconded by Mr. Silbaugh to rescind the motion made on 9/8/2021 of \$10,000 from the ARP to the Wesleyville Hose Company and to apply for the County Budget. Discussion, Mr. Petrini discussion the restrictions with the ARP funds and it can not be a donation and that expenses have to equal the amount requested. Mr. Bills discussed the use of the ARP funds and difference between what was being said and what was discussed at the ARP meeting. Additional discussion, unanimous voice vote, motion carries.
- b. Mr. Petrini also added that according to the email from Melinda Myers with the County the ARP funds have to be designated the funds before the County funds can be used. Such as the generator, Fire and EMS. Will be working on what it will be used for. Mr. Silbaugh asked with the ARP funds that there should be a list made up, who is going to do that? Mr. Petrini stated that the individual who is the department chair. And the Council will vote on what needs to be done. Send out an email to all of the Department Chairs that there is a Budget coming up and we have to come up with Budget, tell us what you want, that's the only way a Budget can be made out by knowing what exactly is needed for the future then Council makes the final decision. Mr. Silbaugh asked when can the list be started, Mr. Petrini stated you can start today. Send Mrs. Roseberry an email with the information. Mr. Silbaugh asked what kind of time frame are we be talking about? Mr. Petrini – when you stop getting people saying what they need that will be time that we can sit down and say here is everything we came up with on the list and the cost. Discussion continues.
- c. Motion made by Mr. Pitonyak, seconded by Mr. Petrini to approve Walker's Tree Service to remove the tree in the North Street cemetery in the amount of \$2,600.00. Discussion if any headstones were damaged and Mrs. Roseberry is to contact Commercial Insurance Broker Michael Knightinger to see if any coverage the damage, unanimous voice vote, motion carries.
- d. Approval for placement of Susan G Komen Pink Bins for clothing donation to be placed by Borough building and recycling center. No motion needed.
- e. Motion made by Mr. Pitonyak, seconded by Mr. Petrini to approve resolution 09-2021 for 2022 Police Pension contribution of 0%
- f. Motion made by Mr. Pitonyak, seconded by Mr. Petrini to approve to place a legal ad for HVAC units. No further discussion, motion carries.

## 12. Borough Council Department Chairs:

- a. Mr. Petrini – nothing else to report
- b. Mr. Pitonyak – Discussed with Mr. Gross and Mr. Dyne regarding the fire hydrant markers and they do not like the idea of the posts with the signs. Before the meeting discussed with both of the Steve Samec and Steve Alfieri what they thought about that, and after discussion they thought they would be ok with markers that mount on top of the fire hydrants. Once it has been determined check will be written to place the order.
  - i. Glass Recycling – there are some items in there but not a bunch. Hopefully as time continues it will increase.
- c. Mr. Silbaugh – nothing to report with Sewers, but does have a concern regarding what Mr. Johnson discussed on North Street with the curb, Mrs. Julius stated that it is a Park item and will the discussing with Mr. Gross and there are other options in discussion.

## 13. Borough Officers:

- a. Mayor Bills – Questioned Mrs. Roseberry if I had contact information for Jan Cabaday for the grant. Also, in regards to the Police cameras, thought that because it was broken down by year that it wouldn't have to bid it out because each of the years, even the 1<sup>st</sup> year with the equipment was under the threshold of the bidding, but because it is a whole package. There are different requests out, trying to get all the bids back by October 1<sup>st</sup> so that it can be brought to Council at the October meeting. There are some stipulations that would like to be seen such as the cameras the quote that was previously presented if it was upgraded to new tasers that can be purchased, in the next few years, when the taser is removed from its holster the camera will automatically turn on. The tasers will be a CoStars.

**COUNCIL MEETING OF WESLEYVILLE BOROUGH**

**Borough Hall, 3421 Buffalo Road, Erie PA 16510**

**September 22, 2021 at 6:00pm**

**\*\*\* APPROVED MINUTES \*\*\***

- b. Mrs. Julius – Received email regarding, Motion made by Mr. Petrini, seconded by Mr. Pitonyak to approve Sandra Morrow as a member of the Planning Commission, no further discussion, unanimous voice vote, motion carries.

**14. Good of the Order:**

- a. Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 6:00pm
- b. Next Work Session: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 6:00pm

- 15. **Meeting Adjournment:** Motion made by Mr. Petrini, seconded by Mr. Pitonyak 7:49pm

Meeting Minutes Approved:

*Ima Roseberry*  
Borough Secretary

Date:

*10-27-2021*

