

**BOROUGH OF BROWNSVILLE
FAYETTE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA
AUGUST 9, 2023**

The Regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Brownsville was held this evening at the Borough Building located at 200 Second Street in Brownsville. The meeting was called to order by President, Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich at 6:00 p.m. by reciting the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members were present: Council President, Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich, Councilmen Beth Bock, Jackie Jackson, Shane Ronzio, Mike Walters, and Kasandra Ward. Also present were Solicitor Mitch Mitchell and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Melissa S. O'Brien. Council Vice President Paul Synuria and Mayor Ross H. Swords, Jr. were not in attendance.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Vex Lionheart, 305 Front Street. Mr. Lionheart was in attendance to discuss curfew and a possible pride parade for 2024. He hopes to organize future pride events, possible small events to help Brownsville get recognized, and feels this will help Brownsville economically. Mr. Lionheart feels a curfew needs to be enforced, as he sees things in the area where he lives. Also mentioned the possible establishment of pride in the Borough. Mr. Lionheart can be reached at Vex.lionheart@icloud.com, vlionheart123@unity.edu, 214-202-6299.

Rocky Brashear, 502 Market Street. Mr. Brashear was in attendance to discuss procedures. Mr. Brashear noted that he is directing his comments only to Council President, Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich. Mr. Brashear noted that after last month's meeting, he was approached by President Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich to speak in private. Mr. Brashear noted that he was given 30 days to remove the Welcome to Brownsville sign that has been on top of the hill for 25 years. Mr. Brashear noted that the Borough does not own the property, as the Historical Society has owned it since 1974. A third-party wants to replace the existing sign with a new one, and was told by Mr. Brashear that they need to seek Board approval, which they never did. The Historical Society also pays for the lights on this sign and pays the electric bill. Mr. Brashear noted that he has proof from the County that this is Historical Society property, not Borough property. Mr. Brashear stated that the building at 218 Front Street is leased from the Borough. He also spoke about the two signs in the building which have never been displayed. Mr. Brashear felt that he was disrespected and called for President Zivkovich's resignation.

Shannon Miller, Little Appalachia LLC, 301-305 Front Street. Mr. Miller was in attendance to discuss crime on the Northside and curfew. Mr. Miller noted that he recently purchased an apartment building on Front Street and his plans are to bring it back to a wonderful place to live. Mr. Miller is here to introduce himself to everyone. The crime on the Northside is significant. He owns property in Wilksburg and lives near Homewood, and has never seen anything like the crime here, especially on Brashear Street. A curfew seems like a good idea. He is also concerned about the sign being removed, as he feels that his property benefits from the current signage. Mr. Miller can be reached at ShannonKai@msn.com or 412-352-2066.

Samuel Lucas, 179 Hopwood-Coolspring Road. Mr. Lucas was in attendance to discuss the demolition of historic buildings. Mr. Lucas is a member of the Brownsville Historical Society and is a teacher in Uniontown. He did live in Brownsville for about two years before moving to Hopwood. He is disturbed by the destruction of historic property and the treatment of the Historical Society President, and also concerned about being asked to remove the Welcome sign. Mr. Lucas also called for President Zivkovich's resignation.

Jodi Delgado, 620 Lewis Street. Ms. Delgado left prior to being called on to speak.

Jamie Bogol, Front Street. Ms. Bogol has been a member of the Historical Society for 23 years and feels the private meeting between Council President and Historical Society President was inappropriate, and also called for President Zivkovich's resignation.

Kim Brashear, 502 Market Street. Ms. Brashear was in attendance to discuss preservation. Ms. Brashear is a member of the Historical Society, and they are trying to move Brownsville forward and she is upset with all of the destruction seen in town. The destruction happening now, there is no way to bring that back, and the best buildings to be in are already here. These are strong buildings with strong stairways, and they may need a new roof, but they are solid. She is asking for Council to try a little harder to keep these buildings. Ms. Brashear asked what buildings other than the Union Station building and the Rose Mansion were Council trying to

preserve, and if there was a preservation plan to save some of this history. Let it look like it is supposed to look. This is history and we should be saving it. Ms. Brashear asked if there was a building Council would consider preserving for the sake of history.

Mara Sim, 303 Catherine Avenue. Ms. Sim was in attendance to discuss 2022 meetings and crime. Ms. Sim noted that she had the opportunity to review 2022 meeting notes. The only mention of a property for sale on Cadwallader Street was 02-07-2777, which was taken off the sale list as it is a cemetery. Borough-owned property now has private property signs and no trespassing signs on it, and it has been maintained for quite some time now by a private citizen. He has maintained this property. Ms. Sim noted that Councilman Synuria wants to buy this property. There was also no mention of Fifth and Market in the meeting notes. These are violations and backdoor sales. She feels that a few members of Council are involved in this.

Ms. Sim asked what is being done about crime, as there were three shootings in 16 minutes within walking distance of her house. She has contacted the police regarding a female who threatened her with a gun. Ms. Sim also asked for President Zivkovich's resignation.

MINUTES

Motion by Kasandra Ward, second by Jackie Jackson to approve July minutes. All in favor. Motion carries.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Ross H. Swords, Jr.

Mayor Ross H. Swords, Jr. was not in attendance to report on police fines for July.

Chief John Brant noted that there were 138 calls for service (19 Township, 99 Borough, 20 out of town), 36 citations (2 Township, 34 Borough, 0 out of town), 18 incidents (2 Township, 16 Borough, 0 out of town), 8 arrests, and 1 prisoner transport. A total of 1,857 miles were put on the police vehicles last month. Chief Brant noted that one of the arrests was a Megan's Law violation. Additionally, five handguns were also confiscated during the month.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – Mike Walters

Michael Walters noted that the total funds at this time are \$652,608.52, with deposits totaling \$73,372.14.

Monthly bills paid were \$93,658.77. Bills that still need paid total \$1,742.05 from the General Fund, \$29.86 from the Payroll Fund, and \$623.17 from PLGIT.

Motion by Mike Walters, second by Kasandra Ward to pay \$2,395.08 due. **Roll Call:** Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich, yes; Beth Bock, yes; Jackie Jackson, yes; Shane Ronzio, yes; Mike Walters, yes, Kasandra Ward, yes. Votes are unanimous. Motion carries.

Mr. Walters noted that we have collected \$834,437.18, or 74.2% of our budgeted income. On the expense side, we spent \$606,285.23, or 53.9% of our budgeted expenses. From a budget standpoint, both income and expenses look good.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mike Walters

There is a "private property" sign in the Mason's parking lot across the street that Mr. Walters will discuss with them, as he believes this to be Borough property.

CODE ENFORCEMENT / COMMUNITY / EMA – Paul Synuria

Nothing to report.

We discussed increasing the fees for No Lien Letters last month, but no action has been taken yet. We will discuss again next month.

FIRE – Paul Synuria

The June and July reports from the Northside are in the packets. Nothing from Southside this month.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Shane Ronzio

Mr. Ronzio would like to thank everyone for attending Community Day. Thanks to MVAA for the concert. There is a lot going on in town to bring people together. Mr. Ronzio has been reviewing the tax maps for the Borough and trying to find viable properties.

Motion by Shane Ronzio, second by Kasandra Ward to obtain lot 02-06-0127 from the Repository list. This property runs along the creek and can enhance existing projects. Kasandra Ward noted this property is along Shady Avenue and is between the bridges. Tracy Sheehan

Zivkovich noted that this property borders property that the Borough already owns. **Roll Call:** Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich, yes; Beth Bock, yes; Jackie Jackson, yes; Shane Ronzio, yes; Mike Walters, yes, Kasandra Ward, yes. Votes are unanimous. Motion carries.

LIBRARY – Paul Synuria

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Beth Bock

Beth Bock noted that she needed to start work on the news release and would like to use the Borough laptop to do so. Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich noted that they would discuss this.

PUBLIC WORKS – Kasandra Ward

Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich applauded Kasandra Ward for all of her hard work on the paving that is taking place in town. Kasandra Ward feels that we have been blessed with the opportunity to work with our partners to get these things done, and without them it could not happen.

Kasandra Ward is asking that the garbage trucks stop picking up in Apple, Orange, Orchard, and Lemon alleys in the Borough, and instead move to the street. Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich asked Solicitor, Mitch Mitchell to review the contract to see what can be done. Beth Bock asked when the contract was up so that we could possibly address alley pickup, as well as the senior discounts that were overlooked in this contract. Kasandra Ward would like to improve the whole area and to do so will require getting these large trucks out of the alleys.

There is a paving job in the works and the intent is to get the milling and paving done before November.

There are two grants that Kasandra Ward would like to apply for, one for the restoration of Cemetery Road and one for the restoration of Hollow Road. This is an LSA state grant that opens in September, each with a \$100 application fee and resolution required. She is estimating \$645k on Cemetery Road and \$550k on Hollow Road.

Motion by Kasandra Ward, second by Shane Ronzio to apply for both grants, with application fees not to exceed \$200. Beth Bock thanked Kasandra Ward for her work on these projects. Motion carries. Kasandra Ward noted there is no match requirement for these grants. **Roll Call:** Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich, yes; Beth Bock, yes; Jackie Jackson, yes; Shane Ronzio, yes; Mike Walters, yes, Kasandra Ward, yes. Votes are unanimous.

Motion by Kasandra Ward, second by Michael Walters to ratify the payment to Dulaney Tree service for the tree services in the amount of \$1,300. Kasandra Ward noted the bid was in last month's packet. **Roll Call:** Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich, yes; Beth Bock, yes; Jackie Jackson, yes; Shane Ronzio, yes; Mike Walters, yes, Kasandra Ward, yes. Votes are unanimous.

There are 15 trees in the Borough that need trimmed. There is an estimate of \$150 per tree from one contractor, but Kasandra Ward is seeking more bids. Her recommendation is to cut them all the way back in September or October, and in the spring, they will bloom again and be uniform in size and shape. Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich asked if the bids were for the whole town, which Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich noted it was. Beth Bock asked if we needed three bids with it being under \$5,000, which Kasandra Ward noted that even though it is not required, she would like to get multiple bids.

The storm drains are an issue and need cleaned. Kasandra Ward has obtained bids for drain cleaning, but she would like to look into it a bit more to make sure she gets the best pricing available. It seems that \$375 per day is the lowest cost now, with an additional \$150 per ton to remove the debris. Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich noted that the bids are not quite the same, and it makes it a bit difficult to compare. Some of the drains are so full, that they need to be dug out.

Kasandra Ward noted that Mayor Ross H. Swords, Jr. previously discussed making Brownsville Avenue a two-way street with no parking. Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich asked Chief John Brant to follow-up with Mayor Ross H. Swords, Jr. on this.

Beth Bock noted there were cars parked on both sides of Charles Street last week and asked about the curb painting. Kasandra Ward noted she would like to have Brite Stripe come in and do line painting in town.

RECREATION – Jackie Jackson

Jackie Jackson spoke to McMillen Engineering and they sent over a revised plan. Once approved by the DCNR, we can start on Phase I which includes the parking lot and trails. She received a letter from DCNR and they would like to do a newsletter on the playground. Jackie Jackson will be meeting with the County and DCNR on this newsletter.

Motion by Jackie Jackson to apply for a PCCD grant for Fenwick Park in the amount of \$50,000. There is no application fee and no match required.

Beth Bock asked if Jackie Jackson was still working with the kids on this, which she noted in the affirmative, though nothing new has happened.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Mitch Mitchell

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

We are waiting to hear back from Senator Casey's office on the Union Station building regarding funding request to work on removing the asbestos. There are follow-up meetings in the works for technical assistance.

Kasandra Ward noted that Mayor Ross H. Swords, Jr. previously discussed making Brownsville Avenue a two-way street, and we may need to look at this now. Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich asked Chief John Brant to follow up with Mayor Ross H. Swords, Jr. on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a Resolution in the packets for the roadway lighting agreement for the Cast Iron Bridge. Michael Walters asked if this was temporary lighting, and Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich noted it is for permanent lighting. Beth Bock asked if we had design pictures to see what it would look like, which Kasandra Ward and Michael Walters noted was provided to each member of Council several months ago by PennDOT. Michael Walters noted PennDOT would be paying for this. Motion by Mike Walters, second by Kasandra Ward to approve Resolution R-07-2023 between the Borough of Brownsville and PennDOT for a roadway lighting agreement for the Cast Iron Bridge.

Jackie Jackson has had some difficulty trying to reach the Code Officer and asked if we could have office hours at least one day a week. Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich noted we could have that discussion. Beth Bock feels that visible identification is needed for this position. Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich will mention this to Paul Synuria so that he can arrange a meeting.

FAYETTE COUNTY – Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich

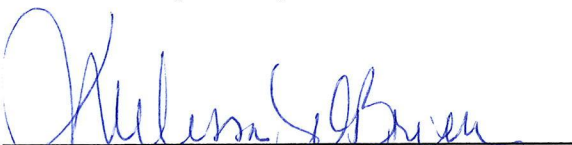
There is correspondence from the Zoning Office which lists the properties that are being rezoned.

CORRESPONDENCE – Tracy Sheehan Zivkovich

No correspondence this month.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Jackie Jackson. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.


Melissa S. O'Brien, Secretary/Treasurer



TREASURER'S REPORT		
August 2023		
BANK ACCOUNTS (adjusted through August 4, 2023)		
General Fund		\$ 320,686.82
Payroll		\$ 1,008.93
Petty Cash		\$ 828.81
Act 13		\$ 35,274.42
ARPA Grant Fund		\$ 174,381.37
Fenwick Park		\$ 2,501.00
Fire Escrow		\$ 1.00
Insurance Claims		\$ 33,580.24
K-9 Fund		\$ 5,483.92
Parking Authority		\$ 1,920.59
PLGIT		\$ 76,941.42
	TOTAL	\$ 652,608.52
DEPOSITS (adjusted through August 4, 2023)		
Mayor Ross H. Swords, Jr.	Fines & Fees	\$ 2,417.85
Clerk of Courts	Fines & Fees	\$ 146.19
Brownsville Police	Police Reports	\$ 15.00
Brownsville Township	Police Protection	\$ 4,500.00
MDJ	Code Fines & Fees	\$ (238.83)
Various	No Lien Letters	\$ 205.00
Various	Occupancy Permits	\$ 157.50
McMillen	Demolition Permits	\$ 981.00
Fayette County	Delinquent Taxes	\$ 8,796.10
Commonwealth of PA	Refund of UC Tax	\$ 1,595.36
Tena Congelio	Real Estate Taxes	\$ 30,970.51
Recorder of Deeds	Real Estate Transfer Tax	\$ 3,592.72
SWRTB	Taxes	\$ 16,876.73
Tena Congelio	Phone Bill	\$ 115.95
First National Bank	Interest	\$ 672.16
Various	Street Opening Permits	\$ 425.00
Various	Refunds from Prior Year	\$ 2,143.90
	TOTAL	\$ 73,372.14

BOROUGH OF BROWNSVILLE				
MONTHLY BILLS PAID - August 2023				
DEPARTMENT	VENDOR	FOR	AMT.	TOTAL
Finance	Breezeline	Cable & Internet	\$ 472.89	
	DeLage	Copier Lease	\$ 174.28	
	EMC Insurance	Insurances	\$ 4,426.79	
	Ford Office Technologies	Phone & Fax	\$ 206.83	
	Guardian Life	BEO Insurance	\$ 38.98	
	IRS	Federal Income Tax	\$ 6,675.25	
	Microsoft	Office 365	\$ 50.00	
	Misc	Deductibles	\$ 376.85	
	Mitch Mitchell	Solicitor Fees	\$ 1,000.00	
	PA Department of Revenue	PA Taxes	\$ 856.12	
	PA UC Fund	Unemployment Insurance	\$ 56.81	
	PSAB - MRT	Pension	\$ 1,175.00	
	PSAB UC Plan	Unemployment Insurance	\$ 549.56	
	Quill	Office Supplies	\$ 190.78	
	Recorder of Deeds	Deed Filings	\$ 206.50	
	SWRTB	EIT	\$ 968.15	
	Tax Claim	Deed Filings	\$ 50.00	
	UPMC	M/D/V Insurance	\$ 7,692.50	
	West Penn Power	Electric	\$ 5,780.48	
				\$ 30,947.77
B&G	Browns Tree Service	Tree Trimming	\$ 1,200.00	
	Brownsville Municipal	Sewage	\$ 129.00	
	Columbia Gas	Gas Bill	\$ 41.37	
	G&G Landscaping	grass cutting	\$ 460.00	
	Home Depot	No Trespassing Signs	\$ 42.46	
	Hunters Excavation	149 High Street	\$ 47,171.36	RACF
	PA American Water	Building	\$ 58.29	
	Terminix	Pest Control	\$ 70.00	
	Walmart	Bathroom Cleaning	\$ 27.35	
				\$ 49,199.83
Police	AT&T	Cell Phone	\$ 62.11	
	Bevard	Gas	\$ 812.61	
	Local 491	Union Dues	\$ 134.00	
	PSAB	Pension	\$ 1,368.80	
	S&D Calibration	Vascar Certification	\$ 64.00	
				\$ 2,441.52
Streets	Bevard	Gas	\$ 439.26	
	BNY Mellon	Pension	\$ 6,523.08	
	Dulaney Tree	Tree Trimming	\$ 1,300.00	
	Local 373	Union Dues	\$ 82.00	
	PA American Water	Water	\$ 28.52	
	PA One Call	Street Digs	\$ 25.80	
	US Municipal	Signage	\$ 325.22	PLGIT
				\$ 8,723.88
Fire	Center Independent	Gas	\$ 407.67	
	PA American Water	Hydrants	\$ 1,360.10	
	SWIF	Workers' Comp	\$ 578.00	
				\$ 2,345.77
	TOTAL BILLS PAID			\$ 93,658.77
BOROUGH OF BROWNSVILLE				
MONTHLY BILLS DUE THIS MONTH - August 2023				
General Fund	Fayette Chamber of Commerce	Annual Membership Fee	\$ 100.00	
	Ford Office Technologies	Phones	\$ 206.83	
	PA American Water	Water	\$ 1,435.22	
	Quill	Supplies	\$ 51.98	
	SWIF	Workers Comp	\$ 578.00	
	West Penn Power	electric	\$ 6,372.48	
				\$ 1,742.05
Payroll	IRS	Federal 941	\$ 25.25	
	PA Withholding	payroll tax	\$ 4.61	
				\$ 29.86
PLGIT	US Municipal	Signage	\$ 623.17	
				\$ 623.17
	TOTAL INVOICES DUE THIS MONTH			\$ 2,395.08
MONTHLY BILLS DUE / VARIOUS DUE DATES				