

**BROWNSVILLE BOROUGH
FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
DECEMBER 23, 2019**

The Regular meeting, of the Council of the Borough of Brownsville in addition to the Public Hearing for the tax increase, Adoption of the 2020 Final Budget and Adoption of the 2020 Tax Ordinance was held this evening in the Council room of the Municipal Building. The meeting was call to order by President Jack Lawver at 6:00 P.M. by reciting the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The following members were present: James Lawver, Beth Bock, Paul Synuria, Tracy Zivkovich, Jack Lawver, Ronald Bakewell and Lester Ward. Also present were: Ross Swords Jr., Mayor and Krisha Di Mascio by conference call.

Jack Lawver asked if anyone had any questions regarding the 2020 Budget. No response.

Motion by James Lawver, seconded by Lester Ward to approve the November 13 and November 22 minutes. Paul Synuria questioned the accuracy of the November 13 minutes as it didn't reflect what really happened adding that the Manager Treasurer jumped up slammed her hands on the table and moved forward towards the table adding that Jack didn't call the meeting to order that he said lets go, lets go. Jack Lawver informed him that the minutes didn't have to be verbatim just be a summary. Mr Ward asked what he was getting at? Paul Synuria remarked that the wanted to attach his video to the minutes. The Solicitor informed him that the video was not an official document of the Borough and informed him that he could write it as it was. Paul Synuria stated he wanted it to be accurate as to how it happened and would write it up as it happened. The Solicitor informed him that he could do a transcript to add to the minutes but that it must be very accurate and to do it from the tape. Motion by Paul Synuria, seconded by Lester Ward to add the transcript with more accurate discription Roll call vote as follows: Beth Bock, yes; Paul Synuria, yes; Tracy Zivkovich, yes; Jack Lawver, yes; Lester Ward, yes; James Lawver, yes; Ronald Bakewell, yes. Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Mayor's Report for November 2019: \$1,193.00 (Police \$926.46/CEO \$266.54) Motion by James Lawver, seconded by Lester Ward to accept the report. Motion carried.

Finance/Administration: Mr. Ward gave the Finance report, Motion by Lester Ward, seconded by Paul Synuria to accept the report to pay the bills as presented. Tracy Zivkovich questioned if the bills were to be paid from the general fund and was told yes. Roll call vote as follows: Ronald Bakewell, yes; Beth Bock, yes; Jack Lawver, yes; Tracy Zivkovich, yes; James Lawver, yes; Lester Ward, yes; Paul Synuria, yes. Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Motion by James Lawver, seconded by Lester Ward to adopt the 2020 Final Budget. Jack Lawver gave the budget summary and remarked that the balance in the budget should be real close to what they had projected. Roll call vote as follows: Lester Ward, yes; Ronald Bakewell, yes; Jack Lawver, yes; Tracy Zivkovich, yes; Paul Synuria, yes; Beth Bock, yes; James Lawver, yes. Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Motion by James Lawver, seconded by Beth Bock to adopt Tax Ordinance No. O-02-19. Paul Synuria questioned the amounts listed on the ordinance and was told that they are according to what they have in the budget. Roll call vote as follows: Tracy Zivkovich, yes; Lester Ward, yes; Paul Synuria, yes; Beth Bock, yes; Jack Lawver, yes; Ronald Bakewell, yes; James Lawver, yes. Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried..

Public Service: Paul Synuria reported that they had purchased new tires for the police car. He questioned if Stanley Jablonsky had received his buy back sick time. Lester Ward informed him that he would be given this at the end of the year. The Solicitor explained the procedure.

Building and Grounds: Beth Bock reported that the project on the building is moving along. She addressed the key issues. Beth Bock reported on getting veterans pictures erected which would be placed on brackets adding that families would be paying for this. Mr. Ward stated that the locks had been changed on the door upstairs and the renters won't be able to get in. Jack Lawver remarked that someone has to be here when they move their things out.

Utilities: No report.

Infrastructure: James Lawver reported they are getting ready for winter time adding the salt is in and thanked Mlaker for the welding on the trucks further adding that the street department is working on the trucks and are ready for the snow.

Community & Economic Development: Tracy Zivkovich gave the K-2 Engineers report on the building located at 149 High Street. Motion by Tracy Zivkovich to begin demolition on the building after receiving K-2's report. The Solicitor remarked that you don't have to own the building to demolish it. Jack Lawver stated that the Borough would not be spending any money on this. Motion carried. Mr. Ward gave the Code Enforcement Officer's report.

Library: Paul Synuria reported that they are changing the lights.

Fire: Jack Lawver reported that some members have been sworn in as fire fighters.

Correspondence: Pat Purcell/ Board of Assessment Appeals/Tena Congelio/ Sheila Shea/ Jim Marmol/ Brownsville Municipal Authority (Second Notice-illegal connection) William B. Jones (requesting reappointment to Brownsville Municipal Authority Board for five years. Mr. Ward commented that the Borough had not received a notice of the assessment hearing on the Iron Bridge Crossing and only received the notice after their reassessment was granted. A discussion followed on date, time and stamping correspondence coming into the office. Lester Ward reported that no one had received a notice (not the borough, the school or tax office) adding that he was told by the lawyers that regardless of whether we were there or not this is the way they do business. There was further discussion on when the Borough received the notice of the hearing. Lester Ward again stated that the Borough never received a letter. Jack Lawver also remarked that the Borough never received a letter. Ronald Bakewell commented that the value of the building had been lowered. Lester Ward commented that the procedure is that it goes through the Board, then the Commissioners and then the Borough. Motion by Tracy Zivkovich seconded by James Lawver to ask the Solicitor about the assessment hearing that was held regarding the Iron Bridge Crossing building. Motion carried. The Solicitor commented tht there isnot much you can do right now adding that it would be costly to take action on this. Paul Synuria asked how was the Borough to repay the money. Tracy Zivkovich stated to just give them credit until it was paid. Motion by Tracy Zivkovich, seconded by Paul Synuria to advertise for openings on all boards. Roll call vote as follows: Beth Bock, yes; Paul Synuria, yes; Tracy Zivkovich, yes; Jack Lawver, yes; Lester Ward, opposed; James Lawver, yes; Ronald Bakewell, yes. Roll call vote six (6) yes, one (1) opposed. Motion carried. Jack Lawver commented that Mr. Jones's term is up on the Municipal Authoriy and he expressed his desire to continue and had submitted a letter. Tracy Zivkovich asked Lester Ward when the Manager Treasurer had received the letter from the Tax Collector. He informed her that she was given a copy at the office. Beth Bock remarked that no one got a certified copy. Jack Lawver again stated "we have no letter." There was a discussion regarding grants for recycling bins with a deadline of December 31st adding that the notice had come in on the 9th and questioned why council hadn't received the notice before now. Lester Ward asked her if she was going to pick it up. Motion by Tracy Zivkovich, seconded by Paul Synuria to apply for the grant. Jack Lawver asked if the Borough had to give monies toward this. Roll call vote as follows: Paul Synuria, yes; Tracy Zivkovich, yes; Lester Ward, yes; James Lawver, yes; Ronald Bakewell, yes; Jack Lawver, yes,; Beth Bock, yes. Roll call vote unanimous. Motion carried.

The letter from the Municipal Authority was asking for the Borough to advertise the ordinance that they had included in their letter. Motion by Tracy Zivkovich, seconded by Beth Bock to advertise the ordinance. Roll call vote as follows: Ronald Bakewell, yes; Beth Bock, yes; Jack Lawver, yes; Tracy Zivkovich, yes; James Lawver, yes; Lester Ward, yes; Paul Synuria, yes. Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Old Business: Nothing to report

New Business: Jack Lawver read the letter submitted by the Manager Treasurer which stated she wanted to retire her position as Manager Treasurer as of January 2020 adding that she had done so with a heavy heart. Motion by Paul Synuria, seconded by Tracy Zivkovich to accept her request..Lester Ward stated he wanted a date and Paul Synuria suggested making it effective January 10 if she wants. Roll call vote as follows: Lester Ward, yes; Ronald Bakewell, yes; Jack Lawver, Abstain; Tracy Zivkovich, yes. Paul Synuria, yes; Beth Bock, yes; James Lawver, no. Roll call vote: five (5) yes, one (1) abstain, one (1) no. Motion carried. Jack Lawver stated that this is a trying position as this is a position hard to fill as this person is responsible for the everyday workings of the Borough. Lester Ward remarked that as far as he was concerned she did an outstanding job. There was a question of Jeff Wilhelm still working. Jack Lawver stated he wasn't sure of his intentions and Ronald Bakewell remarked that Jeff had told him that if Libby leaves he is handing in his keys also. Motion by by Beth Bock, seconded by Paul Synuria to advertise for new office position. Roll call vote as follows: James Lawver, no; Beth Bock, yes; Tracy Zivkovich, yes; Paul Synuria, yes; Lester Ward, yes; Ronald Bakewell, yes; Jack Lawver, abstain. Roll call vote as follows: five (5) yes, one (1) no, (1) abstain. Ronald Bakewell commented that Jeff's position would have to be replaced. The Solicitor informed them that the Borough needs a Secretary Treasurer to operate at all times according to the Borough Code adding that they could appoint Jeff if he wants it. Lester Ward remarked that he wants to give an appreciation award to Libby. Jack Lawver reported that he and Beth had attended the Firemen's workshop and asked for a motion to repay Brownsville Township as they paid for both the Township and the Borough. Roll call vote; Jack Lawver, yes; Beth Bock, yes; Ronald Bakewell, yes; James Lawver, yes; Paul Synuria, yes; Lester Ward, yes; Tracy Zivkovich, yes. Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Ronald Bakewell, on going out of office, welcomed the new council member and wished them luck adding that they will be responsible for the decisions they make adding that these people on council are your friends as long as you vote as they want. He asked them to vote their conscience and they will do fine. James Lawver told the new council "good luck, you are going to need it." Jack Lawver told them that he appreciated their services though they had their disagreements a lot of passion was involved in their work and reminded everyone that their decisions affect the 2300 people of the Borough. He thanked Krisha for her conference time at this meeting and wished everyone a "Happy New Year". He reminded everyone that the reorganization meeting will be January 6, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

Motion by Ronald Bakewell. seconded by Tracy Zivkovich to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.



Council President, Jack Lawver

