

BROWNSVILLE BOROUGH
FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

The Regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Brownsville was held this evening in the Council room at the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to 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.

Jack Lawver asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Fred Provance who was former Councilman, Fire Chief of South Brownsville Company and CEO of the Brownsville Municipal Authority and to remain standing for those who lost their lives on 9/11.

The following members were present: **Jack Lawver, James Lawver, Ronald Bakewell, Lester Ward, and Beth Bock** Also present was: **Elizabeth Lawver-Manager/Treasurer, Ross Swords, Jr.-Mayor and Krisha DiMascio-Solicitor.**

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Mark Smith: Mon Valley Academy for the Arts: Thanked Council for permitting the October 6th Concert at the Cast Iron Amphitheater. They along with POM will be sponsoring this event. The Academy is a 501C non-profit organization. Peter Daley is also raising funds for this project and they are seeking a \$10,000 grant which they intend on spending in Brownsville. He also stated that the necessary insurance forms would be turned in on Thursday. Jack Lawver thanked him for their efforts.

Rocky Brashear: President of the Brownsville Historical Society along with Jamie Bogol and Kim Brashear commented that the Historical Society had sent a letter in August regarding their interest in the purchase of 218 Front Street to be used as a Heritage Center for the Castle as they need space for documents. He stated this house needs a lot of money to renovate but promised that work would begin immediately. They have made a lot of renovations to the Castle and have donated to several organizations. They are requesting that the Borough acquire this property and lease it to them which would require a resolution. They would demolish the garage beside the house for parking so as not to interrupt the residents and are looking at two to five years to complete adding that they will need approximately \$62,000 for the renovations. They have engineers working on a plan now. He thanked Council for their help in getting the caboose removed. They have also purchased the property near the old Chinese Laundry and plan to beautify the area. They are now asking for Council's support on the purchase of 218 Front Street. Kim Brashear: reported that the archives are now in an area of the Castle that can be reached by narrow steps leading into a hot room which they fear will damage the documents/Jamie Bogol: read a letter of support from her and Brian adding that the Castle is visited by people from various parts of the country as well as out of the country. Ron Bakewell asked if the documents are now in the tower and Jamie stated that they are in the upstairs of the Castle. Solicitor, Krisha DiMascio, asked if they were trying to get out of the depository and if so this would have to be bid out and they had no guarantee that they would get the bid. She added that this property was owned by Liggett and there may be liens against it as well as the IRS may be involved which would hold everything up. The County would have to remove the taxes to make it free and clear. Ron Bakewell asked if Liggett owning the property would cause a problem and Krisha answered. "probably so." She suggested getting a title search. Ron Bakewell asked if they had spoken to the County and Jack Lawver informed him that the County had referred them to the Borough. Ron Bakewell suggested to go through the County as it may be easier. Motion by Beth Bock to help them if we can with a title search and Lester Ward suggested tabling this to be able to look into it further. James Lawver suggested that they go on their own to get the title search adding that the Borough would not realize any tax dollars if they went through with the request and would rather a resident purchase it to put it back on the tax rolls. Kim Brashear remarked that the town would benefit by people coming in. James Lawver commented that he would rather taxes coming in on a yearly basis. Krisha stated that with Liggett involved it would make it higher in price. Kim stated they would go the County first. The motion included to secure the property for the Historical Society, seconded by Lester Ward adding at no obligation financially to the Borough. Roll call vote as follows: Beth Bock, yes; Jack Lawver, yes; Lester Ward, yes; James Lawver, no; Ronald Bakewell, no. Three yes votes, two no votes, motion carried.

Kathy Werry. Hiller Pa.: Wished to support the purchase of 218 Front Street.

Heidi and Ron Armel: 213 6th Avenue: Heidi commented that they had purchased the historical church on Sibbett Street and were planning on putting a coffee shop there adding that they had gone through the planning and zoning process. The street is narrow and paving is now being done adding that the paving company has parked their equipment in their driveway. The curbs are high on this street and they keep hitting their tires and asked if there is something that can be done to correct this. James Lawver stated that there is a one and a half inch overlay there and informed them that he would meet with them at 7:30 A.M. Thursday to see what can be done.

Connie Gore: questioned the orange covering on the electric lines in front of the Gazalie building. She was told that this was done by West Penn Power Company to protect the workers who were fixing the fallen bricks on the building. Krisha stated they do this on purpose to alert the workers. Connie asked if they would be removed by the end of the month and Krisha stated she had seen them up for long periods. Connie asked if they could be forced to take them down and was told that probably not.

Duane Fouts: 96 Frick Street Brownsville/Stated he had purchased the property in Newtown Patch and was a Veteran (thanked by James Lawver) He was here on two issues one being the sewer problem which needs repaired as when it rains his basement is flooded and the water freezes. He wants to retire in Newtown Patch and is in the process of getting modular homes for Veterans erected there. Two houses need burned down by the Borough's Fire Departments as part of the process and asked help in doing so. James Lawver informed him that there is an ordinance governing the placing of modular homes (Mr. Fout asked for a copy) and that the Fire Departments can't burn due to hazardous material in the buildings and thanked him for his efforts adding that he is in favor of adding taxing properties in the Borough. Krisha informed him that if the buildings were demolished the person he hired to demolish the buildings would have to apply for a permit from the Borough and asbestos would have to be checked. He would also like to improve the area. Motion by **James Lawver**, seconded by **Beth Bock** to approve the modular homes at Newtown Patch. Motion carried.

James Lawver makes a motion to approve the August 14, 2019 minutes. **Ronald Bakewell** seconds the motion. Motion carries.

Mayor's Report: July-\$1,370.39 (Police \$1,189.85/CEO \$180.74)
August-\$1,480.30 (Police \$ 828.66/CEO \$651.64)

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

Chairman, **Lester Ward**-gives the Financial Report for August 2019: Department Bills \$4,722.65, Utilities \$18,396.21 for a total of \$23,118.86. Account balances as of 08/30/19. Spendable Accounts: Liquid Fuels \$67,990.18 and General Fund \$137,372.74 for a total of \$205,362.92. Accounts allocated for Specific Projects: Payroll \$12,952.74, Police Pension Fund \$31,168.29, Fire Escrow \$197.42, K-9 \$3,335.09, Northside Park Project \$11,112.85 and Act 13 \$34,241.27 totaling \$93,007.66. Motion by **Lester Ward**, seconded by **James Lawver** to approve the finance report and pay the bills as presented. Roll call vote as follows: **Lester Ward**, yes; **James Lawver**, yes; **Ronald Bakewell**, yes; **Jack Lawver**, yes; **Beth Bock**, yes. Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried. **Lester Ward** reported that we had received the Municipal Obligation for the police in the amount of \$39, 594.00 and the street department in the amount of \$ 30, 576.00 and made a motion to accept the Municipal Obligation seconded by **James Lawver**. Roll call vote as follows: **Ronald Bakewell**, yes; **Beth Bock**, yes; **Jack Lawver**, yes; **James Lawver**, yes; **Lester Ward**, yes. Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Mr. Ward reported that South Brownville Fire Company had not handed in the invoices for equipment to cover the contributions from Act 13 to be reimbursed in the amount of \$1800.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Chairman, **James Lawver** – reported that the Borough had received a letter from TranSystems regarding the utility verification request for the Dunlap Creek Bridge Rehab Project and request if this was costing the Borough money. Jack Lawver stated that this is under the County. James Lawver asked if we have to give authorization and the Solicitor stated that the request was for verification of the utilities and if we owned the utilities. James Lawver stated that he would call them to check this out. James Lawver also reported that he hadn't received the bids as promised for Arbury Lane and Catherine Avenue adding that the milling and paving would began with Sibbett St . as the first and it will be done according to the ordinance. Mr. Bakewell gave kudos for the paving of curb to curb. Jack Lawver questioned the completion of Bowman Avenue . Mr. Ward stated that they had been working with Mr. Jurosko for some time and wanted it in writing giving a definite date to finish as soon as possible. He had replied that it would probably be done by the end of September.

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Chairman, **Paul Synuria**-Not present **Lester Ward** the following police report. Calls for Service: Unknown, 0; Brownsville Township 7, Brownsville Borough, 82; Out of Town, 13- Total 102. Citations: Out of Town, 0; Brownsville Township, 0; Brownsville Borough, 27 Total 27. Total Incidents: Brownsville Township, 0; Brownsville Borough, 18; Out of Town, 1 Total 19. Arrests-0 and Prisoner Transports-0. Mileage: Unit #1-1,205 and Unit #2-0 Total Miles-1,205.

Lester Ward stated that the Borough has still not received a copy of the police schedule in order to know what coverage we have. He reported that we are down in Brownsville with the citations with 103 in May, 93 in June and 14 in July although the mileage is up. Jack Lawver reported that Car 3 is down for expenses and they will need to decide on what to do with it later. Beth Bock asked if it will be fixed. Jack Lawver stated that the cost of repairs is more than it is worth. Ronald Bakewell questioned if we receive a report from the state police. The Manager informed him that we get fine monies twice a year but no report.

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Chairman, **Beth Bock**- reported that the toilet was repaired in the building; is working with K-2 for specs for the building ; needs to look into an ordinance for the parking permits for parking places we own and asked if there is something we need to do tonight. The Solicitor informed her that this would have to be advertised for adoption adding that they could look into creating an ordinance for no overnight parking and then a permit process would have to be adopted possibly by a resolution listing the rules and regulations for the permits. A list of all the borough properties would have to be obtained. Beth Bock stated that some of the Christmas lights are not working and was looking into the possibility of the public purchasing lights which would then have a banner of who purchased them hoping to get the high school art club to get involved. Jack Lawver informed her that the Chamber of Commerce took care of this in the past and have talked to them about the updating and had they talked to the technical school to rewiring them as they are approximately twenty-five (25) years old. Beth Bock stated there are fifty-six (56) of them. James Lawver talked to the Engineer to give an estimate on Hollow Road so that they can go to the sewage authority on this. Beth Bock reported that the lights in the parking lot have been put up and Jack Lawver thanked the Military Honor Roll committee for putting them up. Mr. Ward commented that the Borough had already approved \$760 and asked if the remainder was included in the bills and was assured that it was. Jack Lawver stated they donated all their services for nothing.

UTILITY SERVICES:

Chairman, **Ronald Bakewell** –Nothing to report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Chairperson, **Tracy Zivkovich** – Not Present. Woody's Report by **Lester Ward**: Complaints, 32; Inspected Houses, 2; Court Hearings, 9; Citations issued, 60; and Letter Sent, 5. They are riding around town and want to do on the spot write citations. Beth Bock questioned if we need to look into something to assist Woody in doing his job. Jack Lawver stated that Myron Nypaver had called about the bank building as people are taking things out of it. Mr. Ward stated that there is word that we might be getting a small grocery store in town. Ronald Bakewell stated that he had been interested in the house at 218 Front Street and had someone look at it and was told that the whole front has slipped and cracked and an Engineer had told him that the whole house would have to be demolished. Kim Brashear asked if he wanted it demolished. Ms. Werry stated that it might not be worth it to Mr. Bakewell. Ross Swords asked James Lawver if they were putting the bricks back.

LIBRARY:

Representative, **Paul Synuria**- not present. Lester Ward reported that they had purchased a new refrigerator and had new carpet installed downstairs. Ronald Bakewell asked if they found a new librarian and was told not yet.

FIRE COMPANIES:

Representative, **Jack Lawver** – that both fire companies are going together to host the county firemen's convention in July from July 12 to 18 and have a list of activities which they will provide next meeting. James Lawver reported that Super Value donated a palate of water (20 cases) to Brownsville Fire Company No 1, , South Brownsville Fire Company No. 1, West Brownsville Fire Department and Hiller Fire Department. Jack Lawver commented that James Lawver had spearheaded this and suggested writing a letter of thanks to Super Value.

TAX BUREAU

Representative, **Lester Ward**- No report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Stormwater Workshop scheduled for October 10 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Uniontown Pa. Mr. Ward is interested and asked if there was a charge which is \$25. Beth Bock stated she is also interested. Motion by **James Lawver**, seconded by **Ronald Bakewell** to pay for anyone wanting to attend. Roll call vote as follows: **Lester Ward**, yes; **Ronald Bakewell**, yes; **Jack Lawver**, yes; **Beth Bock**, yes; **James Lawver**, yes. Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Tri-County Meeting scheduled for Thursday hosted by Newell Borough.

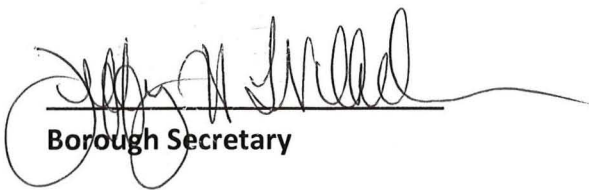
OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

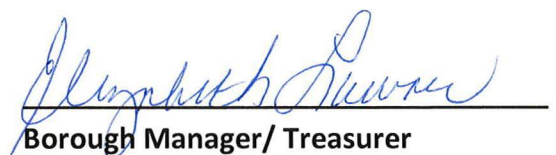
Letter of interest on the Brownsville Municipal Authority with the passing of Fred Provance. **Lester Ward** recommended sending someone who knows the business and has worked with them and on the condition that he finished his time here and made a motion to appoint James Lawver, seconded by **Ronald Bakewell** to fill the vacancy with James Lawver abstaining upon the advice of the Solicitor. Motion carried. Mayor Ross Swords reported that the Halloween Parade is scheduled for October 26th at 7:00 P.M. and trick or treating is scheduled along with the same time that West Brownville has scheduled theirs.

Motion by **James Lawver**, seconded by **Lester Ward** to go into executive session at 7:27 P.M. with Solicitor asking the Manager Treasurer to stay. In regards to the military buyback requested by Stanley Jablonsky the Solicitor explained to Council that the Borough's Police Pension doesn't permit this adding that it would be costly to the Borough and further explained the state allocation process. Council then agreed to deny the request.

Motion to adjourn by **James Lawver** and second by **Ronald Bakewell**. Motion passes.



Borough Secretary



Borough Manager/ Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

REGULAR GENERAL FUND

BANK BALANCE	08/30/19	137,372.74
Outstanding Checks		<u>50.00</u>
BANK BALANCE	08/30/19	137,322.74
CASH BALANCE	08/01/19	162,821.18
Receipts		<u>24,338.88</u>
		187,160.06
Expenditures		<u>49,787.32</u>
CASH BALANCE	08/30/19	137,372.74

AUGUST 2019 RECEIPTS

Mayor Ross Swords	(Fines/Forfeits)	1,189.85
Code Enforcement	(Fines/Forfeits)	180.74
Brownsville Police	(Police Reports)	60.00
Various	(No Lien Reports)	75.00
Various	(Occupancy Permits)	40.00
Various	(Solicitor's Permit)	10.00
Clerk of Courts	(Fines)	41.77
Recorder of Deeds	(R.E. Transfer Tax)	3,625.75
SWRTB	(EI Tax)	9,318.75
SWRTB	(Delinquent Per Capita)	587.90
SWRTB	(LS Tax)	690.47
Atlantic Broadband	(Franchise Fee)	3,875.00
Market Street Academy	(Rental)	300.00
Tena Congelio	(RE Tax)	4,247.31
First National Bank	(Deposit Error)	.03
Interest Credit	(General Fund)	<u>96.31</u>
		24,338.88

MONTHLY BILLS AUGUST 2019

FINANCE

De Lage Landen	152.25
Quill	301.47

BUILDING

Brownsville Honor Roll	1,214.94
Do It Best	12.12
Terminex	40.00

CODE ENFORCEMENT

RECREATION

POLICE

Bevard	412.97
S & D Calibrations	30.00

STREET

Bevard	205.02
Fayette Parts	1,104.90
P & M Auto Electric Co., Inc.	408.00
PA One Call	10.36
Do It Best	33.29
Alex McCann	258.49
J.G. Service	40.00

FIRE

Center Independent North Side Fire	208.72
Center Independent South Side Fire	290.12

Total	\$4,722.65
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