

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN JACOBS, RADOCHA, SABOL III; COUNCILWOMAN FOX, POREMBO; PRESIDENT HAWK; & MAYOR KITCHKO

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Councilman Sabol and Councilwoman Porembo arrived late.

Councilman DeMelfi was absent.

PURPOSE: Committees/Workshop

Josh Esposito from Barry Isett was present to review the Quality of Life Ordinance.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the snow removal and the grass cutting. Mr. Esposito stated that the start of the spring season with the grass cutting was always bad. He stated that they will cite the repeaters at the start of the season but just notify first offenders. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they do not cite under the property maintenance for the high grass because they have an ordinance for high grass, which only grants them 5 days to get the grass cut. She stated that if they do not cut the grass, they send a contractor in to cut the grass, cite and bill the property owner and they do take pictures before and after the grass was cut. She stated how they would go to court if they disputed the citation. Mr. Esposito stated that the District Magistrate in Schuylkill County has a set fee scale based on how many times they have violated the ordinance. He stated that since they have the separate ordinance, they might not need to include it on the Quality of Life.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they have violation notices that they can post on their door, if people were living there. She stated that the majority of the high grass was with a vacant property. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they have only ever had one person take a hearing at the magistrate's office and lost. Councilwoman Fox stated how the grass cutting was already a separate ordinance and that they would not need it in the Quality of Life/Property Maintenance. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they would not need it, but they should have something for the snow being removed from sidewalks.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the garbage cans not being seen from roadway and apartment buildings. Mr. Esposito stated how that was a problem in several towns. He stated how it was pertaining to the garbage cans sitting in the right-of-way on the sidewalks.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they do have problems with people putting large items out for trash pickup during the wrong week and then it will sit for a few weeks. Mr. Esposito asked how they handle that. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they might send a letter, office might call the property owner or Officer Blisard has contacted the property owner either by phone or in person. Mr. Esposito stated how the Quality of Life was a quick fix. He stated how they were not going to give the quality of life tickets to someone with broken windows. Mr. Esposito stated how it was typically for grass, snow and ice, garbage, and indoor furniture being stored outside.

Mayor Kitchko stated that the draft Quality of Life Ordinance they had received from Solicitor Yurchak was not necessarily geared for Nesquehoning. He stated how there were things that he had picked out of there that they should consider putting into their Health and Safety Ordinance.

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Mr. Esposito stated that the Quality of Life was just an ordinance and that it could be tailored to their needs. He stated how it did not have to be just about property maintenance. He stated how it could be a mirage of different ordinance together so that they would be able to be enforced faster than the typical 15 – 20 days that was given. Councilwoman Fox stated that if they would combine some of the other ordinances, would they be able to do away with them. Mayor Kitchko stated that he did not think that they needed another grass ordinance. Mr. Esposito stated that he would not get rid of the original ordinances so that they could place everything in one letter. He stated how they had gone through it in Jim Thorpe approximately 6 months ago. Mr. Esposito stated how the ordinance that he reviewed, had entirely too many items in it.

President Hawk stated that they would not have to say that the garbage cans could not be visible from the roadway, but that they could not be stored in the public right-of-way. He stated about not putting that they could not have indoor furniture outside for any reason, but have that they were not allowed to store indoor furniture outside; that it may be temporality placed outside for sale or maintenance. Mr. Esposito stated that they would have to change some of the language in the ordinance and enforce it. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about having violation notices to hand out or place on residents' doors. She stated that it does not have to be a citation or a fine, but a warning. Councilman Sabol stated about giving them a reminder that the large item pickup was not for another two weeks. He stated how it did not have to be the police; it could be any Borough employee. Mr. Esposito stated how that would be a great idea, but the person posting the property would have to take a picture of the posting. Councilman Sabol stated that it was not a fine, it was a polite reminder. Councilman Radocha stated that it did not matter how they wrote up the ordinance, it was how they enforce it.

Councilman Jacobs stated that the one thing he wanted taken care of, were the abandoned vehicles on property. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she did not think that the code officials were not able to enforce anything on the Borough Street. Mr. Esposito stated that the property maintenance code reads that if the vehicle was not licensed or not registered, on private property, they were able to enforce it. He stated how there was a subsection to that if it was being worked on or dismantled on private or public property. Councilman Jacobs stated how there were several cars sitting for several months and nothing has been done.

Councilman Sabol stated how each one of them should jot down what they feel is a problem in town, whether it be garbage cans, high weeds or rats in a building. He stated how they could then sit down and make up a reminder notice. Councilwoman Fox stated about going through the Quality of Life Ordinance. Councilman Sabol stated how they could give them a warning first. Mayor Kitchko stated about changing the wording to meet their needs. Mr. Esposito stated how the Quality of Life did not need to be done by a qualified inspector. Councilman Jacobs stated about needing a police officer to file the citation. Mr. Esposito stated that the first year they had started the tickets in Tamaqua; they had talked to the property owner and informed them as to what was going on. He stated that if they went back in two days and everything was taken care of the ticket was voided. He stated that if it was not, then they would cite them. Mr. Esposito stated that they could go over everything and if they had any question they could give him a call.

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1. STREETS

FRANK JACOBS, CHAIRMAN; GEORGE SABOL III, CO-CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA

Councilman Jacobs stated how the Borough crew was taking care of what needed to be taken care of. He stated that they had cut down the big bush in the Johnson Park where they were looking to replace the fence. He stated that they had dumped three loads of modified on Mussmano Avenue. Councilman Jacobs stated that they were waiting to see if they were going to start Rhume Street on Monday. He stated that once they were done with Rhume Street, they might be able to start the project on Catawissa Street/Ratcliff Street. Councilman Radocha stated about Bob Stempa sweeping Hazard Street because the street was covered with dirt from the installation of the curbing. Councilman Jacobs stated that they will start to haul the pipe up for Rhume Street on Friday. He stated how all of the manholes and storm drains were already there.

Mayor Kitchko stated that the asphalt zipper was delivered to Mahoning Township. He stated how they were going to demonstrate/have training on it on a street in Parryville on June 27th for 4 hours. Councilman Jacobs stated how Mr. Degiglio and Mr. Staehle would be attending that demonstration/training.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they have been getting quotes for a new truck. He stated how they have another meeting on Friday. He stated how it would come before the Budget Committee to see what they could afford.

Councilman Sabol stated how he was trying to set up the power washer to clean up the bridge area. He stated how they have to figure out how to get water to the power washer. Councilman Radocha stated about filling a tank with water. Councilman Sabol asked about pressure. Councilman Radocha stated how it did not need pressure; it needed volume. Councilman Sabol stated about rigging up the sand blaster as well. Councilman Radocha stated how he had a big sand blaster but they would have to borrow the air compressor from the Water Authority. Councilman Sabol stated how he was going to try to get the inmates again to have them run the power washer at the bridge. He stated how he also wanted to have them weed whack the knot weed down. Councilman Sabol stated how he had talked to Mr. Pilla and he had some water based weed killer at the sewer plant. He stated how he had also talked to Mr. Staehle about the inmates painting the yellow on the corners, but he said that they usually do not paint them until mid-August. Councilman Sabol stated how he was going to measure to see how much paint they were going to need.

2. SEWER

MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO-CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA

Councilwoman Fox stated how they had complaints about odors from the pumping station at the 1st Beach (East Wood Beach). She stated how they had the same complaint last year and that was when they had started the peroxide drip. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were mostly getting the odor in the evening, so Ms Chapello was at the Lake checking on the odor. She stated that Ms. Chapello felt that once people were home in the afternoon, there was more sewage running into the station; when the pump turns on, it pushes the air out the vent pipe on the top of the building. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were going to duct tape shut the top of the pipe for that night and then try to change the media in the morning. She stated that the charcoal was in there a while and might need to be changed.

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Councilman Jacobs asked about increasing the peroxide drip. Councilwoman Fox stated that she did not know if that would help. Councilman Jacobs asked when it started. Councilwoman Fox stated how they claimed that it started over the weekend.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they were meeting with the Railroad in the morning to discuss the road leading into the sewer plant. She stated how they had met with the Borough Crew on Monday to discuss the project on Rhume Street. Councilwoman Fox stated that if they had to take the road down, they were not going to start Rhume Street on Monday. She stated how they did have everything ready to go; signage, equipment, staging area, trailer with piping. Councilwoman Fox stated how she wanted to get Councilman Radocha's opinion on the trench boxes. She stated how they did not feel that they were going to need them. Councilman Radocha stated how he thought that they should be fine without them. Councilwoman Fox stated that once everything falls into place, they will get to Catawissa Street. She stated how the manhole was ordered for Catawissa and Ratcliff Streets.

Councilwoman Fox stated how Mr. Pilla had received quotes for a new weed whacker, because the one at the sewer plant was shot. President Hawk stated that they could purchase it and that they would ratify the actions at the next Council Meeting. Councilman Jacobs stated how the other quote was for the outside lighting approximately \$1,600.00. He stated how the other quote was for lights inside approximately \$472.00. Councilwoman Fox stated how the lights above the desk were changed. Councilwoman Fox asked if they were going to allow them to purchase the lights or have them wait. President Hawk stated how they could purchase them and when they have time they were there for them to install.

Councilman Jacobs stated about the question that they had received from Bretzik. He stated how they were not going to allow cars to be parked on Orchard Lane during the winter months.

3. BUILDINGS

**GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS,
CO-CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA**

Councilman Sabol stated how the new lights were installed at the Borough garage and that they looked really good. He stated how he had called Amanda Fee from Friedman Electric concerning the lights for in the meeting room.

Councilman Sabol stated how he had the garbage cans moved from in front of the building to the side. Councilman Jacobs stated how he has to let the Borough Crew know that they have to get the garbage out on a Tuesday. Councilman Sabol stated how they want to look at getting a new trash receptacle and a bench for the front of the building. He stated how he did not want any smoking in the front of the building. Councilman Sabol stated about the Borough Crew power washing the front of the building.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the amounts for oil for last year and where they were at for 2017. She stated how they usually call around to suppliers to get the lowest cost when they needed oil. Councilwoman Fox stated that if it was working for the Borough, they should not change it.

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4. PUBLIC SAFETY

**ROSEMARY POREMBO CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK
CO-CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX**

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the Veteran's Day Parade being held on November 5th. She stated that they will need police and fire protection with rerouting the traffic. Mayor Kitchko asked if the Borough got the insurance for the parade or if the VFW got the insurance. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she did not remember ever getting insurance for the Veteran's Day Parade.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how Mr. McArdle had conducted the fire drill/inspection for ReDCo on May 30th and they were in compliance.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were getting complaints concerning the clean up for the March 14th E. High Street fire. She stated how the properties were not insured and was not sure what they had to do to get them cleaned up.

President Hawk asked if there was any word on the contract negotiations. Mayor Kitchko stated how he had not heard anything since the initial letter.

5. SANITATION GEORGE SABOL, CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX, CO-CHAIRWOMAN ROSEMARY POREMBO

Councilman Sabol state how they were down and measured for chain link fence at the recycling bins. He stated how they had received three quotes; Rainbow Fencing, DP Fencing and Hazleton Fencing. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Rainbow and Hazleton quoted for the fencing in the park. She stated how they had gotten the quotes for 6' vinyl coated 11.5 gauge and 8' - 9 gauge. Councilman Jacobs stated how they would have to get in touch with Gene Kennedy before they would install the 8' fencing. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the quotes: DP Fencing – 6' - \$3,900.00 & 8' - \$5,400.00; Hazleton Fencing – 6' - \$4,210.00 & 8' - \$5,140.00; Rainbow Fencing – 6' - \$6,158.95 & 8' - \$7,324.93. Councilman Sabol stated how he would recommend the 8' fence. He stated how they have to get the Borough crew to remove the telephone poles and the tree stumps prior to having the fence installed.

Councilman Jacobs stated how there was something that was being kicked around in Harrisburg that was in the news about making recycling mandatory for municipalities. He stated that he did not know if the State would have anything in their budget for next year.

Councilman Sabol stated how he had talked to Mr. Solomon about turning the dumpsters so they were emptied on the street side and moving the other 3 dumpsters closer to the curb. He stated how Mr. Solomon was also going to bring along some new lids to replace the broken ones on the dumpsters. Councilman Sabol stated how they were going to start emptying the dumpsters on a Thursday. President Hawk stated that they would have more room in the dumpsters if the people would break down their cardboard boxes.

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6. RECREATION MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; GEORGE SABOL III, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

Councilwoman Fox stated how Secretary/Treasurer Ahner had received a copy of the Recreation Commission By-laws from Solicitor Yurchak. She asked if they were ever adopted. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she did not get a chance to look back through the minutes.

Councilwoman Fox stated about the Committee reviewing the by-laws because they were very vague. She stated how there was nothing in the by-laws concerning rentals. Councilwoman Fox stated how Secretary/Treasurer Ahner was still not receiving a copy of the rental agreements.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they had received two quotes to repair/replace the fence in the Johnson Park; Rainbow Fencing - \$1,000.00 and Hazleton Fencing - \$840.00 for 4' chain link fence.

Councilman Sabol stated about how they were approached by the Panther Valley Elementary School to partner with them to install a playground at the school. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was not really to partner with them. She stated how they were asking if anyone from the Borough Council wanted to get involved on a committee or with fund raisers to purchase new equipment. Councilman Jacobs stated how they Borough might be included if they would apply for a grant, but they were not asking for any funding from the Borough.

Councilman Sabol stated how he was not able to attend many of the Recreation Meetings and asked about looking into a game plan for Johnson Park. He stated how they could do it in stages. Councilman Sabol stated how the walls were the biggest thing that was in need of repair. Councilwoman Fox stated how they could discuss it as a committee and then bring it to the attention of the Recreation Commission. Councilman Sabol stated about looking into prices for ready rock.

7. BUDGET/ PURCHASING FRANK JACOBS, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID HAWK

Councilman Jacobs stated how the Budget Committee was going to meet on Wednesday, June 28th at 5:30 p.m. He stated how they were getting quotes on trucks, which they will discuss at the committee meeting. He stated how he had also asked Mr. Staehle to get quotes on barricades.

Councilman Sabol stated how he would like to ask that if one of the Committee members were not able to make the meeting, he would like to sit in on the budget meeting. He stated how he did not know what all was involved with the budget. He stated how he was on Buildings and did not know what he was able to spend. Councilwoman Porembo stated that when she first started, she had spent hours with Secretary/Treasurer Ahner going over the line items in the budget. She stated how she was very helpful.

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8. PERSONNEL/ SAFETY

**ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; MARY FOX, CO-
CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS**

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the complaint/request that they had received from Susan Bamford. She stated how they had met with Ms. Bamford and the office staff. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had discussed closing the windows when she was working on different job functions. She asked if they wanted to have Solicitor Yurchak prepare a memorandum of understanding for pay for upgrades. There was a discussion concerning the job duties/cross training.

Councilman Jacobs stated that once they were done with the lights in the meeting room, he wanted to get them to look at the lighting at the Police Station and the Recreation Center.

Councilman Jacobs stated how the LED lights were changed in the Estates. He stated how he had received one complaint.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. for personnel reasons. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Porembo seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer