

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office**  
**114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240**

**ROLL CALL:** COUNCILMEM/COUNCILWOMEN FOX, HEANEY, GUARDIANI, KUBA, NALESNIK, PRESIDENT HAWK, MAYOR KATTNER & SOLICITOR YURCHAK

President Hawk called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MINUTES:** Councilwomen Guardiani made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13<sup>th</sup> workshop. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

President Hawk did give a reminder that each person is contained to 5 minutes of speaking.

Lucy Freck, I am an officer of Save Carbon County. I am here to lay out our concerns regarding the burning of tires as a fuel source at the Panther Creek Power Operating, LLC , #4 Dennison Road, Nesquehoning. I am sure we share all the same concerns. Some of the organizations joining us in our concerns , Pet Future, Clean Air Council, Earth Justice and Beyond Plastics. Save Carbon County and each others have been vocal on this topic. Submitted comments to DEP, and held press conferences with the story picked up by Spotlight PA. So to keep it brief, some of our concerns are, Panther Creeks proposal with would dearly cost Carbon County in terms of the grated air quality. There is no offsetting the benefit to the county and its residents. Currently, Panther Creek does not monitor polyaromatic type of emissions and has no plans to do so in the future, add to the mix burning tires, and the smoke and particulates in the air will permeate and degrade quality of life and have an impact on Nesquehoning residents. It is our hope that Panther Creeks permit will not be approved by DEP, but if granted they must be required to install electrostatic equipment and that is apiece of equipment is apiece of equipment that Panther Creek does not intend on purchasing. This equipment is needed to decrease the negative impact on air quality burning tires would cause. Someone says that this is no problem, that Panther Creek has scrubbers, these scrubbers probably focus on sulfides and the burning waste coal, but it is nothing to remove polyaromatic hydrocarbons and the air particulates from burning tires. Mounted of shredded tires will be needed to be stored before being burned. Safe storage of the tons of tires is of utmost concern as tires shreds are prone to spontaneous combustion. The tire fires frequently become major hazardous materials incidents affecting all. As of September 21, 2023, Times News opinion piece entitled, Tire burning not a good idea for the region makes the point that this could be an environmental tragedy in the making. Panther Creek is a profitable company with or without burning of fires. The question now is does Panther Creek want to be a good citizen of Carbon County and taking the steps, investing in any equipment that would make an impact. I hope that borough council takes a very meaningful action and will make a joint statement. Councilwomen Fox asked for a copy of the paperwork that she read. A visitor asked if there was anyone from the power plant and President Hawk said that he does work for the power plant and that he was excusing himself from making any comments, due any conflict of interest. He said that it is under review of DEP. Malina Blado of Lansford asked is there was a date yet. President Hawk said there is no date as of yet. She asked what would the tire burning have to do with the operation of bit-coin? President Hawk said that

he will not respond to that. Councilwomen Fox went on to say that the power plant already has a permit. Maline Blado said It is stated that it needs more electricity and energy from the burning of the tires, but that is ludicrous as far as my opinion goes, because of the environmental danger of the land itself. Councilwomen Fox asked President Hawk if there has been a hearing set up by DEP. His response was that it is up to DEP to set up a hearing. They have not made a decision. President Hawk said that DEP does not have to hold a public meeting, it is up to them and based on the information that they receive is they are planning on holding a meeting. Malina Blado asked if there had been opposition as far as this room is concerned. President Hawk said that this is the first time it has been brought up at a council meeting. Councilwomen Fox said that we could request a public meeting, but they do not have to accept, but with dealing with DEP and there is opposition, she said that she has been at meetings with DEP for permits and even though there is opposition or questions, DEP does what they want to do. Maline Blano said, I guess people have to get sick before something gets done. Blano said that she already contacted DEP and they are putting blinders on. She said that there has to be more people speaking up about this situation. Mayor Kattner said that as a council, we can only go so far as a Mayor. Councilwomen Guardiani said that we should drag this out now, but the bottom line is, I've contacted DEP about a number of issues about the plant concerns that I have, you are not going to like what I have to say. She went on to say that the Plant meets DEP Guidelines, whether you like it or you don't. So the bottom line is that they have a permit to burn shredded tires, they have been burning shredded tires, this is a renewal of the permit, it is not a new permit, it is a renewal and they have met the basic DEP guidelines, so the chances of this permit not being renewed is slim to none, so this council is not going to back our heads against the wall trying to prevent a permit that is going to be renewed. They are meeting DEP guidelines, you may not like it, but they are meeting the guidelines. The permit is most likely going to be renewed. You might want to fight to put the extra things on the steps, if I was to say to you, go for something realistic. You are fighting a dead deal here they are going to get renewed. If you have factual information that needs to go on those stats, go after them. Don't come saying we don't care, because we do. We are concerned citizens. Joshua Ambrose-Manness, I live at 14 East Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning. I am not sure what the rules are here, I have some notes on my cell phone is that is prohibited. I am here because I would like to start a Library Board that would seek to create a library. It is my understanding that I just can't ask for a library, because I would then be asking for Grant money. I am suppose to get a set of by-laws and the goal for this would be a 501(c)3, it would government money and as far as I can tell the Borough would not have to pay. As far as research 95% of Americans ages 16 and older agree that the materials and resources available at public libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed. I also some bullet points here, we could do board games, card games, lego club, computer club for those without internet, various groups, information center, puppet shows, a writes group. I would like to tell you about a group chat that I am on that would like to donate books if this gets passed. Again, this is to start a formal library board that would seek to create a library in Nesquehoning. Solicitor Yurchak jumped in and said the State has determined that Nesquehoning is covered by Dimic Library, so this council and board supports Dimic Library. He said he did not know how much support he would get out of Council, because of that fact. As far as whatever state money goes on behalf of Nesquehoning, go to Dimic Library. Mr. Ambrose-Manness asked if there was anything he could do as far as Lansford Library or Dimic Library, as far as volunteering, at one point. Solicitor Yurchak suggested that he speak with Dimic Library or Lansford. But to open up a library on its own is not going to happen. Councilwomen Guardiani mentioned that there is Give a Book/Take a Book. She said initially when she saw them she thought of no people are going to trash them, and they are going to steal some, but they don't. Councilwomen Heaney said that he should contact Dimic and they could maybe advise and appreciate your assistance. She said Weatherly has a library, and we do support that. Contact Carol, she is the library director. Councilwomen Fox said that the church has been

talking about that and that he should speak with Pastor John about it. He then said thank you for your time.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Yurchak said that he did the agreement for 1 East High Street to do the periodic payments. He gave it to Susan in the office. We have reviewed and revised. The Lake Hauto Club has reached out to John McArdle and their testing was done and supplying him with the results shortly.

**PLANNING COMMISSION & ZONING HEARING REPORT:**

Planning, no report. Zoning Report: 5 Contacts, Total for August \$61.00 plus planning fees. There was 1 NOV with regards to a pool which was removed, that had been installed without a permit, rest were permits for property work.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** No Report

Motion was made by Councilwoman Kuba to accept the Solicitor's Report and the Zoning Report. Councilwomen Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT & CD REPORT:**

Motion was made by Councilwomen Guardiani to accept the Treasurer's Report and CD Report. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:**

August 2023: Real Estate \$7,892.85; Occupation \$297.00; Per Capita \$187.00 for a Total of \$8,376.85.

**EXONERATIONS:** 1 for non-resident and 1 for student.

**APPLICATIONS:** None

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

There were 12 pieces of communications received, none of which require action.

Motion was made by Councilwomen Fox to accept the Tax Collector's Report, Exonerations and the file the Communications. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

**COMMITTEE REORTS**

**POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY:**

There is a request by Nesquehoning Hose #1 to attend the following events, Fire Prevention at Panther Valley Elementary School on October 6, 2023. Motion was made by Councilwomen Fox for Nesquehoning Hose #1 to attend the event. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Motion to amend the agenda. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to add, Keystone Fire

Conference on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the Carbon County Training Center also the Boot Drive on October 8<sup>th</sup> with rain date of October 15<sup>th</sup>. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Motion was made by Councilwomen Kuba to approve participation by all three fire companies and also extend participation and authorization to New Columbus and Hauto for Panther Valley Elementary School. Councilwomen Guardiani seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Quote for additional body cams requested by the police department. President Hawk said that it was discussed to proceed with the body cams. Councilwomen Fox asked about the funds. She wanted to know if there was funds and we they stood with budget. Mayor Kattner said that sometimes you need to spend money to save money, because if someone wants to sue you. Councilwomen Heaney said that she was texting Lacey to maybe see if the funds are in the budget for the body cams and that they were going to meeting with her sometime next month. Motion was made by Councilwomen Fox to table the purchase of the body cams, until able to find out about the funding. Councilwomen Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Motion was made by Councilwomen Fox to purchase the body armor from Atlantic Tactical in the amount of \$2,910.54 for the police department. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to authorize the Chief of Police to utilize whatever, crossing guards and fire police, police to cover both events. Councilwomen Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Motion to approve the fire police to attend the St. Teresa's Celebration and Veteran's Day Parade at the Chief of Police discretion. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to approve parking restrictions determined by John McArdle and Chief Weaver. Councilwomen Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to approve the permit for PennDot Special event. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. There was a handicapped parking request from McHose. Councilwomen Kuba did say that the person does not own a car. We need to find out if she has 24 hour care. President Hawk said that there is off street parking and it appears that there is parking between both. He believes that the way Ordinance states, you can only request if you own the vehicle. We do not have to award a handicap parking stop, if the person requesting does not own a car. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to table handicap request pending information from our Solicitor. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Kattner said that the police department is doing a great job. Councilmen Nalesnik asked Chief Weaver if we did get questioned by the public on the code complaints resolved, would we be able to get a breakdown of that each month. Not the number, the specifics? Is that possible? Chief Weaver responded and said he could, I need to tally something up. Councilmen Nalesnik said that they have been question already on it and if they had the data, for all of us to see to respond to someone. Chief Weaver said it will only show the code complaints. Councilwomen Kuba said, that Abbie, Joe and herself went to the training and how impressive it was up at the training center with the police interactions. We got to see a couple of scenes that needed two police officers and fire company. She suggested that you attend if possible. Councilwomen Guardiani said that it was impressive by the county wide interaction. There were a number of police, fire companies. Mayor Kattner said that there is an officer that needs his wages to come up to par. Councilmen Nalesnik said to drop Lacey a note and let her know what his start date was and she would follow up on it. Chief Weave had a recommendation to hire Brandon Brown as a Crossing Guard. Chief did say that he was satisfied with Mr. Browns background check and that he would train him if hired. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to amend the agenda. Councilwomen Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to hire Brandon Brown as a Crossing Guard at the current rate. Councilwomen Heaney

seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Mayor Kattner said that October 14<sup>th</sup> was the last fundraiser for the VFW. He will submit a letter to the borough office with details. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to amend the agenda, to add the request from the VFW to partially close East Center Street for a fundraiser for Dylan Degglio. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to partially close East Center Street for a fundraiser. Councilwomen Guardiani seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

#### **FIRE REPORT:**

They had 16 responses. 1-motor vehicle fire; 1-landing zone setup; 4-automatic fire alarms; 6-mutual aid requests (1- Jim Thorpe; 1- Tamaqua; 1-Mahanoy City; 1-West Penn; 1-Tobyhanna), 2-EMS responses (1-rain rescue; 1- special assignment). Total number of fire responses this year is 103.

#### **POLICE REPORT:**

Crime code, vehicle code: \$1023.41; Local Ordinance \$ 18.91; T-18 payable to municipality \$85.74; Title 75- Motor Vehicle \$1018.76; Magistrate Kissner- \$243.31; Clerk of Court-\$205.50; Distribution-\$891.97; Parking Tickets \$550.00; Code Tickets \$100.00; Moving Permits \$110.00; Accident Reports-\$45.00; Total: \$3,266.19;Traffic Citations-69; Code-40; Accidents-7. Total for the month 300

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:** None

#### **HOUSING & CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:**

Code report from Barry Isett.

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

Just a reminder that on October 4<sup>th</sup> there will be National Emergency Alert on TV; cell phones; radio; FCC are doing this alert. It is going to be the first time in a number of years and they accept to do it around 2:15-2:30 p.m. Councilmen Nalesnik asked John McArdle about the quote he received about the exhaust, he asked if it was done, answer no just estimates. He responded and said he received two. John McArdle said that President Hawk already approved. Councilmen Nalesnik asked if the exhaust pipe the replacement is it going to be stainless steel? John McArdle said that it ten years old and that area that it rotten in, the parts ordered. He said he was not sure what type were ordered. Councilmen Nalesnik made a motion to approve the annual aerial truck maintenance being performed by Campbell Supply and the exhaust repair to be performed by Campbell Supply. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

Councilwomen Fox made motion to accept the Police and Safety Committee Report, Police Report, Mayor's Report, Code Report, EMA Report. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

#### **STREETS:**

Councilmen Nalesnik said the quote from Aramsco was for the additional street paint has been received, that should carry us through the rest of this year and Spring. Councilmen Nalesnik made a motion to ratify the purchase of the street paint and approval of payment to Aramsco. Councilwomen Heaney

seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. The expenditure was \$824.00. I will have to get with Solicitor Yurchak on the request to have borough remove trees from corner of Oak and Center, because it is on private property. The closing of Locust Street, the borough workers were aware to bring down barricades. Councilmen Nalesnik made a motion to ratify the purchase of 4 new barricades. Councilwomen Guardiani seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to the closing of Locust Street on September 23, 2023 for the Maple Shades Craft Fair. Councilwomen Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilmen Nalesnik said about the green pickup truck, he would like to put it up for sale for approximately \$1,500.00. He said it could be a private sale, does not need to be advertised, so if anyone knows anyone let me know. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to place the green pickup truck up for sale with a price of \$1,500.00, but also authorizing head of streets to take best offer. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilmen Nalesnik said they received communications from St. Teresa's requesting a banner to be hung, also a letter requesting attention for Yard Street potholes. We were up there and did what road could do, but going to take a closer look at Yard Street, for possible project in the future. The salt shed was damaged the previous year, with the initiative of the borough workers, it was repaired and I sent pictures, they did a great job, with Bob in the lead. The winter parking we will discuss at workshop additional what we want to do and doing the same thing we did last year. Crossing signs, pedestrian warning signs have been repaired and planning on having them set up tomorrow with the assistance of the borough workers. We obtained 8. I will be meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup> with the Engineer to review possible street projects for 2024. We are going to go around town and take a look at the streets. We already have East Diaz, but that is through a grant.

#### **SEWER:**

Motion made by Councilwomen Fox to accept the Sewer/Sanitation Adjustment Report for August 2023. Councilmen Nalesnik seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Motion was made by Councilwomen Fox to authorize ARRO Engineering to advertise for Sludge Bids. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilmen Nalesnik did ask Councilwomen Fox if there was any news on the generator. She responded by saying that Bill McMullen is to speak with someone from the Lake, but nothing has been said. Councilwomen Fox said that she was questioned by Shawn, that when the sewer/sanitation bills are paid each month that money is deposited into sanitation and then it has to be transferred into sewer. She does not know if the transfer has been made since May.

#### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:**

Councilmen Nalesnik brought about the next step in the formulating a grant for the Recreation Center would be and environmental study, we have already done the determination that there is no infestation there of termites. The next step in that process would be an environmental study for hazardous materials, we did receive a quote from Element Environmental Solutions for \$995.00 to conduct the testing. It is up to council if we could proceed. Councilwomen Fox made the motion to proceed with the environmental study for the Recreation Center as a precursor to the grant application. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. The electrical in the park, the parts are in, electrician has been playing phone tag with PPL on the permit to start. Hoping within the next week or two the work is done. I believe there was a bill to get ratified for the engineering assistance for the new HVAC system we installed at the sewer plant. Will check will Bill McMullen on the cost of the assistance. Alarm system we discussed at workshop from Simply Safe, it was ordered, working with tax exempt. Councilmen Nalesnik is purchasing the alarm system and then would be

reimbursed. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to purchase the Simply Safe Alarm System and the monthly fee for the borough building. Councilwomen Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Regarding New Columbus Park also part a grant preparation to pursue money to do a substantial renovation to New Columbus Park. We could discuss at workshop. The first part of this is to do a survey, topographical, boundary survey of the park. This is to provide a basis for development master develop improvement plan for the park by ARRO Engineering. We could possibly do a budget item for next year. It could be expensive.

#### **SANITATION & QUALITY OF LIFE:**

There was a lot of tonnage for August 2023. My husband and I spoke at the workshop about the Blue Print Community, is going to be amazing. It is a community revitalization program. Our town would not qualify to receive the title of the blue print community because we are too small, so the plan is for Nesquehoning, Lansford, Summitt Hill and Coaldale to apply for blue print community status. If this happens, it is going to mean money that our communities do not current have. It is an application process and there is a number of us getting together on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we will be submitting this and there are not a lot of communities that are going to receive this. We are going to try our best to get this for the communities. I said that even though I will be off of council in December, I would council to allow myself and Joe to continue with this process. There is a 18 month training, a lot of trips to Harrisburg. This is communities working together. Property update from Chip regarding 90 east Catawissa Street, there were 2 avoidable alarms in June and items that Chip wrote about and we had a conversation, that he and I are going back there this Tuesday. Just from the outside, there is a wall collapsing between the Roxie and the apartment building. The grass is terrible, the grounds are a mess, there is a parking lot collapsing. The signs are up suggesting no smoking, the doors are still being left open. NOV for the Roxie, Chip send them the letter and it states in the NOV to bring it up to code or demolish. We are waiting for a response from them. The Cabras, are no in ownership of 215/217 Catawissa Street, they have already supported the porch, the already have the permits to put the roof on. Permits are there. She signed it over. Mr. P's house, 58 east mill, cleaned up on the outside, don't go inside. He allowed Tom, the man who runs the animal shelter, to do it. Chip just reminded him that the inside needs to cleaned up also. Property at 34 East Railroad Street, a tarp hanging outside of it, Chip received phones calls of interested parties. Mr. Claypool, the property across the street and the property near the post office, it is no longer being bought. It is being purchased by Ozzie's wife. There were a number of properties in town going up for Upset Tax sale. All of them have been postponed until November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We did have a blight committee meeting, it was more of a re-organization meeting, because what we are working on when RoniSue left was the Ordinance for rentals. We do have an Ordinance on the books for rentals. Now that we are advertising and looking for a borough manager or secretary/treasurer, we met and started the process again, it is going to be a long haul to get this were it has to be.

#### **RECREATION:**

Councilwomen Kuba stated that the basket raffle held in the middle of month was very successful. They has it Friday, Saturday and Sunday, total amount raised was close to \$3,000.00. A lot of participation. Benches we have 28 completed and placed. Lake Hauto, New Columbus. We have 8 more to go and I have a list for 8 more next year if we decide to do it again. They are selling like hotcakes. We will have the totals next month. New Columbus has a few in the park. Hauto would like some more. Hopefully the electrical in the park will be up and running and maybe do a Christmas tree. Halloween this year will be October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 and that will also be at the discretion of the Chief. Johnson Park Grant, we

have been in touch with Barry Isett, with the new person assigned to the grant. Everything is moving in the right direction. Everyone just has to sign the recent statement that we are in agreement, the revisions. There are two additional grants that RoniSue did apply for, so if we are awarded those, they will be early December or January. Any upgrades would be to Johnson Park, worth \$240,000.00. The state has approved the revisions. This grant must be completed by June 2024. They are only doing the sidewalk, ramps. We might need to file an extension, but it will go to the end. Next month they will have dates for the Christmas Party, bingo continues every other Wednesday. They have been having a little bit of an increase for parties and on Mondays is yoga. Councilwomen Fox would like to thank Lois and Mary Arietta for all the work done on the benches.

#### **BUDGET/FINANCE:**

Councilwomen Heaney said that they received a letter from Mauch Chunk Trust about security. Apparently there were some accounts that were breached, but they can say that the Borough Accounts have not, just been guarding it. Everything is fine. Working on our Health Insurance that begins at the end of the year, we have a quote, there has been a slight increase of percentage, that usually happens. We will be also receiving a reimbursement, which we did receive. We are also expecting another quote in early October, so we can move forward. She said that she will be meeting with Lacey and to see where we sit with our budget. We know we have the money, we have to make sure we can make the transfers. President Hawk did say that we needed to make a motion to amend the agenda on who is going to be paying the bills and depositing receipts. We will do it under personnel. Councilmen Nalesnik said about the CD's coming to maturity in January and we want to explore the best rates available, cause as an example, the Edward Jones is a full percentage higher than. I think they are higher now. Make sure we have eyes between the two and maybe consider Edward Jones.

#### **PERSONNEL/SAFETY:**

Councilwomen Fox said that she does have a call into the teamsters to check on their health insurance, which I believe is Aetna, so we can get some comparable prices. She said she was going to make a motion. Councilwomen made a motion to accept the Teamster Office Staff Negotiated Contract, with everything staying the same, the contract is their agreement except a pay increase and the \$20.00 per month phone stipend. They have agreed to change the health care to better or equal to substantially, so they have expected that wording for the new contract, with the exception that they do not want to go any further with any other changes, so, Solicitor Yurchak is making wording up. I did send to Rick Bachman right now, if other contracts for the police or the streets are changed that they will go along with whatever is done is those other contracts. They do not want to be the only ones changing their healthcare coverage when other borough employees get something different, we are going to have to work things out down the line. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to accept the contract as is right now and the job description has been added to the contract. Councilmen Nalesnik asked if the phrase, as direct by borough included in that job description and she said yes. He questioned whether or not council should approve if it has not been written up yet. Councilwomen Fox said that they have been working on this for eight months and we need to move forward, I do not have complete written contract because the Solicitor and the Teamsters have to sit down and go through the wording. I am telling all that the holidays, sick pay, personal days, everything will remain the same except for the pay raises and wording for the healthcare. The job description was given to them on April 10<sup>th</sup> and on the bottom it states all other duties as assigned. Councilmen Nalesnik asked that was it in August that they had an issue with that? Councilwomen Heaney asked what can they not want to do? Councilwomen Fox said she had on the contract, both office personnel will have the same job description and that was agreed



on July 5, 2023. Under job description, both office staff personnel will have the same job description and I agreed after that. Councilwoman Guardiani asked if we could amend your motion as David stated and state in your motion that is being voted on. Councilwomen read Solicitor Yurchak's email that was sent to her at the meeting. It says, "We are ready to sign contracts that is ridiculous, that we have two people with longevity that have been here and are professionals, although I've been told other are professional, but the two secretaries, that we have are not professional because they do not have a degree, I guess. With regards to the healthcare coverage, I suggest the following wording,(Do to the current upheaval in health insurance coverage, which is generally been mandating changes to the health insurance coverage for employees or benefit carriers, the borough agrees to supply health insurance covered substantially comparable to that continued in the current contract, the borough further agrees to notify its employees and union in advance of any changes in the coverage or providers in the event that an arbitrator or judge of court of competent jurisdiction rules that some of the health care coverage should apply for a different bargaining unit than same coverage will be extending to the employees covered in this contract). With regard to the retro pay, I suggest the following wording,( All back pay to January 1, 2023 due and owing to the employees covered herein shall be paid in equal bi-weekly installments through December 31, 2023.) Councilwomen Guardiani is saying, can we vote on it and agree upon it, David your wording was according to the draft, the final draft, we are voting to agree to that final draft, yes councilwomen fox said. The contract with not drawn up and signed as of yet. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to accept the negotiated agreement with the Teamsters for the Office Staff Contract provided the final contract meets the draft as proposed. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. Councilmen Nalesnik did say to President Hawk to make sure he looks it over before signatures. Councilmen Nalesnik did say that he did not get the draft that council is speaking of and he is being asked to vote on something he has not seen. He also told President Hawk that if he needs for Personnel Committee to help with anything that could be arranged. All in favor of motion, motion passed. We talked hiring a cleaning person for the office, since the girls do not have time. I have an application from a Doris Hoffman, I did have her in here and showed her the janitorial duties and. Cleaning up to 10 hours per week at \$12.00. Councilwomen Kuba said that she agrees to hire someone to clean, but, I just think 10 hours are too much. Maybe start with 6 hours and see were that goes, if it needs to change. Chief of Police said that need to look at cost of his cleaner, agreed that the amount should be the same. President Hawk said that we could hire her for the office and look at that later on. The cleaning person is not showing up to the police department. If the borough office has the cleaning supplies then she should not be purchasing them on her own and waiting for reimbursement. Chief Weaver claims that the reason she is not coming into work is that she had no cleaning supplies and that she had no gotten reimbursed for the cleaning supplies she purchased. President Hawk said that we should see how it works out with Doris for the borough office with 6 hours and take things from there. We could see if she is interested in cleaning the police station and then we can act accordingly. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to hire Doris Hoffman as the cleaning person at \$12.00 per hour and up to 6 hours per week. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. President Hawk said that he notified Solicitor Yurchak about the Negotiating Committee for Police Negotiations, he said that it would be David Hawk, Lois Kuba and Bruce Nalesnik. He said that they will all have to meet with Solicitor Yurchak. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to amend the agenda to pay all bills and approve all deposits. Councilwomen Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Motion to amend the agenda ,made by Councilwomen Heaney, seconded by Councilwomen Gardiani. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilmen Nalesnik made a motion to ratify the 6 month agreement with Lacey Gonzalez for treasurer duties as was presented in executive session at the last workshop. Councilwomen Guardiani seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to accept all committee reports. Councilwomen Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilwomen Guardiani wanted to remind everyone that at the next workshop, October 11<sup>th</sup> it is 6:00 pm. Executive Session will be at 5:00 p.m. President Hawk said that under communications, Lake Hauto did apply for a fireworks permit, it was approved by Chief Wahls of the Hauto Fire Company, but it does require council approval as well. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to ratify the Lake Hauto fireworks display application for Labor Day. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Councilwomen Guardiani said that she has been approached by residents about the Website. Councilmen Nalesnik said that it is close to going live, that the office staff has been looking at it and sending him corrections that he then forwards to Enternet and the changes are made. He said that the office staff would spend anything that would need to be posted on the website to the proper people. The new secretary/treasurer has the responsibility of maintaining the website, in the interim, if we go live before position filled, maybe asking the office staff to give basic meeting dates and such. After the year of maintenance we can go into the website and do things.

Councilwomen Guardiani did ask for a quick executive session after the meeting. Council has gone into executive session and not action will be taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Deborah DelFranco  
Secretary/Treasurer