

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024 AT 6:00 PM, BOROUGH OFFICE
114 W. CATAWISSA STREET, NESQUEHONING, PA 18240**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: COUNCILWOMEN/COUNCILMEN FOX, SMITH, KUBA, NALESNIK, KATTNER, SHUBECK, PRESIDENT HAWK, MAYOR KATTNER & SOLICITOR YURCHAK

MINUTES: Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 20, 2024 meeting. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

Councilwomen Smith made the announcements of the winners for the Christmas Light Contest. The winners are: The Best Traditional House is 242 W Columbus Avenue, the Leslie Family; The Best Sparkling House is 580 E Catawissa Street; The Most Creative House is 109 W Railroad Street; The Most Festive House is 90 Stock Street; Best Overall House was 504 E Center Street. Councilwomen Smith said that everyone who was not present will get their sign and she thanked everyone for lighting up the town.

HEARING OF VISITORS: NONE

PLANNING & ZONING HEARING: NONE: President Hawk did mention that there is a Planning Commission Meeting coming up on January 7, 2025 for 2 West Catawissa Street.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Yurchak said I have a few informational pieces. The first is the LCCC property. I have been in touch with LCCC and I am trying to get the shelf life of the grant and see how long they effect the property. I wrote the State, they have not yet responded, so I am going to go to Senator Argall's office and see if they could help me on that. The next item is the Reading Blue Mountain was actually very nice. Their indicating that they are waiting for a memo from Bill McMullen, I have indicated to Bill McMullen, via email, that he should go ahead and write up the memo and we could attach it to the Agreement. We are waiting on Bill, and I will follow up with him. The last informational thing that I have, is that I did speak with Mike Greek about the truck task force (RT93). He like the idea and he said he will look into it and see what he could do. Councilwomen Kuba did state that Kathy Reaman about the lease agreement and Solicitor Yurchak stated that he has it ready whenever they want it. She stated that she did give them the agreement and that they were going to have their attorney look over it and get it back. They would like to get it through by the beginning of the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT & CD REPORT: Councilmen Kattner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and the CD Report. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to approve, bills to be ratified, bills to be paid, and deposits. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to approve the purchase orders from November 21st to December 17th, 2024. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

TAX COLLECTION MONTHLY REPORT:

November 2024 Taxes Collected:

Real Estate: \$7,317.57

Per Capita: \$ 181.50

Occupation: \$ 88.00

Total: \$ 7,587.07

Motion was made by Councilmen Kattner to accept the Tax Collection Report. Councilwomen Shubeck seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

There were no exonerations or applications.

COMMUNICATIONS: President Hawk stated that there was one communication to put on file from Dimmick Library to place on file. Councilwomen Kuba made motion to place communications on file. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to increase the yearly stipend for the three fire companies from \$2500.00 to \$3000.00. Councilwomen Smith seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Kuba stated that there was one application for Sergeant which was Carl Breiner. She said that last week he was given the Civil Service test and that we were waiting for the results and once we had them, we would proceed. It should be in tomorrow or Friday, we could move forward with the position of Sergeant. She stated that we had extended the advertisement for applicants on file for full time, that there are three and that would go until December 31, 2024 for accepting applications. She stated that on January 7, 2025, the Civil Service will meet and begin the process of going through the applications. She said, in talking with Chief Hess everything is going good, no problems. He has not expressed anything. He does have some ideas coming up in the Spring time and from then on, we are just moving along.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Kattner stated that everything is going good now with the transition from Michael to Brad. We did have a hiccup there, were one of the cars needed a battery, we had to get put in. I still believe that we should still be looking into Municibid. We have had three or four that were like \$4500.00 and they were from Whitehall and they are already to rock and all we need to do is put our computers in. I spoke with someone from Whitehall and the cars are good. When our car was out of commission, there was an incident and there was also

court, so one cop needed to use their own vehicle. I really think we need to do something about this. Councilwomen Kuba said, could you bring these to Council and get bids. Mayor Kattner said that it was \$4500.00. Councilwomen Kuba asked what year the vehicle was and he responded by saying that it was a 2019. He stated that they are all uplifted. Councilwomen Smith asked if this was something that we needed to bid on or buy outright. He stated that there were two of them on Municibid and that you have to bid on them. Mayor Kattner said that we need another vehicle. Councilmen Nalesnik asked if they were on Municibid. He said that if you here that they are posting a vehicle, to let Debbie know and we could submit a bid on it and lock it in. But if they are coming and going we don't know. Councilwomen Kuba asked Deb to look into Municibid every now and then. Councilmen Nalesnik asked if there is a way to find out when then immediately post a vehicle if they could call us, Deb said no, they do not do that. She said other than calling them directly there is no notification. Mayor Kattner said that the police are doing a great job and that he noticed on top of the mountain, that most of the Amazon trucks are not coming down the road, with the meeting we had, we could have maybe nip them in the bud.

POLICE REPORT: Magistrate Dobson: Vehicle code, crimes code and misc. \$2,155.99
Dog: \$18.87; Local Ordinance: \$205.21; title-18, payable to municipality: \$127.21; Title 75, motor vehicles: \$ 1,611.28; Title 75- parking offenses: \$ 50.00; Individual Restitution: \$142.92; Court of Common Pleas: \$161.17. Moving Permits: \$210.00; Accident Reports: \$75.00; Parking Tickets: \$75.00, TOTAL: \$2,677.16. Traffic Citations Issued: 60; Code Complaints Resolved: 4; Total calls for the month of the November: 93.

FIRE REPORT: 12 Responses: 4 mutual aid in Northampton; west penn; hometown and jim Thorpe; 3 AFA; 1 EMS Assist; 2 Fire Police; 1 Odor; 1 Unfounded. Total responses for the year to 114 through the end of November 2024.

HOUSING & CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT: President Hawk reported that the zoning officer had 5 contacts for a total \$363.00 in permits received. The code enforcer, he had 17 contacts for the month and spending a total of 17.50 hours for the month.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: NONE

Motion was made by Councilwomen Shubeck to accept the Police/Public Safety; Mayor's Report; Zoning Report; EMA; Code Enforcement Report; Fire Report. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

STREETS: Councilmen Nalesnik said that the East Diaz water runoff project which was done with the Borough Authority was completed today. We are hoping that will remediate some heavy storm issue there at the Authority driveway. While we had the equipment there, we have an extra storm drain, I was going to have them install another storm drain on the Southwest portion of East Diaz Avenue. On the opposite side of the street, there is no storm drain, so before in anticipating a paving next year, I would like to get that done. We will be doing that next week, depending on the weather and the holiday. Councilwomen Smith asked if the pump

was still running up on East Diaz? Bob Pilla did say that the pump was still running and that it would be stopped tomorrow.

SEWER: Councilwomen Fox made a motion to accept the Sewer/Sanitation Adjustment Report for November. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to accept the Addendum to the Sewage Treatment Agreement with Rush Township. That was adjusting the cost. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Fox stated that for public record that has not been done since 1990.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Councilmen Kattner said that the light was installed in New Columbus Park the day after the Christmas on the Hill Event. The light is going to be a great asset for the Park and it will be used for multiple events. He said thanked the borough staff and the authority staff. Councilwomen Smith stated that letter was sent out to the homeowner of the apartment building in the back of the building, about residents parking there especially with these winter months coming up, we have to keep that lot open, so we can access it to be plowed and so the employees have a place to park. It does seem that since we sent the letter out, we have had more people parking back there, perhaps maybe once the weather breaks, we could have signs painted back there, they are claiming that they do not see the sign that is hanging up there. We might have to consider getting police involved. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that we could put lines and new signs up in the Spring. Councilwomen Smith said that we have been more than generous with letting others park back there, but going forward we need to enforce that it is for employee's and customers only. Councilmen Nalesnik said just an update, in early next year, I will get a meeting with building and grounds and maybe recreation representation to discuss the New Columbus Grant that we were laying the ground work for, by getting a survey, which has been completed. So the next step is that the Engineer would like to meet with Borough officials on a final layout, so they can do the engineer drawings and submit the final grant, while there is still grant money available. Councilwomen Kuba stated that she did stop at the Johnson Park today and apparently, they are pouring the concrete tomorrow. I told them, I would appreciate if they could move some of the blocks up into the park or on the side, because if we get a good snowstorm it would block from the road being plowed. They did explain to me that the hold up is that they are being told the night before to come by the contractor and maybe he won't call them. The blocks look really nice. Councilwomen Fox stated that there was a delay in getting the side structure fixed, so that was holding it up. Councilwomen Kuba stated the people on the block have been very patient, and I am afraid about a snowstorm. He said they are going to pour the concrete. Mayor Kattner said his concern, is that we have had warm morning and then cold, I am afraid that wall is going to start moving. Councilwomen Kuba stated that it does look very nice, but I am concerned.

SANITATION & QUALITY OF LIFE: Councilwomen Smith made a motion to accept the November tonnage from Tamaqua Transfer in the amount of 144.54 tons. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

BLIGHT COMMITTEE: Councilmen Nalesnik asked is there was anymore information about getting reimbursement from the County for the Railroad Street tear down. Deb DelFranco stated no, but will follow up with the County.

RECREATION: Councilwomen Smith said the Christmas Party at the Recreation Center was a success. They have a little over 50 kids. Up on the hill, the Christmas lighting was a success. I want to give a huge thank you to our Borough guys, Bob Pilla, the Water Authority. Everyone that was working together, it was a total success. It was a great turn out. If Council is agreeable to keep the lights on until after Russian Christmas, and then we will make arrangements to take the trees down and have Tamaqua Transfer pick them up. We are going to be sending letters out to all participants with our thank you letters, letting them know by this date, if they want the decorations from the tree, they need to come get them and we will take care of the discarding of the trees. Councilwomen Fox asked about all of the cords. Councilwomen Smith said that they are the Boroughs property. She also mentioned about asking Lisa Shubeck to speak with the Recreation Commission, if they would consider contributing to funds to possibly extend the electrical in the park, so we don't have all the above ground cords and such. The Borough paid for the lights that were put in by Kresge, or if they are will to pay for the electrical at the gazabo would be helpful. Maybe in the upcoming year maybe they could fund the gazabo because it was their spot at the event. We had twenty nine trees total, and we still want to do the reindeer and it was a success. We talked about horse rides and the reindeer and that is going to be our thing, so if they want to donate some funds towards that it would be great. It does not have to be just Christmas, it would be in he Spring or Summer and do music events and such. Councilwomen Kuba mentioned that we definitely need security up at the park. I know that the Historical Society wants to meet and discuss contributing to the security up at the park, but we have had some incidents of things missed up there. I do believe that if we get cameras at the park, for liability purposes and safety it is a good idea to have cameras. If it could be tied into the police station to watch what is going on up there. Councilwomen Fox said that the guys were so busy with the electrical at the park and the putting the inlets on Diaz avenue, the Christmas tree at the end of the road did not get decorated, but Bob assures me that it will get decorated tomorrow.

BUDGET/FINANCE: Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to accept the 2025 Budget, with no tax increase. We will stay at the 20.8 mil rates. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Fox asked what the mils rate was, Deb was not sure, but it was about \$63,000.00 per mil. Councilwomen Kuba said we will be looking out for the new CD rates in April.

PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilwomen Fox mentioned that we need to look into putting the new cleaning person in up at the Police Station. Councilwomen Fox stated that she was waiting for Mark Laubach from the Teamsters contract has to be signed. He was out for surgery. The contract is settled and we voted on it, it just has to be signed. Councilmen Nalesnik asked if the job descriptions were sent our to him and she responded and said that they were to be sent over. Deb DelFranco, Secretary/Treasurer mentioned that the job description were sent over to Mark. Councilwomen Kuba stated that everyone in the office was extremely happy with

Margarite to new cleaning person. She does a fabulous job. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to amend the Agenda to add the cleaning person to the Police Department. Councilwomen Shubeck seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to add the 5 hours for the police station for the cleaning person per week. Councilwomen Shubeck seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. The crossing guard pay increase for 2025 was approved by the school district. Councilwomen Kuba stated that maybe Amy at the Times News could put in the paper that we are accepting any names to shovel snow. Councilwomen Fox stated that back then, we were held responsible and Solicitor Yurchak said that because of the legal standpoint, we could just do a list and give it to the residents, but we are not responsible.

Councilmen Kattner made the motion to accept all committee reports. Councilwomen Smith seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: President Hawk said that we did receive communication from Joseph Pilla regarding the end of his term on the Nesquehoning Water Authority this year and he is not going to request reappointment, so we will be looking for letters on interest in serving on the Water Authority beginning in 2025, they are five year terms. It was asked about advertising. We are doing it on the website and on the door. Get the letters before the next meeting in January 2025. Have letters in by January 22, 2025. Councilwomen Kuba asked if we are doing quotes for the aerial trucks. John McArdle said that they use Campbells Service. Councilwomen Fox asked about Bulldog. John McArdle stated that they do the work, but they are so backed up and that it has to go and get fixed by a professional who handles the trucks.

President Hawk said Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: Councilwomen Shubeck made a motion to adjourn. Councilwomen Smith seconded. Adjournment at 6:40 pm.

**DEBORAH DELFRANCO
SECRETARY/TREASURER**