

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
For General Business Purposes
May 28, 2024
Westfield Municipal Building

COUNCIL PRESENT: Elizabeth Rowland, Roger Watkins, Zachary Smith, Holly Zengerle, and Constance Cummings (Cummings arrived at 7:53 p.m.)

COUNCIL ABSENT: Edward Rodarmel and Roger McCullen

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Faun James, James Streeter, Craig and Michelle Emmons, and Theresa McCullen

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Council President Roger Watkins. The pledge of allegiance was said. A roll call was taken. Roger McCullen, Edward Rodarmel, and Constance Cummings were absent at roll call. However, Ms. Cummings arrived at 7:53 p.m.

Visitors – Agenda Items

Craig and Michelle Emmons were present for an update on the ATV usage in the Borough. Roger Watkins said Council is working on an ordinance, and they need to decide if they are restricting ATV usage to certain streets, etc. Mr. Emmons suggested making it permissible on all Borough streets. Mr. Watkins has reservations on that because he's afraid residents will replace their vehicles with ATVs thereby increasing ATV traffic on Borough streets.

Zach Smith explained that PennDOT has to be the one to open State Routes 49 and 349. Since these routes run through town, there have to be areas where the ATVs can make direct crosses. A direct cross is where two streets align with each other (across from each other), and the motorist would not have to travel any distance to access a street on the other side.

There was discussion about other municipalities that are allowing ATVs on their streets. Mr. Smith noted that whenever the state gets involved, it takes a long time to get something passed.

There was discussion on the SR 349 paving project.

Craig Emmons asked about curbside recycling pickup. It was explained that this was done by the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority, and it was their choice to use a drop off point for the Westfield area. The office will call NTSWA to see if there is any likelihood they will reinstate the curbside pickup.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee met before the council meeting about a couple of items. The temporary part-time employee for the public works department is not working out due to absenteeism.

Motion was made by Zach Smith and seconded by Holly Zengerle to remove the public works temporary part-time employee status from the temporary worker (Dustin Clark). Those in favor were Rowland, Smith Zengerle, and Watkins. The motion was carried.

There were two other potential workers from the group initially interviewed. It was noted that this is a temporary part-time position until Donald Wescott returns to work and is for lawn mowing only. The position is estimated to be for about one month.

Motion was made by Holly Zengerle and seconded by Beth Rowland to hire Danny Painter for the temporary part-time position in the public works department until Donald Wescott returns to work. Motion includes the possibility of keeping Mr. Painter on the crew after Mr. Wescott returns. Those in favor were Smith, Zengerle, Rowland, and Watkins. The motion was carried.

Streets – Schiffy Lane

Mr. Watkins reported the committee has been working on a solution to the problem with Schiffy's RV park right-of-way. The committee is proposing adopting the lane as a street naming it after Gail Bollinger. This would eliminate the problems with easements, etc. An ordinance needs to be drawn up by the solicitor.

Lawn Tractor Quotes

Mr. Watkins reported that the third lawn tractor is the oldest and is in need of repair; however, they couldn't find anyone to repair it. The repair could cost approximately \$2,500. Mr. Smith asked why the Borough has three lawn tractors. There was discussion about the quotes, and Council awaited Constance Cummings' arrival to make a decision as it is her committee.

Route 349 Project

Mr. Watkins outlined costs of the project. The scope of the project has changed in that the sewer lines won't be expanded (pipe bursting). A soft liner will be used, and there will be much less disruption with this method. It will be less than the \$900,000 and the laterals won't have to be dug up. There was a discussion about the lines on Main St. as well.

Constance Cummings arrived at 7:53 p.m. during this discussion.

PennDOT is proposing that the Borough fund the drainage replacement on Route 349. The funding would be an 80/20 with PennDOT funding 80 percent and the Borough funding the 20 percent. Mr. Smith would like to see a guarantee in writing that the Borough's share would be no more than 20 percent. PennDOT's paving project is set to start in 2025.

Motion was made by Zach Smith and seconded by Holly Zengerle to approve 80/20 funding for the drainage replacement during PennDOT's 2025 paving project on Route 349 *contingent upon* written affirmation that the Borough's share will not exceed 20 percent. Those in favor were Cummings, Rowland, Smith, Zengerle, and Watkins. The motion was carried.

Ms. Cummings asked if the Borough has 20 percent to contribute.

Lawn Tractor Quotes

Council discussed the quotes received for replacing the Borough's third lawn tractor.

Motion was made by Constance Cumming and seconded by Zach Smith to purchase a new Model GX 54D lawn tractor from New Moon's, Ulysses, PA at a cost of \$3994.15. Those in favor were Rowland, Smith, Zengerle, Cummings, and Watkins. The motion was carried.

Non-Bargaining Wages

Mr. Watkins brought up that secretary/treasurer Lori Nelson's wages need to be approved separately since she is not part of the bargaining unit.

Motion was made by Beth Rowland and seconded by Zach Smith to approve wage increases for Lori Nelson that are the same percentage as the bargaining unit employees. Those in favor were Smith, Zengerle, Cummings, Rowland and Watkins. The motion was carried.

There was a discussion about cross training and having the office staff journal their duties with instructions on how to do them in case of emergency.

Mayor's Report

Mrs. James reported that the military banners are all up in town. The fire company called off the Memorial Day parade for safety reasons (weather related). She noted that the flower boxes are back up also.

Westfield townwide yard sales will be this coming weekend. Tires are being purchased for the police car.

Mrs. James reported that extra police are needed, and Adam Wensel is coming back to the department.

Riverside Park was recently vandalized. The items needed to make the repairs have been ordered. The police are working on it.

Clean Up Day went well.

Mrs. Rowland noted that she was unable to dump lawn waste at the township building, which has always been allowed. Mrs. McCullen noted that at one time the Borough had a compost pile on Mill St., but it was not used and hasn't been kept up.

Mrs. Rowland updated Council on flower plantings at the parks. NAPA sprayed weed killer on the community flower garden; one flowering bush is still flourishing. She noted that she will need help when planting the flowers at the parks. This will take place on June 4 (Gratitude Day).

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COG Meetings

Constance Cummings reported that the COG has not met yet this year.

Garbage Collection

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of the Borough managing garbage collection within the borough (with a private hauler) and running the billing with the water and sewer.

Animal Control

There was a discussion about animal control within the borough.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Theresa McCullen
Assistant Secretary