
Minutes of the Borough Council Zelienople, PA

11/9/2020

7:30 PM Council-Regular

MasterID:

683

The November 9, 2020 Council Meeting of the Zelienople Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 PM by Council President Allen Bayer in the Council Chambers located at 111 W New Castle St., Zelienople PA 16063. This meeting was held in a limited in-person environment as well as remotely through the WebEx technology due to the coronavirus pandemic situation and to comply with the Governors order to limit in person public meetings. It still complied with all rules of advertisement and the public had access to the meeting and was able to participate. In-person attendance were Council Members, Allen Bayer, Andrew Mathew III, Mary Hess, Doug Foyle, and Marietta Reeb. Attending remotely was Council Members Gregg Semel, Ralph Geis, and Mayor Thomas Oliverio.

Also, in attendance were Borough Manager Donald Pepe and Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Shelly Kaltenbaugh. Attending remotely was Solicitor Bonnie Brimmeier, Police Chief James Miller, and Borough Engineer Tom Thompson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mary Hess.

VISITORS

Janelle Kemerer

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Mr. Geis, second by Mr. Mathew to approve:

- Minutes of the October 26, 2020 Council Meeting
- Transfer of Funds, \$150,000.00 from the Electric Fund to the General Fund, if needed.

Motion carried 7-0.

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OLD BUSINESS:

CONSIDER A MOTION APPROVING A REVISED LANDSCAPING PLAN FOR APPLICATION 2020-1-LD OF TREK DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND GLADE RUN LUTHERAN SERVICES

A motion was made by Mr. Mathew, seconded by Mrs. Reeb to approve a revised landscaping plan for Application 2020-1-LD of Trek Development Group and Glade Run Lutheran Services for the placement of the trees and the number of large screening mounds. This land development was approved by Zelienople Borough Council on July 13, 2020, and a landscaping plan was part of the approval for the 6.43 acre planned residential development. There are twenty-six Blue Spruce trees that border the property on West Beaver Street that were to remain in place, maintaining not only a buffer for the development, but also keeping the gigantic pines that have become an identifiable feature on West Beaver Street. Arborist Steven Horhut, determined that the twenty-six blue spruces had all been affected by a disease called Cytospora canker and the trees have badly deteriorated or died.

The Landscape Architect for Trek Development submitted two concepts for the replacement of the twenty-six blue spruce trees with disease resistant pines and that each plan shall contain deciduous trees that are common to the neighborhood. Council chose Concept #2 as the best option because of the placement of the trees and the number of large screening mounds. The plant list for Concept #2 shows nine grass buffer strips that are approximately four feet in height, and ten feet in width and ranging from 25 feet to 115 feet in length and is as follows:

PLANT LIST FOR CONCEPT#2

COMMON NAME	CALIPER SIZE	AVERAGE HEIGHT	QUANTITY
Red Maple	2 ½" B&B	12 to 14 ft.	13
Red Oak	2 ½" B&B	12 to 14 ft.	9
Eastern White Pine	6-8' B&B		21
Norway Spruce	6-8' B&B		12
Eastern Redbud	2 ½" B&B	12 to 14 ft.	3
Dogwood	2 ½" B&B	12 to 14 ft.	10

Motion carried 7-0

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NEW BUSINESS:

CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF THE BILLS TO BE PAID FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$732,743.62

A motion was made by Mrs. Hess, seconded by Mr. Mathew to consider acceptance of the "Bills to Be Paid" report for October in the amount of \$732,743.62.

Motion carried 7-0

CONSIDERATION FOR TENTATIVE ADOPTION OF PROPOSED 2021 OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A motion was made by Mr. Foyle, seconded by Mrs. Hess to approve to tentatively adopt the proposed 2021 operating budget, totaling \$11,398,184, and corresponding Capital Improvements Plan and authorize the advertisement of it for public inspection for 10 days before formal adoption of the budget prior to December 31, 2020. The proposed budget shows a slight increase of approximately 3.2% from the 2020 Budget. A summary of the proposed budget, by Fund, is as follows:

General Fund	\$ 3,215,718
Fire Fund	\$ 73,962
Library Fund	\$ 29,625
Water Fund	\$ 2,240,711
Electric Fund	\$ 5,513,168
Highway Aid Fund	\$ 325,000
Total	\$11,398,184

A modest tax increase of ½ mill is proposed in the Fire Tax. The final adoption of the proposed budget will occur at the December 14, 2020 meeting, unless another special meeting is proposed.

Motion carried 7-0.

CONSIDERATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. #874-20, AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE LOCAL REAL ESATE TAX RATE FOR 2021

A motion was made by Mrs. Hess, seconded by Mr. Foyle to authorize the advertisement of proposed Ordinance #874-20 setting the 2021 Real Estate Tax Millage Rates. The Fire Tax millage rate reflects a modest tax change of a ½ mill increase for 2021. It is proposed that there is a ½ mill increase in 2021 and ½ mill increase projected for 2022 to assist the Fire District in building a new and much needed facility. The proposed rate in 2021 (2.5 mills) reflects the first ½ mill increase. Proposed Ordinance # 874-20 reflects the proposed real estate tax rates for the Borough of Zelienople for the calendar year of 2021. All other tax rates remain level. The proposed complete rates are as follows:

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Tax rate for General purposes	1.81 mills
Tax rate for Recreation purposes	1.00 mills
Tax rate for Fire Department purposes	2.50 mills
Tax rate for Library purposes	<u>1.00 mills</u>
Total	6.31 mills

The Proposed 2021 Budget was prepared based upon this proposed Tax Ordinance.

Motion carried 7-0

CONSIDERATION FOR PARK CULVERT CONCRETE INSTALLATION PROJECT CONTRACT

A motion was made by Mr. Mathew, seconded by Mrs. Hess to approve Brigh Contracting's estimated cost to perform concrete work for the Park Culvert Replacement Project in the amount of \$9,200 for the work associated with footing, head walls, and end walls.

Motion carried 7-0

CONSIDER KAUFMAN HOUSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Semel, seconded by Mrs. Reeb, to approve the Kaufman House cooperation agreement. As a condition of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant for Phase I of the Zelienople Revitalization and Economic Development project, a cooperation agreement is required for the Kaufman House property since it was used as collateral as match for the program.

Motion carried 7-0.

Solicitor Brimmeier noted that the inspection, property improvement or and condemnation process is underway for the property on Mohr Street. This will be reviewed and appropriate action taken against the property owner.

It was brought up that there are skate boarders who are skating on benches and possible causing damage on Main Street. The police will keep an eye on this behavior.

Solicitor Brimmeier has asked for Executive session on two items of potential litigation.

The meeting was recessed at 8:10 PM.

Council went into executive session at 8:10 PM and returned at 8:37 PM.

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Motion on Miracle on Main Parade Request

After receiving specific information from the Zelienople Area Business Association outlining the number of people for this parade event and due careful consideration, a motion was made by Mary Hess, seconded by Drew Matthew, to exclude the Parade portion from the Miracle on Main Street event approval, because the application for the parade permit to PennDOT requires the borough to be the sponsoring entity for such an event. Given that the borough has adopted the policy of not sponsoring any public gathering community event during COVID-19 due to legal, insurance and health considerations, it therefore declines to agree to submit the permit application. All other portions of the Miracle on Main street sponsored by the Zelienople Business Association can proceed with the provision that it meets all COVID-19 state guidelines in effect at the time of the events during the holiday season as clearly outlined in past correspondence.

Motion carried 7-0.

Being no further business, President Bayer closed the meeting at 8:39 PM.

ATTEST:

Borough Manager

Council President

Approved by me this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Mayor