



CARNEGIE BOROUGH PUBLIC MEETING (via Zoom)

Monday, December 14th, 2020

**Workshop Meeting Start @ 6:00 PM / Voting Meeting Start @ 7:00 PM
Call Meeting to Order / Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance**

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Councilperson Boyd – Present; Councilperson DiPietro – Present; Councilperson Freshwater – Present; Councilperson Popichak – Present; Councilperson D’Loss – Present; Council President Demko – Present; Mayor Riley - Present

PUBLIC COMMENT ON LISTED MOTIONS

ADMINISTRATION (Councilperson Freshwater)

**MOTION to approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting on November 9th, 2020.
Seconded by Councilperson D’Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION to advertise for the 2021 General Fund Budget, Sewer Fund Budget and Liquid Fuels Budget.
Seconded by Councilperson D’Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION to advertise a special meeting to take place on December 28, 2020 at 6:00 PM to finalize the Carnegie Borough General Fund, Sewer Fund and Liquid Fuels Fund Budget.
Seconded by Councilperson D’Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION to advertise the 2021 Borough Council, Planning Commission and Shade Tree Commission meeting schedules.
Seconded by Councilperson D’Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION to advertise Borough Ordinance No. 2471, an Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie continuing Ordinance 981 of 1982, as amended by Borough Ordinance 2344 providing for setting of Carnegie Borough’s Business Privilege Tax for the year 2021.
Seconded by Councilperson D’Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION to advertise Borough Ordinance No. 2472, an Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie continuing the Local Tax Enabling Ordinance No. 806 (Mechanical Device), No. 808 (Real Estate Transfer), 809 (Earned Income), No. 2279 (Local Services) as amended for the year 2021.

Seconded by Councilperson D'Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to advertise Borough Ordinance No. 2473, an Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie continuing ordinance 2386 (Providing for Non-Owner Occupied Dwelling Registration) for 2021.

Seconded by Councilperson D'Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to advertise Borough Ordinance No. 2474, an Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie levying and assessing Real Estate Taxes for General and Specific Purposes for the year 2021 (Millage – 6.75).

Seconded by Councilperson D'Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to advertise Borough Ordinance No. 2475, an Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie amending Chapter 18, Part 6 of the Borough Code of Ordinances relating to sewers and sewage disposal.

Seconded by Councilperson D'Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to authorize the President of Council, Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor to prepare and execute the documents necessary to obtain the 2021 Tax Anticipation Loan from Washington Financial Bank in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 at a rate not to exceed 1.87% with no origination fee (pending credit approval).

Seconded by Councilperson D'Loss – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2020 – 23, a resolution of the Borough of Carnegie, Allegheny County, authorizing the issuance of a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note, Series 2021.

Seconded by Councilperson D'Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2020 – 24, a resolution of the Borough of Carnegie, Allegheny County, authorizing execution of a cable franchise agreement between the Borough of Carnegie and Verizon Pennsylvania, LLC.

Seconded by Councilperson D'Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to enter into an agreement with the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) for the Green Revitalization of Our Waterways Program (GROW) for the Cycle 5 Cabbage Street Sewer Separation Project in the amount of \$480,513.75.

i. ALCOSAN Portion (85%) - \$408,436.69

ii. Borough Portion (15%) - \$72,077.06

Seconded by Councilperson D'Loss – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

FINANCE (Councilperson Boyd)

MOTION to approve the December 2020 Bill List and Bill List Addendum.

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC WORKS (Councilperson D'Loss)

MOTION to authorize Payment No. 2 to W.A. Petrakis Contracting in the amount of \$205,706.08 for the Broadway Street Sewer Separation Project (Contract No. 2020-01).

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to accept Change Order No. 1 (Final) in the amount of \$33,305.75 for the Campbells Run Stream Debris Removal Project to adjust the contract based on final installed quantities (Contract No. 2020-03 – JD's Landscaping and Towing).

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to authorize Payment No. 2 (Final) to JD's Landscaping and Towing in the amount of \$39,194.21 for the Campbells Run Stream Debris Removal Project (Contract No. 2020-03).

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration – nothing for this evening.

Finance – appreciate borough manager's support in working through the budget for 2021. Appreciate council's support as it relates to finally paying what it costs to maintain our sewer system through our sewer budget. This enables us to avoid a tax increase for this year and the next several years. We will continue to take full advantage of the grants that are available to improve our sewer system and not put any additional strain on the residence of the borough.

Code Enforcement and Community Development – nothing for this evening.

Public Works - W. A. Petrakis Contracting has completed the storm sewer installation on the Broadway Street, although they are still restoring the road surface and sidewalks. This evening, Council approved the second payment to the contractor. During the digging, the contractor damaged a Verizon cable under the street. There is a dispute between Petrakis and Verizon over responsibility for the damage. Verizon is estimating the damage to be \$28,000. The project to clean debris from the Campbell's Run is completed. The total cost was \$78,305.75. This evening, Council approved the final payment to the contractor. 85% of the cost is covered by a grant from the state. Our borough engineer has begun the planning for the 2021 paving program. It will include Chartiers St. between Main St. and Mansfield Blvd. We have asked for estimates on Jefferson St. also. These are both concrete streets. Paving them requires first digging out the existing concrete, rebuilding the underlying base, and then paving. Therefore, this is much more expensive than a typical street paving.

Public Safety – please keep wearing your masks and hopefully the vaccines will be available to the public soon.

President's Report – nothing for this evening.

MANAGER'S REPORT – to clarify Motion 1I for the cable franchise agreement, the municipality has franchise agreements with both Verizon and Comcast. Before these contracts expired, they were 10 year contracts through the Char West COG. This contract with Verizon will be for five (5) years and the Borough will receive a 5% annual amount of funds from the cable company which will go towards our cable franchise agreement.

Despite not being to proceed with holiday celebrations, the staff has been putting effort into including local children to send their letters to Santa to the municipality, a poster sale for the Twelve Days of Christmas was held and there was a light up night video posted on our social media.

We are currently working on a rain garden classroom and animation as part of our requirement for the PA American Water Environmental Grant. This is being put there for local students to use to understand how the rain gardens work throughout the community. We're also working on a Walmart Community Grant to help refurbish the watch tower. We are working on a trail advocacy support letter campaign. This is to gain letters of support from residents and business owners with regard to the "Rails to Trails" program. We will put a packet of letters together and send to the railroad to show the community support for the program.

Wrapping up, sending out condolences and prayers to the family of Terry Roma, our Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Roma passed away on Sunday, December 6th. It is a great loss to those of us who worked with him. Mr. Roma had worked for Carnegie Borough since 2004 and is greatly missed.

Thank you to Council for working together for another great year.

CARNEGIE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. AND EMS REPORT - for the month of November there were 33 fire calls and 96 ambulance calls.

MAYOR'S REPORT – upcoming December events: The 12 Days of Takeout – you may purchase a gift certificate to support takeout with the local Carnegie restaurants. Please check with Joanne Letcher for more information. December 17 & 18 from 6-8 p.m. Santa will visit Carnegie while being escorted by the Carnegie Volunteer Fire Department. Friday, December 18th is Holiday Ugly Sweater Day in downtown Carnegie. Friday, December 25th from 11:30 a.m. top 3:30 p.m. is free Christmas Day dinners sponsored by Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church and St. John's Lutheran Church. Local deliveries are available to individuals unable to pick up their meals.

A huge THANK YOU to our Junior Council Person, Sam Bigham, who created the video for our Carols and Lights 2020 Virtual Style. If you have not seen the video, please visit our website or Facebook page to view. In addition, you can still bid on the Twelves Days of Christmas posters and write your letters to Santa.

Police Dept. Activity for October 2020: Criminal Arrests and Citations - 18; Traffic Citations - 6; Traffic Stops - 24; Parking Tickets - 150; Complaints and Self-Initiated Activity - 739.

Police Dept. Activity for November 2020: Criminal Arrests and Citations - 12; Traffic Citations - 8; Traffic Stops - 12; Parking Tickets - 112; Complaints and Self-Initiated Activity - 567.

As we know, this has a challenging year for all of us. Without exception is the Carnegie Police Department. During the month of November we were face with a situation never encountered before in the history of our department. On November 3rd, a member of our CPD finished their shift and later that evening began spiking a high fever and exhibiting symptoms related to Covid-19. Needless to say that within six days, seven members of our police department tested positive for Covid-19. All were ill and one member needed to be hospitalized. This left us with just five officers to protect Carnegie Borough, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Realizing this task would be impossible to fulfill without jeopardizing services and safety to our residents, Chief Kennedy and I reached out to Allegheny County Police for assistance. The Allegheny County Police sent one officer per shift to supplement our five officers to help keep us operating and our community protected. I would like to recognize and commend Superintendent Coleman McDonough and the Allegheny County Police for coming to our aid and supplying officers that treated Carnegie Borough as if it were their own town. The quality of protection that helped our officers was second to none. In addition, I would like to commend and recognize Sgt. Shawn Seaman of our department for taking charge and stepping up in our desperate time of need. He revised and redesigned our new schedule with our five remaining officers, working six days a week, and assuring that there would always be at least one Carnegie officer working side-by-side with Allegheny County police officers. His leadership during these unprecedented times was admirable. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank Sgt. Larry Gump, Officer Curt Cook, Officer Matt Rieder, Officer David Gittings and Officer David Butler for stepping up, working back to back shifts and endless hours during this ordeal to watch over our borough. Several of these officers pushed their non-Covid related illnesses aside to assure we had the coverage and that we were safe. I am happy to announce that all of our officers have recovered and are back to work.

On the other hand, it is with a very heavy heart that I share the passing of Terry Roma, long-time Carnegie Code Enforcement Officer. Terry passed away due to complications of Covid. Words cannot describe the heartache I feel for Terry and his family and for all of those that worked with him for years at the borough. Please accept my heartfelt condolences and may God rest his soul.

All of us have sacrificed so much this year and we are all frustrated and fatigued. Yet as the worst hits us, we need to keep doing our part. We need to stay home. We need to avoid gatherings. We need to wear our masks, wash our hands and maintain our physical distance. These steps will save lives. I know this crisis feels like it will never end, but we have to keep at it. We must act now to protect our loved ones and our community. Please follow the guidelines from county and state health officials asking everyone to stay home as much as possible and limit non-essential activities. There is hope with the vaccine, but until it is available to us all, we must trust our county and state health officials and follow their guidance. I have no doubt that we will get through this together, but it begins by what we've been doing from the start, stay healthy, stay safe and stay home. Happy Holidays and I wish you all a safe and healthy new year!

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Joanne Letcher – CCDC – update on Carnegie Cares Fund. Many didn't receive a donation letter, but wanted to let everyone know what a huge success this has been. We initially raised \$23,000 which helped us to get a grant for an additional \$25,000. This has gone to St. John's Luther Church and was used for the summer lunch program and to deliver groceries to Honus Wagner. Pastor Sarah Irwin received a grant from their national foundation, so she will be able to continue this work through the first half of 2021. We also helped Pastor Irwin fund the Christmas Dinners for Solid Rock Ministries this year. We also assisted St. Peter & Paul for their Thanksgiving meals. They will receive funding for their Easter and Memorial Day meals in 2021. A large amount of the money

went to the Salvation Army for their food pantry. Out of all the residents in Carnegie, those that live at the Honus Wagner Apartments have been the most grateful. Jack Kobistek and his group of volunteers have done a great job delivering groceries. They, along with the Carnegie-Collier Rotary have been delivering food to the senior citizens of Carnegie. As the year comes to an end, I'm working on sending final money to the Salvation Army for their holiday distribution. Along with that I'm trying to help some of the local restaurants in Carnegie. Thanks to everyone who helped get this off the ground and to keep it up and running. Great job, Carnegie!

Maggie Forbes – Carnegie Library – Carnegie Celebrates the Season had its seventh year this year. We had 364 people come for a drive-by Santa. It was amazing! There were people that came with a baby. People just wanted to celebrate! People were so thankful to still have this event. We have a service called tutor.com. This is where you can link with one on one tutors. It's free and for people struggling with remote learning. We need to get the word out about this program. We closed right before Thanksgiving due to Covid and still are not open to the public. We will be offering technical classes to those that need help with devices they may have received over the holidays. Happy Holidays and be safe everyone!

JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT – Sam Bigham – the PSAB Communication Awards gave 2nd place to Alex Popichak for his 2019 Carnegie Calendar commemorating Carnegie's 125th Celebration and our Carnegie Parking Guide has received an honorable mention. I filmed and edited the tree lighting video a week ago and today I finished putting together the animation for the virtual rain garden.

COUNCIL GOOD AND WELFARE

Councilperson Freshwater – when we were discussing the Christmas displays and the complaint the one resident had, it reminded me that our founding fathers wrote into the Constitution that we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights. Unalienable means they cannot be taken away from us by men. It means God. It's bad enough that we have to tolerate one secular term after another for Christmas without being challenged by those offended by displays either by government or churches. I hope people remember what this is really about. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah!

Councilperson Popichak – Happy holidays! It's been a rough year for everyone. Hopefully 2021 will be much better for everyone.

Councilperson DiPietro – Happy Holidays to everyone! Have a safe new year!

Councilperson Boyd – Merry Christmas everyone!

Council President Demko – thank you for all of your hard work this year. Thanks to Phil and Steve for all the budget work. You did a great job. I'm very grateful for all of you and your hard work. Happy Holidays!

MOTION to ADJOURN by Councilperson D'Loss, Seconded by Councilperson Boyd

MEETING ADJOURNED

*The Borough of Carnegie Code of Ordinances is available "on-line" at
www.carnegieborough.com*