



CARNEGIE BOROUGH PUBLIC MEETING (via Zoom)

Monday, April 12th, 2021

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

MAYOR STACIE RILEY – MONARCH PLEDGE PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION

I signed the National Wildlife Federation Mayor Monarch Pledge to help save the Monarch Butterfly. This is something we are committing to (24 actions) to save the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. The Borough of Carnegie is now part of an expanding North American Network of cities working to create a habitat in public parks, public landscaping, vacant lots, roadside medians, green roofs, backyard gardens, and open spaces throughout the entire community. I am proud to take this pledge and I think it illustrates Carnegie’s commitment to improve the local habitat for monarchs and we should pride ourselves on being a leader and addressing the environmental issues important to our community. I am issuing a proclamation for April 22nd. (Mayor read proclamation in full).

ADMINISTRATION (Councilperson Freshwater)

**MOTION to approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting on March 8th, 2021.
Seconded by Councilperson D’Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION to request the completion of a traffic study from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for the intersection at Chestnut Street and E. Main Street.
Seconded by Councilperson D’Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION to accept the resignation of the Carnegie Borough Bookkeeper, Ms. Betty Mickens, as of Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

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

Council President Demko thanked Ms. Betty Mickens for all her years of service. We are sorry to see her go, and we wish her the best of luck.

MOTION to utilize the services of Ms. Betty Mickens for consulting and assisting with municipal bookkeeping-related matters.

Assistance to be provided on an as-needed bases at a rate of \$23.25 an hour.

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

MOTION to appoint Alicia Kesneck as a member (resident) of the Carnegie Borough Shade Tree Commission for a three-year term to expire on April 12, 2024.

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

MOTION to appoint Joleen Brantle to the Carnegie Borough Civil Service Commission (alternate) for a six-year term to expire on April 12, 2027.

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

MOTION to enter into a five (5) year agreement with Full-Service Network to provide telephone equipment and services to the Carnegie Borough Municipal Building and Department of Public Works Facility.

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

FINANCE (Councilperson Boyd)

MOTION to approve the April 2021 Bill List and Bill List Addendum.

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

MOTION to approve the March 2021 engineer and solicitor consulting invoices.

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

MOTION to adopt Borough Ordinance No. 2475, an Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie authorizing the incurring of non-electoral debt in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$4,600,000.00 by the issuance of the Borough of Carnegie, General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2021.

Comment by Councilperson Boyd – We are not borrowing this amount. We are refinancing debt the borough currently has. The savings generated from refinancing is equivalent to refinancing a mortgage on a home. We will realize significant savings by refinancing these bonds. It does not extend the term. The term remains the same and there will be 11 years left on the bonds.

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

MOTION for the Carnegie Borough Police Department to sell a stock of 40 caliber handgun ammunition (four (4) cases) at the current fair market value.

Comment by Councilperson Boyd – approximately 3 years ago it was time to change the service weapons utilized by the CPD. We have four cases of 40 caliber ammunition left. We are going to sell these four cases and purchase four cases of 9-millimeter ammunition that will become part of the CPD inventory to use.

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

MOTION for the Department of Public Works to purchase a wheel loader and nuts and bolts bin from Morgan Equipment Services, Inc. in the amount of \$7,300.00

Comment by Councilperson Boyd – the wheel loader is a heavy machine that looks like a backhoe. It is commonly used for loading material on construction sites and loading material into dump trucks. We used our current backhoe, including salt in the wintertime. This is a budgeted item.

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

MOTION to accept the proposal by A&H Equipment for a 2021 Vactor Combination Sewer Cleaning Vehicle for the Department of Public Works pending final finance review and approval (COSTARS Contract 25-044).

Comment by Councilperson Boyd – this is an expensive machine. Historically we rented the machine which was approximately \$1,500 per hour. It was only available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so if we had an emergent situation, we might have to wait. We took a chance five years ago and bought an older, used vactor truck. It has served our borough quite well over time, saved us money, paid for itself in a short period of time. It is at the end of its usefulness. We made the decision to purchase a newer, smaller machine which should allow us to have flexibility of where this can be utilized.

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

PUBLIC WORKS (Councilperson D’Loss)

MOTION to reject the 2021 Milling and Resurfacing Program Bid submitted by Iron City Excavating.

Comment by Councilperson D’Loss – When the bids were put out for paving, Iron City Excavating was the lowest bidder. They did not submit all the required documentation. The other bidders did submit all the necessary documents. Despite Iron City being the lowest bidder, we found it necessary to reject their bid.

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to accept the bid submitted by A. Liberoni for the 2021 Carnegie Borough Milling and Resurfacing Program in the amount of \$324,585.05. (Contract No. 2021-02)

Library Avenue included as an add option bid (\$36,067.30).

Comment by Councilperson D’Loss – We have in the budget for paving approximately \$214,000. That will pay for the paving of Chartiers Street between the banks from Main Street to Mansfield Boulevard, the paving at Jefferson Street which is a concrete road, and the concrete must be milled down before being paved. Also, Federal Avenue in Carnegie with the optional addition of Library Avenue. Included in the bid is Broadway Street and the entire length will be repaved this spring as part of this contract.

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

MOTION to accept Change Order No. 2 (Final) in the amount of \$19,310.40 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).

Comment by Councilperson D’Loss – this project is finished. This was the final change order from the contract.

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

MOTION to authorize KLH Engineers to prepare advertisement for the construction of a shelter as a part of the Carnegie Park Improvement Project (Phase 3).

Final Phase of the DCNR Grant Application.

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to permit the Carnegie Youth Athletic Association (CYAA) to utilize the 7th Avenue Field, Tuesday through Thursday, and Saturday, and Chioda Fields 1 and 2, Sunday through Saturday, beginning April 1st, 2021.

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to permit The South Hill Senior Softball League to utilize 7th Avenue Field every Friday for their Men’s Softball League beginning May 1st through September 15th, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to permit Carnegie Sunday Softball Association to utilize 7th Avenue Field every Sunday for their Men’s Softball League beginning April 30th through August 30th, 2021 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC SAFETY (Councilperson Popichak)

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2021 – 10, a resolution of the Borough of Carnegie establishing Chapter 15, Part 2, Section 209 of the Borough Code of Ordinances creating a handicapped parking space near 211 Second Avenue (102-C-164).

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to adopt Resolution NO. 2021 – 11, a resolution of the Borough of Carnegie adopting the Allegheny County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the municipality.

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

CODE ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (Councilperson DiPietro)

MOTION to table the application of Papa Mondo, LLC. for the lot consolidation of 200 (103-M-168), 210 (103-M-169), 212 (103-M-170), and 214 (103-M-172) E. Main Street and 429 (103-M-164) Robert Avenue as recommended by the Planning Commission on February 23, 2021.

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2021-07, a resolution of the of Council of the Borough of Carnegie approving that the acquisition and subsequent disposition of numerous parcels of vacant property known as Block and Lot Numbers 66-J-47 (316 Academy Street) would be in accord with the comprehensive plan of the municipality.

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2021-08, a resolution of the of Council of the Borough of Carnegie authorizing the filing of an application for ACT 152 Funds with the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development (Property Demolition - \$115,000.00).

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

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2021-09, a resolution of the of Council of the Borough of Carnegie declaring that several vacant and dilapidated structures located within the Borough of Carnegie and will be considered for demolition under the ACT 152 grant application. Seconded by Councilperson Popichak –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to approve the curb cut application submitted by Michael Kipligat and Kathryn Stanko for the property located at 406 Center Avenue (103-C-98). Seconded by Councilperson Popichak –Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration – nothing for this evening.

Finance – there was a lot of activity for finance this month as witnessed by the various motions for the monies that are being spent. I wanted to make it clear that these monies are either coming from current funding or they are included in the budget. We are tracking well against the 2021 budget so far this year.

Code Enforcement and Community Development – nothing for this evening.

Public Works – all my comments were made during the motions. Nothing else for this evening.

Public Safety – nothing for this evening.

President’s Report – nothing for this evening.

MANAGER’S REPORT – regarding the motions for the blight removal application we will be submitting, we have several dilapidated buildings around Carnegie Borough, and we have an opportunity through the Char-West COG to submit grants to receive funds to enable us to remove these properties. The addresses in consideration are 306 Bell Avenue; 612 Chestnut Street; 106 Dunbar Street; 425 Elk Avenue (includes two structures); 107 5th Avenue; 436 Peace Ally; 311 Run Street; and 216 2nd Avenue. These are not in any order.

Deneen Underwood in administration has been working with doing some artwork in the business district. More information will be provided in the Junior Council report.

Our business privilege tax collection received to date is \$107,466. Our BPT collections are still on track.

Like to thank Joleen Brantle and Alicia Kesneck for joining our Shade Tree and Civil Service Commissions.

Many thanks to our former bookkeeper, Ms. Betty Mickens, for her many years of service. We appreciate everything that she has done for the borough.

CARNEGIE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT & EMS REPORT – for the month of March 2021, there were 30 fire calls and 105 ambulance calls.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Police Dept. activity for March 2021; Criminal Arrests and Citations – 25; Traffic Citations – 15; Traffic Stops – 28; Parking Tickets – 204; Complaints and Self-Initiated Activity – 829.

April 2021 Events – The registration for this year’s virtual 5K has been launched. This is still sponsored by Quantum Spirits and all proceeds go to the Carnegie Volunteer Fire and Rescue Bureau. This event will kick off on April 24th and end on May 24th, 2021. Check out our website for more information.

The CCDC is hosting a “Spring Cleanup Date” on Saturday, April 17th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. A “Spring Planting Day” is being held on May 22 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteer opportunities are available. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

Earth Day is on April 22, and now we have proclaimed Mayor’s Monarch Day on that same date. To celebrate Earth Day the Carnegie Carnegie is hosting a family event celebration from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on April 25th. Also happening on the 25th in the East Main Street parking lot is the Annual Festival of Colors, a celebration of spring.

Lastly, I would like to touch on Forsythe Road. We had a hit and run accident a few weeks ago including a pedestrian and their dog. Forsythe Road has always been a problem with speeding. Chief Kennedy and I have worked to have constant traffic targets. With the pandemic going on and traffic dying down we did not see as much activity. Traffic is now back to normal. We keep a digital speed sign in the area. This is not deterring the drivers from speeding. Something else needs to be done. This is a state road and I have reached out to our State Rep. Anita Kulik who is going to contact PennDot, and we are going to be setting up an on-site meeting on Forsythe. We need to find out what the state can do to help us to prevent this. In the meantime, Chief Kennedy has done a tremendous job publicizing Operation Forsythe all over social media. We will not tolerate speeding on Forsythe Road. Our number one priority is to keep our community and residents safe.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT – Sam Bigham - I created and narrated an animation for Mayor Riley's Monarch Butterfly Conservation Page which will go live tomorrow. The page will be found at carnegieborough.com/monarch and I will send the information to Carlynton and Carnegie Elementary.

I attended the Climate Action Plan Zoom Information Meeting with CONNECT. Carnegie's Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Source shows 57% from residential energy and 24% from commercial energy. By organizing a Solar Co-op, we could significantly reduce our footprint. CONNECT suggests joining with other communities for a combined plan like Millvale/Etna/Sharpsburg. Part of the plan will include educating the public on benefits and utility company energy buybacks that will result in quick returns on investment.

I edited Carnegie Parks Guide which will also go live tomorrow. I forwarded 5K information to the high school.

I began working with the high school to provide translations for the rain garden classroom and the monarch butterfly conservation pages. I have received a partial Arabic translation for the virtual rain garden classroom. We are hoping to find students to translate the pages into Arabic, Ukrainian, and Spanish.

I contacted the high school for volunteers to work on the public art project for the bridge with Alicia Kesneck.

Carlynton school district is celebrating its 50th anniversary of the first graduating class of 1971 by opening a time capsule that was sealed in 1969 upon completion of the building. The capsule will be opened during a formal celebration on May 14. A new capsule will be sealed as well.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Maggie Forbes – Carnegie Library – love the resolution regarding the Monarch Butterfly. Would love to have something for our Earth Day event. We are celebrating Earth Day on Sunday, April 25th. The library is open; however, our events are still at 25% capacity due to covid mitigations. We have an outdoor performance scheduled for May 16th; more information can be found on our website. Bill Manby graduated from Carnegie High School, Class of 1951. He identified himself this way. Bill had the vision to restore the library and he passed away at the end of March 2021. He will be greatly missed. Good-bye, Bill.

David Kish – 995 Forsythe Road – Seeing the recent accident on Forsythe was painful. I was one of the ones that called 911. Happy to see that CPD is doing Operation Forsythe. They have good officers and equipment. The current white flashing sign is in front of my house. I would suggest changing the white light to red and blue (like police). Would also like to suggest something be done with the sidewalks up and down Forsythe as they are unsafe. If police cannot increase the number of patrols maybe the installation of speed bumps needs to be considered.

Dennis Dewey – 1004 Forsythe Road – Took video of the last two days and approximately 65% of the drivers are doing more than 35 mph and half of those are above 40 mph. As soon as a police patrol leaves, drivers speed up. I spoke with State Rep. Kulik two years ago and nothing has been done. If it is a state road, can the state police use radar to cut down on the speeders? The husband of the woman that got hit was also owner of the dog that was hit and subsequently euthanized due to a broken spine. This is agonizing. Something needs to be done to curb this. The couple has since moved from Forsythe. Cars have run through our yard and our driveway wall has been hit. One night a car nearly hit our home. We love Carnegie but living on Forsythe is a nightmare.

Philomena DiFiore – 947 Forsythe – Had video cameras installed and the cameras caught the hit and run. The video helped police catch the driver. She has lived there her entire life and just spent \$6,500 to get her hill fixed so that she could see getting in and out of her driveway. Is often tailgated and almost hit when going into her driveway. Glad something is being done to slow traffic down.

James Minahan – 709 Logan – Thanked Chief Kennedy and CPD for their response to complaints and constant diligence regarding Hotties Bar. This needs to be the highest priority before things get worse (and it is already bad). We have been kept up nightly due to the noise, screaming, yelling, traffic, public urination, and violence. They had a meeting with the PA LCB. Residents were asked to get the media involved. WPXI ran a great story. Trouble with Hotties is not going away, and residents are very concerned. Appreciate everything that is being done.

Rick Bennett – 701 Logan – Has 6 younger children and is glad they cannot see people leaving the bar at 5-6 a.m. drunk. Has used over \$500 worth of PTO from work as he is up all night due to the noise coming from the bar. This is affecting the community more than people realize. Would like to see a stronger police presence, Carnegie, Allegheny County and State Police.

COUNCIL GOOD AND WELFARE

Councilperson Boyd – made a mistake in numbers given previously from the American Rescue Plan. The money coming to Carnegie Borough from the ARP is \$770,000 spread over two years. This will give us the opportunity to do a significant capital project. We will need to be diligent on what we spend this money on.

Councilperson Freshwater – hope that next month we can get back to normal and meet in person.

Councilperson DiPietro – thanked the residents who live on Forsythe Road for the signs on the telephone poles. Slow down on Forsythe. Nice to see children and dogs at the park once again.

Council President Demko – thanked everyone who attended for their thoughts and suggestions.

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Councilperson D’Loss, seconded by Councilperson Boyd

MEETING ADJOURNED

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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