

Borough of Pitcairn Council
Workshop Meeting
Minutes
September 28, 2020
7:00 pm

Meeting called to order – President Dona Galia
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

John Bova
Kevin Dick
Cammeo Farally
Debra Freeman
Dona Galia
Lisa Petrosky
Jim Rullo
Mayor Margaret Stevick

All Present.

Council held an Executive Session at 6:00 pm to discuss personnel matters.

Citizen Comment

Evelyn Marto asked why the structure at 3rd and Highland was not on the recent demo list. Mayor Stevick responded the asbestos abatement quote came back very high. Mrs. Marto asked the status of the house across from the former borough building and a house on 7th Street. Last year someone cleaned up the 7th Street property; she felt someone should be held responsible. Mrs. Galia responded Council will follow up with the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Tobias asked Ms. Dietz the status of the house on 6th Street. She reported the Borough is waiting for the County to offer dates for a virtual meeting. Mr. Dick added that 738 7th is owned by a bank; some of the properties are owned by out of state banks that don't respond to violation letters. Mrs. Marto: can Pitcairn do eminent domain. Mr. Bova said Council is exploring with the Solicitor the concept of conservatorship. He summarized the criteria, adding that a resident can also gain control of an eligible property, must have funds and a plan. Mr. Tobias asked that the public works cut the vegetation at 738 7th Street.

Deb Marto complained of two young children riding bicycles dangerously, not following safe driving rules. She wondered if a vehicle driver can get a ticket, can we take some action against them by locking up their bike for a week or make them do community service. Mr. Bova: Council will ask the Solicitor what actions they can legally take. Mr. Rullo said Chief Farally had spoken to the two bicyclists, told them they could ride around the ball fields. Ms. Marto suggested there be a storm drain on Wall Avenue, between Coal Street and Sugar Camp.

Ashley Campbell asked Council about 310 Highland Avenue: it has been vacant for over a year and is now considered a single family home. She and her brother were thinking of purchasing it but want it returned to multi-family building and are asking for a variance. Mrs. Galia: you would have to apply for a Zoning Hearing. Ms. Dietz explained the process. Virginia Crothers thought the Borough had an ordinance that single family homes cannot be changed to multi-family units in the residential zones. Mr. Bova: State and borough codes permit property owners to request a variance. The applicant or the Borough can appeal the Board's decision. Mrs. Crothers asked why they want to change it. Ms. Campbell's brother explained the building was for years a multi family building, sat vacant during the process of being taken by the bank. He said the building is separated into units and it would be difficult to return it to a single family dwelling.

Mayor Betsy Stevick

Mayor Stevick reported Pitcairn Police worked 153 complaints in August, collected \$150 in borough fines, \$1,199 from the Magistrate, \$270 from the County, \$267 Quality of Life Tickets. She added that Chief Farally has been handling the motorbike complaints, speaking to the families of the children.

Personnel – Dona Galia

Mrs. Galia motioned to approve offer of part time employment to Lynette McKinney for the position of Code Enforcement Clerk, 20 hours per week, compensation \$14 an hour, to begin October 5th. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Galia motioned to authorize Pitcairn Borough to enter the 2021 Banner Community Re-Certification Pledge. Mrs. Galia explained the Certification is an honor based on specific criteria for a well run community. Seconded by Mrs. Freeman; motion carried unanimously.

Streets – Kevin Dick

Mr. Dick motioned to adopt a Resolution 41-2020 renewing the five-year winter maintenance agreement of SR130 with PennDot. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation – Debra Freeman

Mrs. Freeman motioned to approve parking lot use request from Lisa Petrosky for food distribution event on October 10, 2020 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Freeman reminded everyone of the Halloween parade.

Finance and Economic Development – Lisa Petrosky

Mrs. Petrosky announced Council is in receipt of the 2019 Financial Statements. She continued: Pitcairn Borough applied for and received its full allotment based on population of \$80,000 in Cares Act funding to reimburse the 2020 General Fund for adverse effects of the pandemic.

Mrs. Petrosky reminded everyone to participate in the census; she said between local, State and Federal each person equals \$20,000 worth of funding.

Health and Welfare – Michael Tobias

Mr. Tobias motioned to approve an emergency demolition of 521 Fifth Street based on the structural engineer's report, and award the project to Eveready Contracting. The cost is \$29,000. Four contractors were called for quotes. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tobias motioned to approve pre-demolition asbestos surveys for 1049 Pitcairn Avenue, 423 Eleanor Street, and the five structures to be demolished on Jewell Way, to be performed by Intertek PSI for \$4,975. Seconded by Mrs. Freeman; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tobias motioned to approve Nick Turner's request to attend a four-day residential electrical inspection course in December for \$395. Seconded by Mrs. Petrosky; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tobias motioned to adopt Ordinance 1037 as advertised. AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PITCAIRN, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, PROVIDING FOR THE REASONABLE REGULATION OF STORAGE CONTAINERS IN THE BOROUGH OF PITCAIRN, AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAME. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Electric – Jack Bova

PitCare has submitted a request for a shared use agreement of the gymnasium at Propel School for Pitcairn children and youth. Mr. Bova referenced the lease between the Borough and the School which

allows the Borough to request the use of the gym but gives the School the sole right to accept or not. He pointed out the Borough has a good relationship with the School. He said Council will issue the request in writing.

Public Safety – Jim Rullo

Mr. Rullo motioned to accept the resignation of part time Police Officer, Justin Hott. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rullo motioned to accept the resignation of part time Police Officer, Ryan Waros. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motioned carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick motioned to Adjourn at 7:28 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Freeman; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Dietz