

Highspire Borough Council Minutes

May 16, 2023

Council President Anderson called the Highspire Borough Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The prayer was offered by Member Matesevac then followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken:

Council Members Present:	Michael Anderson	Tyler Thatcher
	Carolee Roman	Robert Sutch
	A. Kay Sutch	Vacant Seat
	Dorothy Matesevac	

Mayor:	Von Hess
Borough Manager:	Mark Stonbraker
Assistant Borough Manager:	Deanna Proctor
Public Works Director:	Randy Kreider
Borough Engineer:	Robert Lauriello
Solicitor:	Michael Cassidy

Motion moved by Member Thatcher, seconded by Member R. Sutch to approve a Proclamation honoring Gail Romanovsky for her thirty-five plus years of service with the Steelton-Highspire School District and as Director of the Community Band by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highspire, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Motion approved unanimously.

Mayor Hess presented the Proclamation to Gail Romanovsky.

Minutes

President Anderson presented the meeting minutes from the April 18, 2023 Council meeting and the May 9, 2023 Workshop meeting minutes and asked for questions regarding them. Hearing none, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Member R. Sutch and seconded by Member Matesevac. Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Reports

President Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the month of April 2023 and asked if there were any questions regarding them. Hearing none, a motion to accept the reports was made by Member Matesevac and seconded by Vice-President Roman. Motion approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Hess reported that he attended the following meetings and events: 04/22 participated as a Judge for the Harrisburg Christian Performing Art Center's "Dancing With Our Stars" fundraising program; 04/25 attended the Steelton-Highspire School District's Solar Schools Initiative Program to introduce the new E-bus program; 04/25 attended the second Intergovernmental meeting with Steelton Borough and the School District; 04/29 participated in clean-up day and the Arbor Day Ceremony; and 05/11 attended the NNO planning meeting.

Public Safety Director's Report

Mark Stonbraker, Public Safety Director, had nothing to add to his written report.

President Anderson presented the Mayor's and Public Safety Director's reports for the month of April 2023 and asked if there were any questions regarding the reports. Hearing none, he noted that the reports could be filed.

Fire Department Reports

President Anderson presented the Fire Chief Report and the Fire Department Treasurer's report for the month of April 2023 and asked if there were any questions regarding them. Hearing none, a motion to accept the report was made by Member R. Sutch, seconded by Vice-President Roman. Motion approved unanimously.

South Central Emergency Medical Services Report

President Anderson presented the South-Central Emergency Medical Services Report for the month of March 2023 and asked if there were any questions regarding it. Hearing none, he noted that it could be filed.

Citizen's Comments

Mark Accorsi ,277 Poplar Street, Highspire, expressed his interest in serving as a member on Borough Council.

Timothy Whittle, 623 Eshelman Street, Highspire, discussed his concerns regarding the invasive light coming from 629 Second Street, motorized scooters and bikes with young kids riding on the road, loud music at 2:00 a.m., dog owners not cleaning up after their pets when walking them and stray cats.

Donald Donley, 209 Second Street, Highspire, discussed his concerns regarding an inspection that is required for his apartment at 209 Second Street. He asked why he was required to submit a plan of the apartment. Discussion followed. Solicitor Cassidy stated that he just needs to submit a drawing and that it didn't need to be done by an engineer. Mr. Donley stated that he would submit the drawing to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Correspondence

April 18, 2023 – Letter to Senator John M. DiSanto thanking him for his assistance with the \$1,000,000.00 grant for the Highspire WWTP Biosolids project.

April 19, 2023 – Bond Council Agreement mailed to Stevens & Lee, P.C.

April 27, 2023 – Letter from Thomas Saltzer, Sr. VP, GeoDecisions – Resignation of Kevin Scott.

April 28, 2023 – Stevens & Lee, P.C. – Executed copy of the Bond Council Agreement.

May 2, 2023 – Comcast Cable 2023 1st Quarter Franchise Fee check in the amount of \$6,183.03.

May 3, 2023 – Lenny Shearer, owner of the Stadium Club, donated \$2,000.00 to the Highspire Police Department.

May 3, 2023 – PENNVEST Local Land Use letter.

May 3, 2023 – Thank-you card from Steven Whittle thanking Mayor Hess and everyone who was involved in the Arbor Day celebration.

May 11, 2023 – Email from Anthony Lucido, Trial Council. advising a settlement conference with Judge McNally has been scheduled for June 15, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

May 15, 2023 – Email from Verizon – Franchise Fee Schedule / Report 1st Quarter 2023 - \$3,577.48.

May 16 & 17, 2023 – Kevin Donahey, Industrial Appraisal – Onsite inspection to do a reappraisal of the Borough's insurable values.

Committee Reports

Public Facilities – Member Matesevac reported that she plans to purchase flowers, for the planters, from Stauffer's. Member A. K. Sutch noted that a guiderail on Whitehouse Lane was hit and looks like it may fall down. She asked what could be done to fix it.

Sanitation Committee – Member R. Sutch reported that the next Borough Authority meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Highspire Happenings – Member Thatcher reported that there was a good turnout for the Arbor Day Celebration and clean-up. He thanked everyone for their participation and noted that there were 15-20 volunteers to help with the clean-up. He also stated that the next meeting will be held on May 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss and plan for the Car Show.

Finance Administration – Member Thatcher had nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – Vice-President Roman reported that the Committee had an information meeting on Friday, May 12, 2023.

Community Development – Member A. Kay Sutch had nothing to report.

Public Safety Committee – Member R. Sutch had nothing to report.

Maintenance & Repair – Member Matesevac stated that she discussed maintenance and repairs to the Borough building with Manager Stonbraker. She noted that the repointing on the front of the building would need to be done before work in the stairway, leading to the basement, can begin. She asked if this project would need to go out to bid. Manager Stonbraker stated that since it has been so long it will have to go out for bid and Pyramid will need to rebid. He noted that the stairway will need to be added to the project specifications before it goes out for bid. Member Matesevac asked about the stairway outside on the side of the building and if any safety precautions will be taken.

Manager Stonbraker stated that a fence will be installed around the new HVAC system and the stairway. Discussion followed regarding projects that have been completed.

Staff Activity Reports

Mark Stonbraker, Borough Manager, reported that the Citizens Fire Department collected over \$1,700.00 at their last Bucket Drive. He also noted that the Department should be finalizing the purchase of the new engine within the next couple of weeks.

Deanna Proctor, Code Enforcement, reported that she received a telephone call from Julie with Commissioner George Hartwick's office regarding having an Airbnb in Highspire. She informed Council that she explained to Julie that since there isn't any criteria in the ordinances regarding Airbnb's, at this time it is not a permitted use. Ms. Proctor discussed the possibility of having an ordinance written to address this matter. Solicitor Cassidy stated that he would work on putting a draft ordinance together regarding Airbnb's.

Randy Kreider, Public Works Director, had nothing to report.

Robert Sutch, Authority Chairman, had nothing to report.

Manager Stonbraker informed members that there is an issue that will be addressed with Republic Services on Industrial Road and not cleaning the road when trucks drive through and nails and other debris fall off the truck and end up on the road.

President Anderson presented the Staff Activity Reports for the month of April 2023 and asked for a motion to accept them. Motion moved by Member Matesevac, seconded by Vice-President Roman. Motion approved unanimously.

Solicitor's Report

Michael Cassidy, Solicitor, noted that the USDA loan is moving forward.

Engineer's Report

Robert Lauriello, Borough Engineer, discussed item e. under New Business on the Agenda regarding approving Highspire Borough Ordinance #648 of 2023 so he can move forward with the project and issue a Notice to Proceed. He asked Solicitor Cassidy for a timeframe. Solicitor Cassidy stated that he should be able to get it done this week and once the ordinance is enacted, he can proceed.

Old Business

None

New Business

Motion moved by Vice-President Roman, seconded by Member Matesevac to direct staff to release the May 2023 contribution to the Citizens Fire Company #1 of Highspire as indicated in the 2023 General Fund Budget (411.500). Amount to be paid to the Company \$2,500.00. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion moved by Member Matesevac, seconded by Vice-President Roman to approve Highspire Borough Ordinance #646 of 2023 amending Chapter 10 of the Highspire Borough Code of Ordinances to add a new chapter entitled "Quality of Life Improvement Ordinance", which provides (1) a ticketing program to potentially resolve certain property maintenance and other property violation matters in a more expeditious manner than traditional ordinance enforcement, (2) procedures for issuing tickets under the ticketing program, and (3) preserve traditional ordinance enforcement, and further provides for severability, failure to enforce not a waiver, applicability, and effective date. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion moved by Member Matesevac, seconded by Member A. K. Sutch to approve Highspire Borough Ordinance #647 of 2023 amending Chapter 27 of its Code of Ordinances by eliminating the use "Apartment Conversion". Motion approved unanimously.

Motion moved by Vice-President Roman, seconded by Member A. K. Sutch to approve Highspire Borough Ordinance #648 of 2023 authorizing the selection, condemnation and appropriation of a permanent easement and temporary construction easement across a portion of certain land situated in the Borough of Highspire, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, for municipal purposes, to include the construction, use and maintenance of certain improvements to a

stormwater culvert under Poplar Street, and authorizing the filing of a Declaration of Taking and all necessary action for the acquisition thereof. Member Thatcher abstained. Motion approved.

Motion moved by Member Vice-President Roman, seconded by Member R. Sutch to approve Highspire Borough Ordinance #649 of 2023, amending Chapter 15 of the Codified Ordinances of the Borough of Highspire establishing a handicap parking space at 214 Penn Street, Highspire. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion moved by Member Thatcher, seconded by Vice-President Roman to approve Highspire Borough Ordinance #650 of 2023, in the principal amount of eighty-eight thousand six hundred dollars (\$88,600.00) pursuant to the Act of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 53 PA C.S. Chapters 80-82, as amended, reenacted and supplemented, known as the Local Government Unit Debt Act. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion moved by Vice-President Roman, seconded by Member R. Sutch to approve the payroll and bills. Motion approved unanimously.

With no other action to be taken, President Anderson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion moved by Member Matesevac, seconded by Vice-President Roman to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Deanna Proctor
Assistant Borough Manager