

## Highspire Borough Council Workshop Minutes

February 13, 2024

Council President Michael Anderson called the Highspire Borough Council Workshop meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll call was taken:

Council Members Present: Michael Anderson  
Mark Accorsi  
Carolee Roman  
A. Kay Sutch  
Tyler Thatcher  
Robert Sutch  
  
Dorothy Matesevac (absent)

Mayor: Von Hess  
Borough Manager: Mark Stonbraker

Citizens: Cody Hackman

President Anderson asked Mayor Hess if he had anything to discuss. Mayor Hess stated he had nothing for the Workshop Meeting and would give his report at the February 20<sup>th</sup>, Regular Meeting. President Anderson asked Member A. Kay Sutch if she could ask Member Matesevac to say the prayer at next week's meeting and since Member Matesevac was not present if she had anything for Public Facilities.

**Citizens Comments:** None

President Anderson asked if any Committees had anything further to report.

**Public Facilities:** Member A. Kay Sutch stated she had been in communication with Member Matesevac and there were three things concerning the demolition of the mill. 1) Member A. Kay Sutch asked about the status of the old rail car at the mill and if there were plans to move it since before anyone could remember. Discussion followed and Borough Manager Stonbraker said he would contact Homestat Farms and have an answer for Council next week at the Regular meeting. 2) Member A. Kay Sutch asked if anything was going to be done with the poor condition of the railway crossings at Race Street. Borough Manager Stonbraker informed Council that Public Works Superintendent Kreider and he had spoken to Norfolk Southern late in 2023. Norfolk Southern had plans to either remove the crossings (including the one at Lumber Street) or repair them sometime in 2024. 3) Member A. Kay Sutch asked if the remaining mill buildings were still being used and Borough Manager Stonbraker stated they were still being used by Homestat Farms to make Maypo and Wheatena.

**Sanitation Committee:** Nothing

**Highspire Happenings:** Member Thatcher informed Council that the Easter Egg Hunt has been scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Member Thatcher stated there was some talk of replacing the slide at the Municipal Building playground. Borough Manager Stonbraker informed Council that he had met with a representative from Kompan last week. Council was provided with information and costs for three different slides. Discussion followed.

**Finance Committee:** Nothing

**Personnel Committee:** Member Roman said she would like to thank Highspire Public Works for the work they did clearing the streets today of snow. President Anderson and Member Thatcher brought up ongoing issues with abandoned vehicles not getting tagged and motorists speeding on Eshelman Street and Market Street Extended. President Anderson asked about the status of placing speed bumps on Market Street Extended to slow speeding traffic. Borough Manager Stonbraker informed Council that a traffic study was completed by Sgt. Canfield and Det. Santiago and there was nothing indicating the need for speed bumps. Discussion followed.

Community Development: Member A. Kay Sutch asked about the status of 418/420 Market Street. Borough Manager Stonbraker stated they had a meeting with Borough Solicitor Mike Cassidy on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and the matter was discussed. Borough Manager continued by stating Solicitor Cassidy will discuss the matter at the February 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting and ask Council if they would like to start the process for Conservatorship of the properties. Member Robert Sutch asked if there was any further development with a new sewer agreement with Lower Swatara Township. Mayor Hess stated there was no new developments. Borough Manager Stonbraker followed by saying there have been some ongoing communications between the Solicitor and Lower Swatara Township's attorney, Mike Miller.

Public Safety Committee: Member Robert Sutch reported he had attended the fire company's meeting on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and informed Council of the discussions the company had to replace the Fire Chief's Vehicle. Borough Manager Stonbraker provided Council with a proposal from Citizens' Fire Company to purchase a vehicle for the Fire Chief and a Rescue. Discussion followed.

Maintenance & Repair: President Anderson asked that since Member Matesevac was not present if there was anything for Maintenance & Repair. Member Thatcher informed Council that there was a meeting and roof inspection with Capital Coating to discuss the ongoing roof leak. The representative informed him that he would check with his supervisor and get back to the Borough. At this time, they have not gotten back to the Borough and after some discussion Council agreed turn the matter over to the Borough Solicitor.

### Staff Activity Reports

Manager Stonbraker informed Council that there were a number of road closures, Ann Street between Eshelman Street and Cherry Avenue and 231 Penn Street due to downed utility lines caused by the snow storm. Manager Stonbraker directed Council's attention to item "e" under "New Business" and asked that they vote to publish Highspire Borough Ordinance 653 relating to the PENNVEST Loan. He also asked Council if anyone wished to attend the 2024 Local Government Forum to please let him know so that he could RSVP.

President Anderson directed Council to the agenda and reviewed each of the items under "New Business". Discussion followed. Discussion followed regarding item "c." Resolution #7-2024 revising and updating the schedule of fees for the Borough Office of Code Enforcement and item "d." approving Borough Manager Stonbraker's actions in responding and notifying the Dauphin County Office of Tax Claim Bureau that the Borough was not interested in participating in the 30-day interest-free grace period.

President Anderson asked for a motion to either approve, reject or table publication of Highspire Borough ordinance #653 of 2024, authorizing and directing the incurrence of lease rental debt in the principal amount of two million two hundred thousand dollars (\$2,200,000.00). A motion to approve was made by Member Thatcher and seconded by Member Robert Sutch. Motion approved unanimously.

President Anderson asked if there was anything else needing to be discussed. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member A. Kay Sutch and seconded by Vice President Accorsi. Motion approved unanimously.

President Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Deanna J. Proctor  
Assistant Borough Secretary