Highspire Borough Council Workshop Minutes
March 11, 2025

Council President Michael Anderson called the Highspire Borough Council Workshop meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken:

Council Members Present:	Michael Anderson	Tyler Thatcher
	Mark Accorsi	Robert Sutch
	Carolee Roman	
	A. Kay Sutch	
Mayor:	Von Hess	
Borough Manager:	Mark Stonbraker	

Member Matesevac was absent.

Residents in attendance: Michelle Phillips

Council Members reviewed the draft Borough Council Meeting Agenda for the March 18, 2025 meeting.

President Anderson asked Mayor Hess if he had anything to discuss. Mayor Hess reported that he attended a breakfast meeting with Senator Patty Kim

President Anderson noted that Member Thatcher will say the prayer at the March 18, 2025 meeting.

Fire Department Reports
No members were present from the fire department. President Anderson asked if it was possible to review the water bill for the fire department because it seems higher than usual. Member R. Sutch stated that the department had problems with a high-water bill in the past due to a water leak.

Manager Stonbraker noted that he is still waiting to hear back from the City in reference to the engine. He stated that he reached out to Chief Enterline and hasn't heard back from him.

Member R. Sutch expressed his concerns regarding the roast beef dinner fundraiser.

Member Thatcher asked if the new fire chief's buggy is owned by the Department or the Borough. Manager Stonbraker replied that it was purchased with Firemen's Aid funds and they are responsible for insuring the vehicle. Discussion followed.

Citizens Comments
None

President Anderson asked if any Committees had anything to report.

Public Facilities: Member Matesevac was absent. Manager Stonbraker reported that Public Works Director Kreider and Borough Engineer, Robert Lauriello, will be meeting with representatives from Norfolk Southern on March 31, 2025 to continue discussions about repairing the railroad crossings at Industrial Road. He added that he had a meeting with Mr. Lauriello and there was discussion on the roadway projects being less expensive then expected. He stated that Mr. Lauriello has a call out to Dauphin County to see if the remaining funds can be used towards the railroad crossing.
Sanitation Committee: Vice President Accorsi had nothing to report.
Highspire Happenings: Member Thatcher had nothing to report. He asked if anyone knows someone who wants to get involved with Highspire Happenings to please reach out to them.
Finance Committee: Member Thatcher had nothing to report.
Personnel Committee: Member Roman had nothing to report.
Community Development: Member A. Kay Sutch had nothing to report.
Public Safety Committee: Member Robert Sutch reported that Constellation Energy plans to restart Three Mile Island and renaming it Crane Clean Energy Center (CCEC). He asked if the Borough would be required to have the annual drills.

Manager Stonbraker replied that we would not be able to receive federal funding for projects and will be required to have the drills. Discussion followed.
Maintenance & Repair: Member Matesevac was absent. Manager Stonbraker reached out to the USDA in reference to another grant for the window lintels for the Municipal building and was informed no grants are available. He noted that after speaking with Robert Lauriello, the Borough will probably reach out to the County for another Infrastructure loan.

Staff Activity Reports
Manager Stonbraker discussed items b. and c. on the Agenda and asked that Council vote on the items.

Member Roman informed members that the Police Contract has been settled.

New Business
President Anderson commented on item a. on the Agenda regarding the amount that the Citizens Fire Department receives from the Borough for a monthly contribution. Manager Stonbraker mentioned that the Fire Department did not get as much money through the Fire Commissioners Grant as expected, so that money is being used to pay for the rescue. He suggested that if the Department doesn't find another funding source, the Borough will deduct the money from the monthly contributions. He added that this was an agreement between the Borough and Department to pay back the loan for the fire engine.

Motion moved by Member Thatcher, seconded by Vice President Accorsi to approve the publication of Highspire Borough Ordinance No. 659 of 2025 approving appointment of solicitor, Interest Assessment and Attorney fees and Collection fees added to the amount collected as part of unpaid Real Estate taxes and Municipal Claims for Delinquent accounts. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion moved by Member R. Sutch, seconded by Member Roman to approve the contract amendment to the agreement between Portnoff Law Associates, LTD and the Borough of Highspire for collection of Delinquent Real Estate taxes and Municipal Claims on behalf of the Borough. In addition to the collection of Delinquent Real Estate tax accounts and delinquent Sewer and Stormwater fee accounts, the Borough agrees to retain Portnoff to collect the Borough's delinquent Trash fee accounts. Motion approved unanimously.

Member Thatcher asked members what the possibility was to have one Council meeting instead of having a Workshop and Council meeting each month, having one meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. It was also suggested to possibly change the Authority meeting date from the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. to the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. having both meetings on the same night. Discussion followed.

Vice President Accorsi requested an Executive Session to discuss the Police Contract.

Executive Session: 8:01 p.m.
Reconvened: 8:06 p.m.

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 Roman and seconded by Vice President Accorsi. Motion approved unanimously.

President Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna J Proctor

Deanna J. Proctor
Assistant Borough Secretary