

TOWN OF McCANDLESS
MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES

APRIL 13, 2020

TOWN HALL

The virtual Town Council meeting of April 13, 2020 was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Zachary (Ward 1), with participation of the following Councilmembers: Bill Kirk (Ward 2), Charles J. Mazur (Ward 3), Joan D. Powers (Ward 4), Angela M. Woods (Ward 5), Carolyn L. Schweiger (Ward 6) and Patricia A. Cloonan (Ward 7). Other participants include: Town Attorney Gavin A. Robb of Tucker Arensberg, Town Manager Robert T. Grimm, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Trisha Greathouse, Land Use Administrator/Zoning Officer Bruce Betty, Planning and Development Administrator RJ Susko, Public Works Superintendent Mark Sabina, Fire Marshal Dan Stack, Interim Chief of Police Ryan Hawk, Administrative Assistant Marie Haller. Additional participants: Brian Danley (resident), Don Pohl of Pohl Construction and PennDOT representatives: George Danis, Daniel Bliss and Anthony DePietro.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Councilmember Bill Kirk and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council President Zachary thanked everyone for their participation in this virtual meeting which was conducted to allow as much transparency as possible while respecting social distancing requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council President Zachary reported candidate interviews for the appointment of a new Junior Councilperson and to fill vacant committee positions will be scheduled as soon as possible.

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT OF BRUCE G. BETTY
LAND USE ADMINISTRATOR & ZONING OFFICER

Council President Zachary announced the receipt of Land Use Administrator Bruce G. Betty's resignation, effective April 17, 2020. She recognized Mr. Betty for his 25 years of dedicated service and stated there will be a formal recognition of his retirement once social distancing restrictions are lifted.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Powers and seconded by Councilmember Mazur to approve the minutes of Town Council's regularly scheduled meeting of March 9, 2020 and emergency meeting of March 25, 2020.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS and GENERAL COMMENTS

Brian Danley, 350 Richard Road, commented on stormwater issues, those of which he has previously reported and discussed with Town administration, Senator Williams and Representative Turzai. Town

Manager Grimm reported that he has recently received information will contact Mr. Danley to provide an update.

PUBLIC HEARING - PENNDOT PROJECT (ROCHESTER ROAD)

A Public Hearing was held on an ordinance to authorize the conveyance of a right-of-way (ROW) and channel easement from the Town to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for drainage work to be performed along Rochester Road. A vote on this ordinance is scheduled on April 27, 2020.

Town Manager Grimm reported he and Public Works Superintendent Mark Sabina were approached by Anthony D. DePietro, Real Estate Specialist of PA Department of Transportation (District 11), regarding the proposed repairs to Rochester Road. PennDOT representative's George Danis, Daniel Bliss and Anthony DePietro participated in the meeting to provide an overview and answer questions regarding the planned repairs. Mr. Danis stated that this is an urgent project that PennDOT would like to begin as soon as possible.

Councilmembers asked questions and received clarification pertaining the planned repairs and the potential impact to the entire Rochester Road, to the Wall Park Grant application and other area drainage work planned. It was noted this proposed ROW and easement is located on a steep slope that is not useful to the Town. Mr. Bliss explained that the Town has been asked to waive compensation in support of needed repairs. Councilmembers briefly discussed property ownership and any potential use or access in this area and any special permissions that would be needed. Town Manager Grimm clarified that a Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) would be required to cross the path of the ROW, regardless of the granting of this ROW and easement.

Council President Zachary announced Council would like to obtain as much public comment as possible pertaining to this project and comments will be accepted via email at administration@townofmccandless.org until 12:00 noon on April 17, 2020.

REPORTS OF THE FINANCE and PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Check Listing No. 3

Motion was made by Councilmember Mazur and seconded by Councilmember Cloonan to approve Check Listing No. 3, dated February 1, 2020 through February 29, 2020, totaling \$1,174,439.32, as submitted to each member of Council, and posted on the bulletin board and Town website.

The motion carried unanimously.

Check Listing No. 4

Motion was made by Councilmember Mazur and seconded by Councilmember Cloonan to approve Check Listing No. 4, dated March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020, totaling \$1,128,705.70, as submitted to each member of Council, and posted on the bulletin board and Town website.

The motion carried unanimously.

Review the Monthly Financial Summary and Dashboard Report.

A Preliminary Monthly Financial Summary and Dashboard Report was provided to councilmembers in advance of the meeting for their review. Councilmember Kirk commented on the current status of the budget and the anticipated impact on the economy as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

Resolution No. 6 of 2020

Motion was made by Councilmember Mazur and seconded by Councilmember Kirk to adopt Resolution No. 6 of the 2020 Series, a resolution approving the application of Michael W. Schnellbach to acquire vacant lot 713-H-93, adjacent to his property on Wittmer Road, under the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program as adopted by the Town.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF THE ZONING COMMITTEE

Tentative Ordinance – Zoning Amendment (8500 Thompson Run Road)

Motion was made Council President Zachary and seconded by Councilmember Mazur to adopt an ordinance amending the zoning district of certain property located at 8500 Thompson Run Road, also identified as Block and Lot No. 717-J-216, from C-7 (Office Building District) to R-3 (Townhouse and Garden Apartment District) and amend the Town's zoning map accordingly. A public hearing was held on March 9, 2020.

Councilmembers Powers and Kirk commented on previous concerns regarding traffic and security. Council President Zachary commented that traffic flow would be reviewed once a site plan is submitted. Councilmember Kirk questioned setback/bufferyard requirements and the potential impact to adjacent property owners. Planning and Development Administrator Susko and Land Use Administrator Betty shared comments regarding the requirements for setbacks and bufferyards in the zoning districts.

Don Pohl of Pohl Construction commented on the planned development and suggested requirements may be grandfathered for the current property owners.

Mr. Betty stated that a variance would likely be needed for any new development of adjacent properties. Town Attorney Gavin Robb concurred with Mr. Betty and suggested scheduling a meeting with staff to review details and the potential impact pertaining to setbacks/bufferyard.

Councilmember Kirk made a motion and Councilmember Woods seconded the motion to table the adoption of this ordinance pending further review.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 7 of 2020 – Pending Ordinance for Distributed Antenna System and Stealth Technology

Motion was made by Council President Zachary and was seconded by Councilmember Kirk to adopt Resolution No. 7 of the 2020 Series, a resolution applying the pending ordinance doctrine and thereby making immediately effective an ordinance amending Part Thirteen, Planning and Zoning Code of the

Codified Ordinances of the Town of McCandless to amend the definition of "Distributed Antenna System (DAS)" and "Stealth Technology," to add definitions for "Minimal Functional Height," "Small Wireless Communications Facilities" and "Micro-Wireless Communications Facilities," to amend and add special provisions regulating small wireless communications facilities, including timing of review, fees, design and siting.

Council President Zachary explained that the adoption of a pending ordinance will regulate DAS and Stealth Technology within in the Town until an ordinance is completed an adopted.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chief's Report

Interim Chief Hawk provided a brief summary of his March 2020 Activity Report, stating that the department continues to modify operations to safely respond to calls during the COVID-19 pandemic. He recognized Officers Machesney and Cavaliere for performing CPR and resuscitating a man who suffered a cardiac arrest. Also noted, the National Council for Home Safety and Security has ranked McCandless as the 31st safest city in Pennsylvania.

Councilmember Kirk noted the statistics supporting the National Council's report are based on 2018 FBI data and he asked about the availability of 2019 data for comparison, if/when it is available.

Councilmember Powers complemented the McCandless Police Officers for the good job they are doing, particularly in regards to the outstanding actions of officers' for saving a life.

Ordinance No. 1496 – Establish Speed Limit on Ridgecrest Point and Rustin Way

Council President and Town Manager Grimm discussed the motion and provided clarification regarding the transcription of this proposed ordinance. Following that discussion:

Motion was made by Councilmember Kirk and was seconded by Councilmember Cloonan to adopt Ordinance 1496, as amended; therefore, it was moved "to adopt an ordinance establishing a Neighborhood 25 mph speed limit on Ridgecrest Point and Rustin Way in the Rustin Acres Plan of Lots, and on Hedwig Drive from Babcock Boulevard to Parkview Drive, Parkview Drive from Babcock Boulevard to its terminus (cul-de-sac) and Ridgewood Drive from Kummer Road to Parkview Drive."

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Public Works Activity Report

A copy of the March 2020 Department of Public Works Activity Report was distributed to councilmembers in advance of this meeting.

REPORT OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEEFire Marshal's Report

The Fire Marshal's Report for the month of February 2020 and Permit Report for March 2020 was distributed to councilmembers in advance of this meeting. There were 109 calls recorded in February, with 222 year to date.

As the Town's Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Stack also provided an update pertaining to the Town's Emergency Management Team's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. He reported that the team meets every other day to review various items including situation reports and to discuss any potential action items to be addressed including any unmet needs of the community.

Code Enforcement's Violation/Complaint Statistics Report

The March 2020 Code Enforcement's Violation/Complaint Statistics Report was distributed to councilmembers in advance of this meeting.

Appointment of Building Code Official

Town Manager Grimm recommended the appointment of Jeffrey A. Frazier as the new Building Code Official following the retirement of Mr. Betty. He reported that Mr. Frazier has all the necessary certifications to fulfill this role. Also noted, RJ Susko will assume the role of Zoning Officer.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kirk and seconded by Councilmember Schweiger to appoint Jeffrey A. Frazier as the Building Code Official for the Town, effectively immediately.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Cloonan reported that a decision has been made to delay sending contracts to summer recreation staff for this year's program due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. She also noted that a final decision to cancel the program has not yet been made, but a decision will likely occur within the next few weeks.

SEMINARS and CONFERENCES

There are no conferences scheduled at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Zachary and Councilmember Cloonan discussed plans to launch a food sharing program to provide food relief to citizens during the Covid-19 crisis. Council President Zachary requested Council's input to name this program and all members agreed to name this program "McCandless Cares and Shares" as it reflects the intent of this effort.

Councilmember Cloonan expressed gratitude to the Giant Eagle at McIntyre Square for providing shopping bags for this event.

Details of the program were discussed, including the advertisement, collection, and distribution of non-perishable food items. It was determined that online deliveries will be accepted at the Town Hall collection site, with all items being isolated for a short time prior to being sorted and packed by volunteers. A no-contact pickup or delivery will be scheduled for homebound residents that will be instructed to sign up in advance.

Deer Survey

Council President Zachary reported that she has distributed a deer survey to councilmembers for their review and input; she also anticipates including this survey in a future edition of the Town Crier.

Board, Committee and Authority Meetings

Councilmembers discussed and agreed virtually resume other board, committee, and authority meetings in order to support the flow of town business while observing social distancing.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Powers and seconded by Councilmember Woods to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert T. Grimm
Town Manager

/mah