

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** This meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Joseph A. Pompa.

**PRESENT:** A quorum was present including members of Council as follows: Joseph A. Pompa; Sean Burke; Richard Scholton; Michele Baker; and Joyce Lowe. Also participating: Borough Manager Jim Gehret; Mayor Joseph Dodson; Borough Secretary Patricia J. Duron; Solicitor Nathan Karn; Sgt. Richard Oldham and Building Code Official Gerald Harbison. James Mielnik; Walter Kalista, III; Melanie Ramsey were absent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** President Pompa announced that there had been an executive session on July 8<sup>th</sup> following the regular Borough Council Meeting and that Council had not returned to the regular meeting. He also reported that there had been an executive session on August 10<sup>th</sup> that began at 7:55 and adjourned at 8:20 PM. Both sessions were for the purpose of discussion regarding personnel.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** President Pompa led the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented for Council's approval. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Mr. Scholton and was seconded by Mr. Leahey. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved, five votes to zero votes.

**MANAGER'S REPORT & MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Gehret advised that his reports were in the agenda binder

**PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT:** Mr. Harbison gave an update on the comprehensive plan committee's activities. They met with the consultant and some public workshops will be scheduled. He advised Council of a request from a Garber Street resident to make a modification to accommodate the planting area for a shade tree in a sidewalk permit. The item will be added to the September agenda for Council's consideration.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** The Mayor announced that former parking meter enforcement worker, Helen Curran, would celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this month.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Robert L. Shaeffer, 606 Blair Street: Mr. Shaffer spoke about the status of a zoning amendment request application filed several years ago.

Richard Latker, Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog, 703 Allegheny Street: Mr. Latker spoke with approval about the hire of Melanie Ramsey as the new Director of Community Relations & Events. He spoke about a recent Right to Know request to the Borough by the Watchdog. He spoke about an ethics complaint against the Zoning Hearing Board solicitor. He spoke negatively about the Phoenix Volunteer Fire Department's fire siren and made negative comments about Councilman Brady and his brother in law who is an officer at the Fire Department. He spoke negatively with respect to the Chief of Police's job status at the Borough.

Carol Dannenberg from Hollidaysburg Watchdog, 511 Allegheny Street, 1321 Country Club Terrace: Ms. Dannenberg spoke negatively about the Phoenix Fire Company with respect to theft of federal monies.

Regis Nale, 210 Jackson Street: Mr. Nale spoke negatively about the GRETKA Real Estate rezoning request. He also discussed the comprehensive plan update and the residents of Blair Street's request to rezone from several years ago.

**OPEN AGENDA:** *Mr. Leahy spoke in response to allegations made by Mr. Latker during his public comment at this time.*

No one had anything for the next agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-20: CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Gehret asked for Council's consideration of Resolution No. 2021-20 for bill list number 8 totaling \$83,319.29 and two COAs. A motion was made by Mr. Burke and was seconded by Ms. Baker to approve Resolution No. 2021-20. A vote was taken with the motion carrying, five votes to zero votes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-20**  
**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg, Blair County, Pennsylvania, that:

- 1) **Bill List No. 8** dated August 12, 2021 authorizes payment of expenses totaling \$83,319.29 consisting of accounts payable and owing the Borough of Hollidaysburg from duly appropriated moneys is hereby approved.

**Two Certificates of Appropriateness** are to be Approved and Council Authorizes the Zoning Administrator to issue Certificates of Appropriateness/Zoning Permits as follows:

**508 ALLEGHENY STREET - BUSINESS SIGNAGE – ELISIA FISHER**

- Install vinyl lettering window signage
- The lettering will measure 18" by 5' windows are vinyl
- The sign will advertise "Jane and Jean Boutique"

**711 WALNUT STREET–CONSTRUCT A NEW FRONT PORCH – DANA MELTON**

- Construct a 7' by 40' front
- The porch roof will include a pediment in construction
- The porch posts will be wrapped in vinyl above the floor and alternating faux stone and stucco finishes below floor level as shown in the revised sketch submitted August 11, 2021
- Proposals to enclose the crawl space with material between the porch posts are to be submitted for approval

**DULY** adopted by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg this 12<sup>h</sup> day of August, 2021.

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Joseph A. Pompa, President

ATTEST:

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Patricia J. Duron, Secretary

**GRETKA REZONING REQUEST:** Mr. Harbison advised that the Planning Commission had reviewed the GRETKA petition to rezone at their August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and recommended that the request should be approved. At this time, a motion was made by Mr. Leahey to schedule a public hearing. Mr. Scholton seconded the motion. Mr. Burke advised that he will recuse himself from the discussion and will abstain from the voting on this matter. The motion passed with four votes in favor.

**DISCUSSION WITH HARB REPRESENTATIVES:** Andy Haines, Chairman of the HARB spoke with Borough Council about the importance of the Historic District in the Borough and the role of the Historical Architectural Review Board's role in maintaining the district. Dave Macharola, architect on the board, spoke about the use of vinyl replacement windows.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE ABCD CORP MANAGING THE HOLLIDAYSBURG REVOLVING LOAN FUND:** A motion was made by Mr. Scholton to enter into an agreement with the ABCD Corp to manage the Hollidaysburg Revolving Loan Fund for the Borough. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed five votes to zero votes.

**GUARANTY ORDINANCE NO. 900:** After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Burke to adopt Ordinance No. 900. Ms. Baker seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken as follows:  
Joseph A. Pompa – yes  
Michele Baker – yes

Sean Burke – yes  
Walter Kalista, III – absent  
Brady Leahey – yes  
James Mielnik – absent  
Richard Scholton - yes  
The ordinance passed with five votes in favor.

**DISCUSSION: PHOENIX VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Council discussed the fire department's request for the funding to pay their vehicle insurance bill and a truck payment. A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to approve the request to release the money to pay these two bills when they make the bills available for review. This motion was seconded by Mr. Burke. A vote was taken and the motion passed four votes in favor to one vote against.

**AUTHORIZE A BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS:** A motion was made by Mr. Scholton to authorize a bank account at the First National Bank for the ARPA funds. Ms. Baker seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with five votes in favor.

**RESIGNATION OF RICHARD SCHOLTON FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL:** A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to accept Councilman Scholton's resignation with regrets. Ms. Baker seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with five votes in favor.

**APPOINT A REPLACEMENT FOR MR. SCHOLTON'S TERM ON BOROUGH COUNCIL:** A motion was made by Mr. Scholton to appoint Jeffrey Ketner to fill the Ward 7 vacancy to be effective to December 31, 2021. Mr. Burke seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with five votes in favor.

**APPOINT AN OFFICER IN CHARGE:** A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to appoint Sergeant Richard Oldham to be the officer in charge effective immediately until such time that Chief Estep returns to work. Mr. Burke seconded this motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with five votes in favor.

**APPOINT PATRICIA J. DURON AS THE INTERIM OPEN RECORDS OFFICER:** A motion was made by Mr. Burke and was seconded by Mr. Scholton to appoint Patti Duron as the interim Open Records Officer until the time that Chief Estep returns to work. A vote was taken and the motion passed with five votes in favor.

**RETAIN CALVIN WEBB AS CONFLICT COUNSEL:** A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to retain Calvin Webb as conflict counsel for the Borough of Hollidaysburg pursuant to an Open Records request. Mr. Burke seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed, with five votes in favor.

**MODIFICATION TO THE COLLATERAL FOR THE HOLLIDAYSBURG REVOLVING LOAN FUND:** Mr. Burke advised that he would recuse himself and abstain from

voting on this matter. A motion was made by Mr. Scholton to modify the collateral to the Hollidaysburg Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with four votes in favor with one abstention.

**DANGEROUS STRUCTURE REPORT 810 & 818 N. MONTGOMERY STREET:** A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to accept the report and order prepared following a hearing held on August 10<sup>th</sup> for 810 & 818 N. Montgomery Street. Ms. Baker seconded the motion and it passed with five votes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Council went into an executive session at 8:10 PM to discuss personnel and will not return to the regular meeting.

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Patricia J. Duron, Borough Secretary