

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

**PRESENT:** A quorum was present including members of Council as follows: Sean M. Burke; Jeffrey Ketner; Brady Leahey; Walter Kalista, III; David Jacobs; William Kitt; and Clay Gingrich. Also participating: Interim Borough Manager and Borough Secretary Patricia J. Duron; Borough Solicitor Nathan Karn; Director of Community Development Andrew Holodnik; Chief Chris Storm and Mayor Dodson. Fire Marshal Amy Hazlett and Director of Community Relations and Events Melanie Ramsey were both absent. Amy Hazlett arrived later in the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** President Burke led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the meeting held on February 8, 2024 were presented for Council's review and approval. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Mr. Leahey and was seconded by Mr. Kalista. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADOPTION:** Solicitor Karn opened the public hearing for the comprehensive plan adoption. Public Comment was received. Following the hearing, there was a discussion. Mr. Ketner made a motion to table the comprehensive plan. Mr. Kitt seconded the motion and all voted in favor and the motion was passed.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Duron reported that Shaun Dick has accepted an offer to work as WWTP Operator and will begin work on March 25, 2024. She also reported that the Borough has been chosen as the first-place winner in the PA State Association of Boroughs' Communication contest.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** *No report until after the annual audit is received.*

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT:** Mr. Holodnik reported that construction is down. He also advised that the Borough will host a permit workshop for the public in April.

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS REPORT:** Ms. Ramsey was absent.

**FIRE MARSHAL:** Ms. Hazlett was late to the meeting.

**CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:** Chief Storm presented the department's January report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Dodson thanked the police department and the fire department. He read some of the national days from a Borough in-house calendar.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Shawn Leydig, 407 Beaver Street: Street sweeper, Borough spending and manager interviews.

Richard Latker, 703 Allegheny Street, Community Watchdog: Discussed and presented a petition to Borough Council regarding the Phoenix Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD).

Stan Neal, 142 Beaver Street: Defended the PVFD against others' remarks.

Elda Boose, 141 Bedford Street: Thanked Borough Council, Solicitor Karn, the Hollidaysburg Planning Commission and Councilman Clay Gingrich for support for stormwater mitigation in Gaysport and also for work on the comprehensive plan and the purchase of property in Gaysport for stormwater detention.

Gerard Nale, 109 Bedford Street: Indicated that he "echo-ed" Elda Boose's comments.

Jim Fitch, 109 BelAire Road: Advised that a traffic study should be done for the traffic problems around the Hollidaysburg School.

Eric Schmitt, PVFD: Requested Council's support toward a grant of \$60,000 toward the purchase of a fire engine.

Steve Albright, 421 Bedford Street: Spoke about having an identification logo on the Borough vehicles. Thanked Public Works for cleaning out the pipe during the heavy rain. Advised that people should stop criticizing the PVFD.

Devin Kurty, PVFD: Explained that he had paid his dues and was there to defend his character.

**OPEN AGENDA:**

Mr. Gingrich: Vehicle signage and transparency. Meeting with the fire department and the Watchdog.

Mr. Burke: Stormwater mitigation in Gaysport.

Mayor Dodson: Permit parking on Wayne Street.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11: CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a.) Resolution No. 2024-11 for bill list number 3 totaling \$210,337.65.
- b.) Appoint a Voting Delegate and Alternate to the Annual PSAB Conference – *tabled until the April Borough Council Meeting*

A motion was made by Mr. Kalista and was seconded by Mr. Leahey to approve Resolution No. 2024-11 for Bill List #3. A vote was taken with the motion carrying, seven votes to zero votes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11**  
**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. 3** dated March 14, 2024 authorizes payment of expenses totaling \$210,337.65 consisting of accounts payable and owing the Borough of Hollidaysburg from duly appropriated moneys is hereby approved.

**DULY** adopted by the Council of the Borough of Hollidaysburg this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

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Sean M. Burke, President

ATTEST:

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Patricia J. Duron, Secretary

**BOROUGH SIDEWALKS:** A new application for the grant and an inquiry have been received.

**DISCUSSION: ELIMINATE A PARKING SPACE ON JACKSON STREET (TABLED):**  
This item remained tabled.

**DISCUSSION: STEVE ALBRIGHT’S REQUEST FOR REFLECTIVE SAFEGUARDS:** A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to approve the purchase of four long reflectors. Mr. Gingrich seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

**PVED REQUEST FOR A \$60,000 GRANT FROM THE BOROUGH:** Mr. Ketner and Mr. Leahey requested the specifications on the fire engine that the fire department wishes to purchase. Mr. Gingrich will get information on a possible grant opportunity. Mr. Leahey made a motion to table this discussion until a meeting can be held between the fire department’s representatives and members of the Community Watchdog Group prior to the vote for a decision on the grant request.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gingrich. A vote was taken and was passed with six votes in favor to one vote against.

**DISCUSSION: PROPERTY BLIGHT IN THE BOROUGH:** Mr. Leahey made a motion to table this discussion until a later time. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed with seven votes in favor.

**APPROVE SUMMER/SEASONAL HELPERS:** Mr. Kalista made a motion to approve the hire of summer helpers for the Public Works, the WWTP, and the Office of Community Development. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION: RAISING THE STARTING RATE FOR SUMMER HELPERS:** Mr. Kalista made a motion to raise the starting rate for summer helpers to \$14.00 per hour. Mr. Gingrich seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE THE LIGHT IT UP GREEN CAMPAIGN:** A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to approve the Light It Up Green Campaign for Blair Health Choices. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**PENNVEST LOAN/GRANT OPPORTUNITY:** Mr. Leahey made a motion to approve the pre-application process with PennVEST for the East Side Stormwater Mitigation project. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed with seven votes in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2024-9 APPROVING A LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN: BLAIR SENIOR SERVICES (TABLED):** Mr. Ketner made a motion to un-table Resolution No. 2024-9. Mr. Kitt seconded the motion. Following a presentation of information by Mr. Holodnik, Mr. Kalista made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-9. Mr. Gingrich seconded the motion and a vote was taken with the motion passing with seven votes in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10 APPROVING A SUBDIVISION PLAN 27 & 107 BEDFORD STREET:** Mr. Burke and Mr. Gingrich recused themselves from discussion and any action on this item due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Leahey made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-10 Approving a subdivision plan for 27 and 107 Bedford Street. Mr. Ketner seconded this motion and a vote was taken. The motion was with five votes in favor and one abstention.

**ORDINANCE NO. 907 AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AND AN EASEMENT BY EMINENT DOMAIN (ROLL CALL VOTE):** Mr. Burke and Mr. Gingrich recused themselves from the discussion and any action on Ordinance No. 907. A motion was made by Mr. Leahey to adopt Ordinance No. 907. Mr. Kalista seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Leahey Yes  
Mr. Kalista Yes  
Mr. Jacobs Yes

Mr. Ketner Yes

Mr. Kitt Yes

Ordinance No. 907 was passed with five yes votes and two abstentions.

**APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH LYTLER GROUP FOR THE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Mr. Kalista made a motion to approve this agreement. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with seven votes in favor.

**APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF HOLLIDAYSBURG, AFSCME LOCAL 3157, AND JIMMY CARSON:** A motion was made by Mr. Kalista to approve the MOA. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion and a vote was taken. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12 APPROVING A SUBDIVISION/LOT MERGE PLAN: BEECH ST.-STUMP-GILDEA:** Mr. Leahey made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-12. Mr. Gingrich seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION: ISO RATING IN THE BOROUGH:** Fire Marshal Amy Hazlett provided information about how the ISO rating is determined. Mr. Holodnik provided information about how code enforcement affects the rating as well.

**PROPOSAL FOR COMCAST SERVICE AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING:** A motion was made by Mr. Gingrich to approve the proposed agreement with Comcast. Mr. Leahey seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with all seven members voting in favor.

**TRANSPARENCY:** Mr. Gingrich discussed two transparency issues regarding the timeliness for the availability of the public agenda, the content of information being provided to Borough Council and to the public. He also spoke about the Public Comment and how the comments are addressed by Borough Council.

**ADJOURN:** President Burke adjourned this meeting at 9:26 pm.

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Patricia J. Duron, Borough Secretary