



**CARNEGIE BOROUGH
PUBLIC MEETING**

Monday, June 8, 2015

**Workshop Meeting @ 6:00 PM
Conditional Use Public Hearing @ 6:30 PM
Voting Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

**(Junior Council Member, Hanna Brandebura, Bishop-Canevin
High School, Presiding over meeting this evening.)**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Councilperson Boyd – Present, Councilperson D’Loss – Present, Councilperson Demko – Present, Councilperson Luvara – Present, Councilperson Sarsfield – Present, Madam President Brandebura – Present, Mayor Kobistek – Present.

CARNEGIE BOROUGH JR. COUNCIL RECOGNITION

Council President Pat Catena acknowledged Junior Council Member, Hanna Brandebura, as Madam President presiding over this evening Council Meeting. He also stated there would be a ceremony for the Junior Council Members at the next Council Meeting.

Councilman D’Loss offered his congratulations and commended Hanna for her preparedness and professionalism.

Councilman Luvara commended Hanna for her interest and participation in politics.

Councilman Sarsfield commended Hanna for being a part of the Junior Council for many years. Having young people involved is very important to the political process.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON LISTED MOTIONS

No public comment.

Administration (Councilman Sarsfield)

**MOTION to approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting on May 11, 2015.
Seconded by Councilman D'Loss. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION to advertise Ordinance No. 2415, an ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of PA, electing to amend its municipal pension plan administered by the PA Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) pursuant to Article IV of the PA Municipal Retirement Law
Seconded by Councilman D'Loss. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilman D'Loss commented that this Ordinance is in response to contract negotiations which we held last year and were completed and ratified in December, and this is just a one-step in the process that is required to make a change in the pension plan.

Mayor Kobistek asks for clarification of the Ordinance.

The Ordinance changes the pension plan for the non-uniformed employees of the Borough. That pension plan improvement will increase the pension rate to 2 ½ percent. The CAP of 75 percent of the average salary has been eliminated. There was also a reduction in the retirement age from 62 to 60. This was all based on give-backs. The major give-back was healthcare; resulting in an \$80,000.00 savings over a period of time. Those were the major changes in the labor agreement.

Mayor Kobistek: According to this Ordinance to accept the financial obligations resulting from the administration of this pension contract and the benefit plan modifications. It also requires us to assume all liabilities from these changes. And some of the other changes that need to be known is that there is a change in the plan liability. Our plan which was 96% funded is now 74% funded, and that means we have a shortfall; a pension deficit of \$912,137.00.

This deficit was then broken down and explained by the Mayor and Council.

Councilman D'Loss: This pension plan has also been regarded as one of the best Municipal plans in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mayor Kobistek: First of all, I understand that negotiating three contracts is very difficult, so I appreciate the work that you guys did, but this to me is a significant investment and I am a little disappointed that we did not discuss this further in meetings. We discussed it a little bit last week, but I still think it is well after the fact that these numbers should have been presented earlier, and really we should have had a good discussion. The bottom line is, when we work together as a group and discuss this information, we end up with the better results. We complement each other when we do that. I felt there should have been more discussion on this issue.

Finance (Councilman D'Loss)

MOTION to approve the June Bill List and Bill List Addendum.

Seconded by Councilman Sarsfield. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2015-08, a resolution of the Borough of Carnegie establishing fees for the filing of the Borough's street / sidewalk / utility opening application.

Seconded by Councilman Sarsfield. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilman D'Loss and Councilman Sarsfield provide explanation of this Resolution regarding compensation to the Borough for street, sidewalk, and utility openings.

Public Works (Councilwoman Demko)

MOTION to adopt Ordinance No. 2399, an ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending chapter 21, part 1 of the Borough Code of Ordinances relating to street excavations and openings.

Seconded by Councilman Boyd. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Kobistek offers comment, explanation, and concern regarding this Ordinance.

Public Safety (Councilman Boyd)

MOTION to adopt Ordinance No. 2414, an ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of PA, amending chapter 15, section 204 of the Borough Code of Ordinances relating to motor vehicles and traffic.

Seconded by Councilman Sarsfield. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilman Boyd: This Ordinance will provide parking on one side of the street on Morrow Avenue from Railroad Avenue to Bell Avenue.

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2015-06, a resolution of the Borough of Carnegie establishing a handicapped parking space at 330 Wilcox Street.

Seconded by Councilwoman Demko. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2015-07, a resolution of the Borough of Carnegie establishing a handicapped parking space at 310 Midland Avenue.

Seconded by Councilwoman Demko. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilman Sarsfield offered comment regarding handicapped parking spaces in the Borough.

Community Development and Code Enforcement (Councilman Luvara)

MOTION to advertise for a public hearing on Monday, July 13, 2015 at 6:30 PM for a conditional use hearing for the proposed personal services business located at 409 East Main Street (66-E-39).

Seconded by Councilman Boyd. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION to approve the conditional use application of Xi Hui Cillo for 843 Washington Avenue, Carnegie, Pennsylvania, subject to the provisions of the Borough Zoning Ordinance with conditions that the hours of operation be limited to the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and that any signage be consistent with the requirements of the Borough Zoning Ordinance Comprehensive Plan for the Borough of Carnegie.

Councilman Luvara offered explanation regarding approval and meeting of conditions through the appropriate authorities within the municipality.

Seconded by Councilman Boyd. Vote: Councilman Boyd – Yes; Councilman D’Loss – Yes; Councilwoman Demko – Yes; Councilman Luvara – Yes; Councilman Sarsfield – Yes; Council President Pat Catena – Abstained.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration (Councilperson Sarsfield)

Nothing to report this evening.

Finance (Councilperson D’Loss)

Comparing this year’s property tax income to last year, we see that delinquent property tax collections, which we collect through Jordan Tax Service are significantly lower to date this year than they were last year to date. Last year we collected \$181,000.00 in delinquent property taxes, this year to date we have collected \$96,000.00. This is about half of what we collected last year at this time. It would be appropriate for us to have a conversation with them at this time regarding diligence.

Our parking lot reconstruction is underway. Two parking lots under reconstruction this summer include the Citizens Bank Parking Lot and the Post Office Lot 10 Parking Lot. Major renovations which include storm water management and this reconstruction will cost the taxpayers about \$750,000.00. Citizens Bank Parking Lot reconstruction should be completed by July 4, 2015. The reconstruction of Post Office Lot 10 will commence following the completed of the Citizens Lot and will continue to approximately Labor Day. The reconstruction at the Post Office Lot 10 Parking Lot will be down in two parts as to avoid full closure of this lot.

Council President Catena: Part of the deficit for delinquent tax collections was the sale of one building that had significant delinquent taxes on it. So, when that was sold, the liens were release. Delinquent taxes were \$55,000.00.

Code Enforcement and Community Development (Councilperson Luvara)

Nothing to report this evening.

Public Works (Councilperson Demko)

Nothing to report this evening.

Public Safety (Councilperson Boyd)

Nothing to report this evening.

President's Report (Acting President, Hanna Brandebura)

Hanna Brandebura, Bishop-Canevin High School. The Bishop-Canevin Baseball team finished the season fourth in WPIAL, and the girls softball finished third. Finals for Bishop-Canevin are tomorrow. Students will be dismissed at 11:40 a.m. Some students from BC along with St. Simon and Jude Parish are going on a mission trip with Habitat for Humanity, and that will be starting June 27 through July 3.

I would like to thank Council for giving me this opportunity, and I hope everyone has a wonderful summer.

Manager's Report

Public Works has started on our Phase II of our three phase Carnegie Park over-haul. At our all-purpose field at Carnegie Park there was a railroad tie wall that was put in about 20-years ago or so, and we were able to do this job ourselves. All of the ties were removed and replaced with much sturdy block. The cost was just \$13,577.54 for supplies and in-kind services from our Department of Public Works. If we would have bid this job out to a contractor, it would have been more than double that amount. Thank you to Public Works for a great job.

Carnegie Volunteer Fire Dept. & EMS Report

During the month of May EMS answered 266 calls, 23 fire calls, two false alarms for portable false alarms, and there were two fires as well, one was a relatively significant fire. There was no loss of life; however, there was a pet that was lost.

Junior Council Report / Remarks

Nothing for this evening.

Mayor's Report

For the Month of May 2015 – Criminal Arrests and Citations: 22; Traffic Citations: 43; Parking Tickets: 182; Complaints and Self-Initiating Activities: 1036. We have an increase in animal complaints and disruptive conduct, and domestic violence and assaults.

We are still experiencing traffic conditions due to the Parkway West Improvement Project. The good news is the inbound and outbound full closures should only happen about two more times during the project. The Carnegie Police Department has gone above and beyond to help with expediting the traffic.

We have a flag service for one of our officer who died in the line of duty, Christian Shade, his name was added to the Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., and that flag will be this weekend.

Also, this summer our Officers will be having their “Bowling for Books Program,” so any child in the community can ask an officer they read a book, and they will get a pass for one free game of bowling all summer long.

We have the dog-a-paloosa this weekend, and Christie Krashaf (sp) is a girl scout going for her Gold Award, which is the equivalent of an Eagle Scout Award, has put together a beautiful day at the Dog Park. This event is from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. this Sunday.

We also have a Carnegie Night at the Washington Wild Things, and that is going to be on July 30, 2015. More information to follows. We will also be having some movies in the park. The first movie will be on June 30, 2015.

We will be having another serious traffic project coming our way, and it should be coming around the middle of July. We met with the County and talked with Mr. Smallhoover, and it looks like the project will start about the middle of July and that will be on Campbell's Run Road. This is a significant project that will be in the vicinity of Knickerbocker. There is a bridge and a retaining wall; the retaining wall needs to be replaced. They will be closing the lane coming into Carnegie for three to four months, and the lane going out of Carnegie will remain open.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Amanda Cooley, President of the Carnegie Towers Resident Association. I just wanted to reiterate to the group up here that you are more than welcome to come to a Resident's meeting which are held on the Second Wednesday of the Month. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. We are getting ready to launch a “Refuse to be a Victim” class for our residents in the building since we have a lot of residents that come to us with domestic issues. Mike Meredith, and EMT, will be conducting the classes. The class is very detailed and “hands-on.” It is an eight to 10 hour class that will be broken up. We also have a Facebook page for more information.

Joanne Letcher, Carnegie Community Development Corporation, just wanted to remind everyone that the second Crawl of the summer is coming up on Friday. The theme for this Crawl is Margarita Ville. So, if you are coming to town wear your tropical outfits. Some businesses will be having special drink meals. We will also be having a shuttle for this Crawl. The tentative stops will be Bacon, PaPa J's, and Bob's Diner. Also, last minute addition, although the Flying Squirrel is not quite open yet, they will be open be open with entertainment from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and they will be giving out frequent flyer ice cream cards, which I am sure all of you will want, and hopefully some free samples.

Melissa A. Kraft, 406 Second Avenue. Mr. Beuter you might recognize my name and address due to numerous telephone calls to your office last year and this year, and e-mails as well. I am here to follow up what is being done with the vacant, dilapidated properties around my home. As I said I worked with Code Enforcement many times over the past couple of years. Many times this year most of my questions were directed to Mr. Roma, but, well, convenient for him, he is not here. I have a lot across from my house at 409 Second Avenue where the grass is now waist high, I have a vacant property right next door to me, 410 Second Avenue, where the weeds reach the porch awning, there are chemicals, paint and a refrigerator on the porch that have been there for more than two years. I have a house next door, 404 Second Avenue, where they have sometimes 27 lawn mowers in the yard. I go out in my yard and smell gasoline and oil just inches away from my property line. Mr. Roma told me last year that they fix those lawn mowers up and sell them. Well, why do these people not have a business permit? I also want to inquire about the occupancy permit and what that means, because when I moved into my house and purchased my house 12-years ago, Mr. Roma came by and nitpicked every single thing. Ninety percent of the properties by me are rentals that change tenants numerous times. These are dilapidated buildings owned by slum-lords. I know of some that have exposed electrical wiring and nothing is being done because the slum-lord has gotten away with this for decades. There is a house across from me at 410 Diamond Way owned by a former Carnegie official where garbage has been piled up on the porch since November, and it goes on and on.

The Mayor commented that we need to be more proactive with regard to matters such as this.

Councilwoman Demko commented that we should talk with our attorney to see if after several offenses, we would revoke their landlord-tenant privileges.

Council President Pat Catena stated that he will look into this matter and get back to Melissa personally.

The houses at 412, 413, 414 & 416 Diamond Way were sold by States Realty, and they are moving people in. Do they have occupancy permits? You can smell the mold when these people are moving in. These houses were never cleaned after the flood.

Solicitor Vince Tucceri: Mr. President, if I may, I know that this certainly falls within the office of the Solicitor, there has been a recent surge in activity state-wide, and some legislation has been passed and some interpretations that we are seeing by the Courts I believe gives Council the ability to take action against people who have previous violations to the point of revoking licensure to rent properties within their community. And it is a process, and Mr. Lucas and I will be discussing this, we just attended a seminar in Lancaster

this past weekend on that topic. Hopefully, we will be able to give you folks some information and some actions that you may be able to take. Unfortunately, it is not a problem that is indigenous to Carnegie Borough. We are experiencing this problem across the state. And perhaps the Legislative has done something now that will assist these communities in addressing these problems.

COUNCIL GOOD AND WELFARE

Councilman Sarsfield: I just want to start by thanking all those who came out and voted this past election, and gave myself and Councilwoman Demko another four years to continue to work hard. We have a lot of good stuff coming up for children and families. I believe these are important to our community. I hope you all have a nice summer.

Councilman D'Loss: We have three members of Council that sit on the Library Board by rule. You may have recently received in the mail a flyer from the Library a booklet explaining what is going on for the rest of the year. We are proud to announce that the Library itself, the section that is dedicated to our readers, is under renovation. A major project which has taken many, many years to get started, a \$400,000 renovation of the library to restore it to its original condition 110 years ago. The library is working through these renovations.

Councilman Luvara: Madam President I do not have anything this evening.

Councilwoman Demko: I have nothing this evening.

Councilman Boyde: I have nothing this evening Madam President.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

*The Borough of Carnegie Code of Ordinances is available "on-line" at
www.carnegieborough.com*