



CARNEGIE BOROUGH PUBLIC MEETING (via Zoom)

Monday, April 13th, 2020

Workshop Meeting Start @ 6:00 PM / Voting Meeting Start @ 7:00 PM

Call Meeting to Order / Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Councilperson Boyd – Present, Councilperson DiPietro – Present, Councilperson Freshwater – Present, Councilperson Popichak – Present, Councilperson D’Loss – Present, Council President Demko - Present, Mayor Riley - Present

PUBLIC COMMENT ON LISTED MOTIONS

ADMINISTRATION (Councilperson Freshwater)

MOTION to approve the Minutes from the Council Meeting on Monday, March 9th, Wednesday, March 25th (Emergency Meeting-Conference Call), and Wednesday, March 25th, 2020.

Seconded by Councilperson D’Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to extend the Declaration of Disaster (COVID-19 Pandemic) issued by the Mayor of the Borough of Carnegie on Friday, April 3rd, 2020.

A. The Declaration of Disaster will be removed once the threat to public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Borough of Carnegie has abated.

Seconded by Councilperson D’Loss – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to enter into an agreement for EMS services to be provided by Scott Township Emergency Medical Services starting April 30th, 2020.

Seconded by Councilperson D’Loss – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

FINANCE (Councilperson Boyd)

MOTION to approve the April 2020 Bill List and Bill List Addendum.

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC WORKS (Councilperson D’Loss)

MOTION to table the bid submitted by Youngblood Paving for the 2020 Carnegie Borough Pavement Maintenance Program in the amount of \$209,252.08. (Contract No. 2020-02).

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION TABLED

MOTION to permit the Carnegie Youth Athletic Association (CYAA) to utilize the 7th Avenue Field, Tuesdays through Saturdays, and Chioda Fields 1 and 2, Mondays through Sundays, beginning April 30th, 2020. (Pending COVID-19 Guidance / Restrictions)

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to permit The South Hill Senior Softball League to utilize 7th Avenue Field every Thursday for their Men’s Softball League beginning April 30th through August 30, 2020, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. (Pending COVID-19 Guidance / Restrictions)

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to permit Carnegie Sunday Softball Association to utilize 7th Avenue Field every Sunday for their Men’s Softball League beginning April 30th through August 30th, 2020 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM. (Pending COVID-19 Guidance / Restrictions)

Seconded by Councilperson DiPietro – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC SAFETY (Councilperson Popichak) – nothing for this evening.

CODE ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (Councilperson DiPietro)

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2020-07, a resolution of the Borough of Carnegie, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, recognizing and supporting the application of the Borough of Carnegie to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to obtain and secure a grant for renovations at Seventh Avenue Community Park and Carnegie Municipal Park.

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 2020-08, a resolution of the Borough of Carnegie, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, approving that the acquisition and subsequent disposition of numerous parcels of vacant property known as block and lot numbers 103-P-202 would be in accord with the comprehensive plan of the municipality.

(Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program – 416 5th Avenue)

***Pending School District Tax Information**

Seconded by Councilperson Popichak – Vote: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration – nothing for this evening.

Finance - COVID-19 will cause the Borough to have financial short-falls in various buckets. Hopefully the State and/or Federal Government will come through with a program to help but in absence of that, the Borough is well informed and mentally prepared to take whatever actions are necessary to allow us to continue to do the things we need to do. We need to pay for health care insurance, we need to pay our employees, pay for insurances, and meet all the contractual requirements that we have. We've already taken one action here today, we'll be delaying a project that we've had scheduled for some time now in Carnegie Park. We are pushing that out until next year so that we can reserve those funds in case we need them in anticipation of there being a short-fall in revenue. I'm cautiously optimistic that either an affordable loan program or a grant will be made available to the Borough and we will act on that at the appropriate time.

Code Enforcement and Community Development – many residents are home and spring cleaning, just a reminder to keep your trash in your home and not in your front yard. Rubbish will be picked up but it needs to be in an appropriate receptacle. Don't put out excessive trash as it will not be picked up. The trash company has cut down on their manpower and most trucks have one employee. Be conscientious of what type of and how much trash you are putting out for pick up.

Public Works – tonight we tabled the motion to accept the paving contract pending a determination of whether the two optional streets, Chartiers and Vine, will be included in the bid. The bid came in about \$35,000 under our projection, which should allow us to pave a couple of other streets. Pending that information we'll approve this contract at next month's public meeting. Regarding construction projects, during this pandemic, construction companies are limited to emergency repairs and completing existing, on-going projects. We don't know how current restrictions are going to impact our road paving and Broadway sewer projects. This is all pending. Regarding the budgetary item raised by Councilperson Boyd, we had already tentatively approved the project to build a new pavilion at Carnegie Park. I'm recommending that we defer that project until 2021. That state had already indicated that they are agreeable to an extension for the grant money which represents fifty percent of that project. That should give us about \$100,000 of cushion to help alleviate any short falls that we might have in revenue this year. If Madam President doesn't object, we will instruct KLH Engineers to stop development on that project and instruct our borough manager to request formally that grant extension. Council President gave consent.

Public Safety – wants to commend Steve and everyone at the borough building for keeping our website and social media updated with information regarding the pandemic. I'm grateful for the PPE for our police department. We need to continue the recommendations from the CDC as we move forward. I want to thank everyone, Steve and staff for taking care of what needs to be done.

President's Report – moving forward, I think we need to start up, put an amount in the budget every year, an emergency fund that cannot be touched. We need to talk about starting this for next year's budget.

MANAGER’S REPORT – last Monday, April 6th, Borough Council passed a motion 2020-06 for the body worn camera grant that administration and the police department submitted. We are waiting for a determination. Since the Farmer’s Market is to be determined, a “Virtual Farmers Market” is being put together. This is something where the farmer’s market vendors can try to advertise and work out ways where people can get to them since we won’t be able to have everybody together as a group. We’ll have more information posted as things progress. We are still working on promoting the Census and getting to people to make sure they’ve signed up and submitted their information. We have a lot of user friendly material on our website. Lastly, I will be speaking for the Southwest Chambers on Thursday at 10 a.m. Each community within the Chambers has been providing information to anyone who is interested in signing up.

CARNEGIE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT & EMS REPORT – for the month of March there were 18 fire calls and 103 ambulance calls.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Police Depart. Activity for March 2020; Criminal Arrests and Citations – 15; Traffic Citations – 33; Traffic Stops – 96; Parking Tickets – 132; Complaints and Self-Initiated Activity – 922.

The Carnegie Police Department, under my direction has changed their patrol procedures. This was done to ensure the officers safety and assure continued protection to the residents, businesses and visitors to Carnegie Borough during this pandemic. Beginning on April 1, 2020, the Carnegie Police Department changed its work schedule to minimize the chance of infection within the department. Three separate crews of officers work a twenty-four hour rotation without crews having any physical contact with each other. This prevents the chance of infection department wide. If one crew became infected with COVID-19, the other crews would be able to function, supplying the Borough with protection and services. In addition, all of our officers are supplied with personal protection equipment (PPE) and are instructed when and how to wear it.

As of this date, I am pleased to inform everyone that none of our officers are ill or showing signs of infection. The Carnegie Police Department has formed a “Mutual Aid Agreement” with six other suburban departments so that if any of the departments suffer a manpower shortage, because of COVID-19, the other departments would supply officers to keep the community safe. The Chiefs from these departments meet regularly and have constant communication. During this pandemic, to ensure the officers safety, we will handle all non-emergency, non-violent incidents by phone. If after an officer speaks to a complainant on the phone and it is determined that a physical meeting needs to take place, then it will. All emergency calls will be handled in the same manner as always. The Carnegie Police Department, under the direction of Governor Wolf, will assure that all non-essential businesses will be closed during these times. The top priority of the Borough of Carnegie during this challenging time is the health and safety of our citizens and employees. Please be sure to be utilizing trusted and official sources for accurate and timely updates including the [CDC.GOV.](https://www.cdc.gov/), [Health.PA.Gov.](https://www.health.pa.gov/), [AlleghenyCounty.us.](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/), and [CarnegieBorough.com](https://www.CarnegieBorough.com). Stay calm, stay home, stay safe. As I’ve said before, this is a moment for preparation, not panic. A moment to be kind and generous, and we know that each of us will do our part to stay vigilant, informed and help limit the spread of this virus. Carnegie will get through this together.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Maggie Forges – Carnegie Library – very affirming that Carnegie Council feels prepared. The Library received a directive from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries asking that all public libraries close as of the 14th. That was just the beginning of the unexpected. Our new library director did start on the 16th, which was the first day the library was closed. From his standpoint, I don't know how wonderful his timing was, but from our standpoint, he is a first rate professional. He is offering services remotely and we're manning the phones every day. We're updating our website and making connections with people. It's a strange and difficult time but the Board agreed that we would keep staff on as long as we can.

Joanne Letcher – CCDC – I have set up the Carnegie Cares Fund. We've raised close to \$16,000 so far and that has been distributed out to St. John Lutheran Church, Pastor Sara Irwin does lunches every day for the kids in Carnegie, up to the age of 18. Once a week on Friday she does 75 bags of groceries that get distributed out to people at Honus Wagner Apartments and other locations throughout Carnegie. The other portion was distributed to the Salvation Army, Carnegie Branch. The check was made payable to their food pantry. They have been disturbing food to those in need and also have pet food given to them by Animal Friends. We are on their waiting list to be part of their Chow Wagon Program they offer in Western PA. I did a grant with the Pittsburgh Foundation asking for \$25,000.

A brief discussion followed regarding "mail in ballots" for voting. Question posed by Maggie Forbes and explanation given by Councilperson D'Loss.

COUNCIL GOOD AND WELFARE

Councilperson Boyd – back to the earlier discussion regarding the Census, I did mine today and it only takes five minutes. It's very simple and easy. Everyone needs to do it. Your presence counts in the Census. We all make charitable donations from time to time, but something struck me as convenient as it relates to the Carnegie Cares Fund and Pastor Sara's weekly budget for feeding all of the children and the 75 bags of groceries that she distributes is \$650 a week. That's a big donation. I would like to help. I'm going to give my paycheck from the Borough this month, and if we all do that, collectively we will have paid for a week of meals and groceries. Just one more, small thing to do if we choose to do so, but I'm going to do it.

Councilperson Popichak – stay safe and stay home if you can. Take care and we'll get through this.

Councilperson Freshwater – use common sense. This will pass and we'll be stronger and better for it.

Councilperson DiPietro – would like to donate to Carnegie Cares as well. Wanted to send out condolences to the communities of Aliquippa and Ambridge. This week they both lost their police chief. Be safe.

Councilperson D’Loss – at a time like this, many people stop donating to charities because of their own financial hardships. I think every organization that exists on charitable donations, in spite of what your own personal situation is, let’s not forget the people that rely on us routinely for donations.

Council President Demko – thank all of you for “zooming” in here. I know how hard everyone works and I appreciate it. I want to thank you all for all the hard work that you do. Stay safe and stay in touch.

A positive story shared by Steve Beuter and Chief Kennedy – Quantum Spirits has switched from making gin to making hand sanitizer. They have supplied nine police departments in the South Hills with two gallons of sanitizer each. They’ve also donated sanitizer to fire departments, EMS’s, and DPW’s. Thanks to Quantum Spirits for making Carnegie proud!

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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