

Borough of Mayfield

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ALEXANDER J. CHELIK
Mayor

DIANA CAMPBELL
Council President

JAMES PERRY
Borough Secretary

OWEN M. COLEMAN, ESQ
Solicitor

MAYFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL Wednesday, November 13, 2024

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Diana Campbell followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Diana Campbell, Wendy Bochnovich, Mary Rosler, Bridget Boettcher, Jennifer Rossi, Tiffany Casey, Tom Hartman were present. Mayor Chelik and Atty. Coleman were also present.

Public Input

Administration – Diana Campbell

Motion by Jennifer Rossi to approve the minutes of October 9, 2024. Second by Tom Hartman. Passed 7-0.

Motion by Bridget Boettcher to accept the Treasurer's report for October, 2024. Second by Wendy Bochnovich. Passed 7-0.

Motion by Tom Hartman to pay all bills listed and all others mentioned. Second by Tiffany Casey. Passed 7-0.

Motion by Mary Rosler to appoint a personnel committee. Second by Tom Hartman. Passed 7-0. Appointed were Diana Campbell, Jennifer Rossi, and Wendy Bochnovich.

Motion by Jennifer Rossi to appoint a flood control committee. Second by Mary Rosler. Passed 7-0. Appointed were Wendy Bochnovich, Ron Ryczak, Jim Perry, and Len Jaskowiec.

Motion by Wendy Bochnovich to transfer the remaining ARP money to payroll and close the account. Second by Tom Hartman. Passed 7-0.

Motion by Jennifer Rossi to pay Honesdale National Bank \$17,000 on the principal of the paving loan. Second by Tom Hartman. Passed 7-0.

Motion by Wendy Bochnovich to pay the PA Unemployment Compensation solvency fee for 2025 of \$925.23. Second by Tiffany Casey. Passed 7-0.

Diana reported that she and Wendy attended the fall conference in Lancaster October 11-13. One topic that stood out was regulating gaming machines. Many said to watch for legislation on this.

Streets and Public Works – Tom Hartman

Tom asked Attorney Coleman to have the seal obtained on the deed for the roads in Mayfield Heights in order to have them added to the list for Liquid Fuels Funds.

This morning Tom Hartman, Tony Grizzanti, and Wendy Bochnovich had a zoom meeting with April Hannon about the TASA sidewalk funding. Tony reported that KBA had surveyed the area and will be sending a preliminary plan soon. On December 10, all will meet for the environmental scoping on site. April is also contacting the railroad to see if they would like to be in attendance.

Hill Street storm drain cleaning should begin soon.

The 6 storm drain boxes project on Chestnut, Walnut, and Pine Streets have been installed by Paul Natishak, Andrew Baldan, and Dave Lee. Only the paving is not completed.

After much discussion on having Northeast Signal and Electric Company do repairs to traffic signals, it was decided that for safety reasons the work should be done.

Motion by Tom Hartman to hire Northeast Signal and Electric Company to do the repairs they found were needed after their maintenance inspection. Second by Jennifer Rossi. Passed 6-0.
(Tiffany Casey was called out for a family emergency.)

Tom Hartman will get the pole numbers and call PPL to have lights replaced that are out on Penn Avenue and Rout 6. He is also going to request a street light addition on 5th Street.

Buildings and Parks – Jennifer Rossi

Jennifer reported that the borough building was proceeding on schedule. The painting was almost done and they are now working on the ceiling. Support posts were delivered so that the roof in front could be started.

She also reported there has been no word yet on the recycling refund.

Motion by Jennifer Rossi for a resolution to apply for a statewide LSA grant for \$294,500 to complete the borough garage. There is also a \$100 application fee. Second by Mary Rosler. Passed 6-0.
(Resolution #2024-14)

Jennifer explained that we have a \$20,000 LSA grant from 2022 toward the concrete floor in the garage. It was not enough to complete the job. The plan was to use that along with the LSA grant we applied for to complete the entire garage. We did not get that money. The money must be used by June, 2025 so the plan now is to put the concrete aprons and connecting sidewalk around the building but a change in work order is required.

Motion by Jennifer Rossi to apply for a Change in Scope of Work for the grant for the garage floor. Second by Tom Hartman. Passed 6-0.

Athletic Complex and Playgrounds – Mary Rosler

Mary reported that she is researching different sources of funding in order to upgrade the Penn Avenue playground. Fund raising was discussed.

Public Safety and Rental Inspections – Bridget Boettcher and Tiffany Casey

Fire Chief Joe Tomcavage reported 21 calls for the month of October, 2024. He also commented on the value of the new boat launch at the Heritage Trail as a secondary water source in case of an emergency.

Zoning Officer Jason Smith's report listed no zoning permits and 2 UCC permits for a total of \$130.50 for the month of October.

Planning Commission report – Mayor Chelik

Mayor Chelik reported that the main topic of discussion at the November 6th meeting was the Century Logistics development phone call on the mine reclamation grant. Ron Ryczak was also in attendance and gave a report on the NorLack meeting with the emphasis on the Community Unwanted Land Uses.

Tiffany was called out on a family emergency and so there was no report on rental inspections.

Flood Control – Wendy Bochnovich

Wendy reported we again received a request for information (RFI) from FEMA and Tony Grizzanti sent in answers to them. The questions concerned land disturbance at the staging areas and the upstream/downstream effect of the freeboard project. Tony told them that the hydrology study will be completed soon and he will then provide all information.

The latest report on the hydrology study lists data that has been reviewed by Charles Woitd, President of CFW Engineering PLLC. This includes FEMA's study, the Compass Study, hydraulic models by the Army Corps, and KBA's profiles. The also reran and duplicated the Natural Valley Analysis and performed a detailed field review of the existing levee on October 16, 2024.

Their upcoming tasks are to revise the Compass model, provide a revised 1% annual flood profile for the Lackawanna River to KBA and then help them with the layout for the levee improvements.

Paul Natishak and Ron Ryczak saved us money when they removed the flapgate near Pine Street and cleaned and replaced it. It is still partly submerged and covered with silt. Ron wrote a narrative with pictures and he and Wendy composed an email to DEP and Army Corps to ask what can be done to help with the excessive shoaling that has formed above the weir. It was even asked if the weir could be removed. DEP responded and said they would let us know some options. The email was sent October 22, they responded October 23, but we have not heard anything since then.

Another area that needs to be addressed is behind United Laminations. Jim Perry found the Mayfield Spoil Levee listed on the National Levee Database. It is behind United Laminations. Leon Skinner from the Army Corps began our levee inspection there 2 years ago. He called it a spoil levee.

Wendy said further action is needed on these areas and this is the reason for the formation of the flood control committee.

Jim Perry met with Len Jaskowiec, Mayor Chelik and Wendy and all of the paperwork was filled out for Mayfield which is necessary in order to be a part of the Lackawanna County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Jim then turned the papers in at a meeting on October 30.

The Commonwealth Financing Authority met on October 22 and we were not awarded any funding this year. We are still waiting to hear if we were successful in being awarded a Flood Mitigation Grant for the levee grant match, which is \$258,000. Wendy called DCED last week and was told our application is pending, has not been approved or denied. Last year, the flood mitigation grants were awarded in January of 2024. There is a Commonwealth Financing Authority meeting on November 19.

Wendy also said she attended a zoom meeting with the NEPA Alliance just this afternoon and they gave some more grant suggestions. We will look into them.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Alexander J. Chelik

Police Chief Joe Perechinsky reported 315 calls for the month of October.

Mayor Chelik reported on the meeting with Kurt Bauman of the NEPA Alliance who suggested a survey be sent to the businesses on Business Route 6 to obtain important information in applying for grants. He gave council a copy of the letter he prepared to be sent to the businesses, and asked them to provide any additional information before it is sent out. He also reviewed a number of the grants that were provided, most were for limited amounts that were far short of the funds needed for the installation of sanitary sewers on Route 6 and required a match from 15% to 50%. USDA did provide loans at 3.5% unless the area is LMI (low and moderate income).

The mayor performed a marriage ceremony on November 10, 2024 at the Emergency Services Center between Christine Gerek of 804 Lackawanna Avenue, Mayfield, and James Bresnahan of Exeter. No fee was required, but in a thank you card the couple gave \$50.00.

The mayor informed council of a meeting of the Lackawanna County Association of Boroughs at the Regal Room in Olyphant on Thursday, November 21 at 6:30 PM at a cost of \$20 per person. Anyone on council planning to attend should inform the mayor ASAP.

He also reported that he gave our solicitor copies of the PSAB Update which listed new legislation that affects the borough, such as the passage of House Bill 2265 (Act 131) which allows an increase in the compensation for council and mayors, and other important legislation.

Act 32 Report – Mayor Alexander J. Chelik

Mayor Chelik reported there was no meeting.

The mayor informed council that Berkheimer has forwarded to the borough EIT collection which for the same period in 2023 was 7.36% ahead for 2024.

Solicitor's Report – Atty. Owen M. Coleman

Attorney Coleman had no report.

Old Business

Motion by Wendy Bochnovich to approve purchase of 2 chairs for police station at a cost of \$269.98. Second by Bridget Boettcher. Passed 6-0.

NorLack: The community survey forms were distributed to every home in Mayfield on Saturday and Sunday, October 19 and 20 and at all businesses on October 26. The drop off is located at the little

library at the borough building and so far, 19 have been collected there and delivered to Mary Liz Donato. They will be accepted until November 30. The form can also be filled out online.

On October 23 a meeting was held at the Whites Crossing Volunteer Fire Company Building with the county, the consultant and representatives from the five participating communities to discuss an overview of the survey responses received so far. The consultant anticipates a response rate of 5 to 10%. Also discussed were land uses and what is known as Community Unwanted Land Uses (CULUs), such as adult entertainment, solar farms, landfills, etc. Eventually this list of CULUs will be given to the five communities to see which ones the various communities would be willing to accept. Ideally, every land use should appear in at least 2 of the five communities if possible. The Planning Commission and Borough Council will be asked to comment on the various proposed land uses.

An update on NOLACK was presented to the Mayfield Borough Planning Commission by Ron Ryczak at its November 6th meeting.

Century logistics and Mine Reclamation grant

Ron Ryczak, who is the grant administrator, led a phone meeting on November 7 with Borough Secretary Jim Perry, Mayor Chelik, Wendy Bochnovich, and Walter Kaufman of Kaufman Engineering. Attending from the DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) and Grants Center were John Green, BAMR grant coordinator, Joe Sassaman, Victor Gazella, and Cindy Wolf, grant program manager. They said that the grant still needs the comptroller's signature in order to be fully executed, even though we have a letter dated June 24, 2024 that is an Authorization to Proceed. They said they would like at least 3 sealed bids and because this is federal money, all federal requirements must be met. There was a discussion on bidding for an engineer since the current engineer did all of the preliminary work and if this were put out for bid, a new engineer would have to do the work all over again.

Motion by Wendy Bochnovich to send a letter to DEP justifying the use of Kaufman Engineering through a noncompetitive procurement process known as a sole source to provide the bid documents and drawings for the project as that firm is the only entity with access to the data that was used to apply for the Mine Reclamation Grant. Second by Jennifer Rossi. Passed 6-0.

New Business

Motion by Bridget Boettcher to approve the 2025 budget. Second by Tom Hartman. Passed 6-0. There is a 2 mil increase for 2025.

Motion by Jennifer Rossi to advertise the 2025 budget. Second by Tom Hartman. Passed 6-0.

There was a discussion on delinquent garbage fees and what should be done. The topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

Public Input

Mark Cordelli, Lackawanna County Director for Community Relations, informed all about upcoming events in the county and left fliers to be posted.

Motion to adjourn by Jennifer Rossi, second by Tom Hartman.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:29.