

Penbrook Borough Council Meeting Minutes  
March 4, 2024

1. Call to order
  - A. On March 4, 2024 President Deardorff called the Borough Council to order at 6:30 pm followed by a salute to the flag and a prayer by Pastor Mark Halliday.
  - B. Roll call was performed, and all elected officials were present except for Dry. Solicitor Kern and Manager Hogarth were in attendance as well.
2. Citizen comments on agenda items: N/A
3. Consent Agenda: Armbruster made a motion to approve all items and Moore seconded. There was no further discussion. Passed unanimously. Items listed were Feb 5 minutes, Feb 20 minutes, Feb Treasurer's report, Approval of bills and the advertisement of the draft Quality of Life ordinance.
4. Reports
  - A. The Mayor provided Council with the February 2024 Police report.
  - B. Manager
    - i. The borough was awarded \$96,000 from the Local Gaming Grant to help pay for the 2025 sewer debt payment.
    - ii. There will be several items on the March Caucus agenda to preview including a review of the televising data, the engineer's sewer tapping fee review proposal and the Thomas St project bids.
    - iii. The next round of CDBG grants will soon open and Council should consider possible projects for application.
    - iv. PLGIT interest rates still suggest keeping the funds in the Prime accounts rather than the 90-day Term program.
  - C. Solicitor
    - i. Council was sent a draft of the employee policy manual for action to adopt later in the agenda. Kern said she would work with the manager to ensure the policy is properly disseminated to all the employees.

D. STEMS – No report

E. Fire Chief – Chief Murphy asked Council to direct questions regarding the department to him and not members of the association. Monthly stats were reviewed as well as an update on the renovation project.

F. Committees

i. Codes – Deardorff reviewed the codes and property maint. stats sent to all of Council via email.

ii. Public Safety – EMC Bloss reviewed wind damage in the borough from the last snowstorm. The February Council representatives are Stokes, Shaw and Burdine.

iii. Parks and Property –

a. The committee will begin planning for the Summer Program later this month.

b. Newcomer reviewed the Little Valley Park project.

iv. Public Works – N. Shaw reviewed the monthly activities performed by the public works staff.

v. Personnel – No report

vi. Community and Government – Moore reported the next committee meeting will be on 3/12 to discuss several upcoming events.

vii. Budget – Armbruster noted that the property tax revenue should increase in March considering the end of the discount payment period.

viii. Authority – Shaw reported that the SWA continues to work on the MOU as well as the proposed fee schedule based on impervious surface.

ix. Planning Commission –

a. There were 146 signatures received on the petition to have a referendum question on the November ballot concerning

alcohol sales in the Borough. Stokes said between now and the general election the commission will work on an education campaign as well as continue to solicit feedback from residents.

- b. Stokes reviewed the latest with the two SALDO applications. The application for 2701 Herr St property will have to be decided on by March 26<sup>th</sup> without the applicant granting the borough an extension. Stokes recommends asking for an extension.

## 5. New Business

- A. A motion is needed to approve or amend the field use agreement between the Borough and the Harrisburg Area Police Athletic League. Stokes made a motion to postpone the item because the agreement was sent to the HAPAL representative, but no response was received that they were ok with the agreement as written. The motion to postpone was made by Shaw. Carried unanimously.
- B. A motion is needed to approve or amend the field use agreement between the Borough and the Wilhelm Paxtang Baseball Association. Hogarth said the organization is in favor of the agreement as written. Motion to approve by Burdine and seconded by Moore. Carried unanimously.
- C. A motion is needed to approve the Employee Policy Manual. Armbruster made a motion to approve and Newcomer seconded. Carried unanimously.

## 6. Visitors to be heard –

- A. Clyde Bateman, 2615 Boas commented about trash and people littering.
- B. Barb Reese Burton of 649 S 28<sup>th</sup> expressed concerns about the SALDO and Zoning issues for 650 S 28<sup>th</sup>. Cited concerns including traffic and noise.
- C. Steven Garisto 2531 Boas made comments about the plow trucks getting snow on his already shoveled sidewalk as well as comments about what should and shouldn't be listed in the newsletter's important dates section.
- D. Cheryl Nagle 2817 Boas expressed concerns about the 650 S 28<sup>th</sup> St SALDO citing issues such as noise, pesticides and other MS4 issues.
- E. Sara Vazquez and Hernan Vazquez 2809 Boas expressed concerns about

- the 650 S 28<sup>th</sup> St SALDO citing fear of decreased property value and increased noise and traffic.
- F. Mark Halliday 2733 Canby wanted to report the success of the food give-away that occurs on the second Saturday of each month. The ministry that leads this event has been able to expand to a program in which food is delivered to senior citizens living in Penbrook. Pastor Mark asked Council to tell anyone they believe may benefit from this ministry as there are a few open spots still available.
  - G. Lisa Diaz 2810 Market Street Rd expressed concerns about traffic speeding on Hoffer's Ln to avoid traffic congestion around 25<sup>th</sup> and Market. She is also concerned about the sight distance pulling onto MSR from Hoffer's Lane. Hogarth said he would measure the sight triangle which would require the removal of any vegetation blocking the required sight distance. The department would likely have to do a traffic study for the speeding issue.

## 7. Council comments

- A. Armbruster and Burdine met to discuss the re-implementation of the rental property inspection program and they have some suggestions to give to the staff.
  - B. Stokes was thankful that so many residents came out to express their concerns regarding the SALDO applications.
  - C. Newcomer echoed Stokes' comments about those in attendance. He also applauded the food give-away programs. Finally, he wanted to go on record saying that he supports the listing of the LGBTQ Pride Month and said that like the food give-away success, it goes to the sense of community that many love and come to expect in Penbrook.
  - D. Deardorff also thanked everyone for coming out to lend their voice about the community.
8. President Deardorff is requesting an Executive Session to discuss a legal issue. The public meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm. The Executive Session was called to order at 7:36 pm and adjourned at 8:00 pm after a motion and second by Armbruster and Newcomer.

Respectfully submitted and attested,

Joseph Hogarth  
Borough Manager and Municipal Secretary