

Tuesday, December 19,,2023

COURTDALE COUNCIL MTG. MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by Carl H.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL:

Carl Hodorowski, President
Jeff Ford-
Joseph Rish, Vice President-
Debra Youngblood-
Amy Yuhas-absent
Michael Waslin-
Joe Biniek
Mayor Degnan
Len Sanguedolce, Solicitor-absent
Loriann Monto-Secretary/Treas.

MINUTES READ:

Joe Rish made a motion to accept the minutes, Michael Waslin seconded. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

. Budget Report read and reviewed by council members. Jeff questioned SPCA payments –Loriann researched and reported the contract was for 5 years and the last 2 years cost was \$402.60 in 2022 and \$322.08 in 2021(difference in population numbers). Carl made note of pages on budget for grant payment and reimbursements. Also noted by Carl, the parking lot grant issue still needs to be resolved with American Asphalt payment and grant funding. Debbie motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Joe seconded. All in favor of accepting and paying bills. Jeff motioned to pay the bills, Michael seconded the motion. All in favor

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Degnan read the police report for November–copies distributed to council members. Mayor mentioned that Chief Dan is requesting a limit to shop at the State Surplus warehouse in Harrisburg. Having a limit would allow him to shop for items he sees while visiting because the items are not necessarily on inventory rather first come first serve and the inventory varies daily, Chief Dan also spoke to concern over the number of police officers on payroll. Officers receiving mandatory training will be covering shifts a little more frequently.

PUBLIC:

COMMITTEES:

Committee for Playground met on 11/28/23, Scott Smith sent committee members the plans for the park. Review of

landscaping, park equipment. Will be advertised for bidding on 12/21/23 and 1/16/24. Bids to be opened January 30th, 2024. All members agreed to change the regular meeting Jan. 30 to accommodate opening of bids. Joe Rish made a motion for the president of the council to be the signer for all documents involving the park project. Joe Biniek seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Joe motioned to pay Shadow Technologies,\$2818.92 for police computer upgrades and software. Michael seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Carl spoke about contacting American Asphalt to get the parking lot grant paid and closed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Carl mentioned the agreement between Courtdale and Pringle that Len brought up at the last meeting. 12 houses in Courtdale that receive sewer service through Pringle. Courtdale will pay Pringle \$100 for the year to cover the 12 houses. An agreement will be addressed at the next meeting, Len will write up the agreement.

The meeting dates for 2024 will be published as a public notice in the Citizens Voice with the only exception being the Jan 30th meeting. All other meetings will be on the third Tuesday of each month.

Loriann will contact Barilla's office for the swearing in of the new council members at the reorganization meeting on January 2nd.

Debbie made a motion to pay for the police citation forms. Jeff seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Carl did a second reading of the proposed 2024 budget. Income of \$247,859.32 and expenditures of \$234,443.71. Raises for 2024 will be discussed at the January council meeting, and will be retroactive to January 1st, 2024.

Tax increase was discussed—Carl researched the last increase dated back to 2006(1.51 with reduction in sewer payments to 3 instead of 4) and 2011(increased to 2.0 with only 2 sewer payments) where the rate has been. An ordinance is enacted to increase the taxes from 2.0 to 2.5 effective 1/1/2024. Council recognized hardships that everyone has but the increase in all areas has forced the increase. Joe Rish made the motion to increase the tax rate, with Joe Biniek seconding the motion. Roll call was taken and all members were in favor.

Carl also made mention of the budget being a little skewed because of the income from the Monsanto suit in early 2023.

Debbie Youngblood made a motion to allow Chief Dan a \$500 spending limit at the state surplus store,Jeff seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Jeff made a motion to pay the tax collector Carol,for 5 transactions at \$2.50. Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Valley View gas line discussed ,Carl read an email from John Gillette from UGI, regarding repairs to the gas line involving Courtdale's newly paved road—discussed with Scott. Making UGI responsible for the cost of repaving that newly paved road, Carl will have a meeting with the street committee to discuss.

Loriann made the council aware of online programs and training available through the PA state association of boroughs.

Jeff brought up the issue with the shrubs and greenery planned around the new park. Concern over safety and animals. He would like to have it edged. Shrubs may be a detriment. . Carl brought up that the plans were already agreed upon, there will be low maintenance plants that will not be overgrown,keeping maintenance to a minimum. Jacki requested Jeff's main reason for grass—Jeff had safety concerns, and cats. Jeff said bushes and flowers will be just as much maintenance. Carl showed diagrams of plants that may be used.Carl reassured that the landscape designer is well aware of the request for low or no maintenance plants and flowers. Mulch will be underneath.

Jeff mentioned the resident that was interested in buying a bench or something to memorialize residents. Possibly have an area of brick pavers with inscriptions as a donation. Courtdale will reach out to Forty Fort to see how they organized their brick requests and who does the engraving for them.

Joe B made a motion to adjourn, and Michael seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.