

Tuesday, January 30,2024

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-
Michael Waslin-absent
Joe Biniek
Mayor Degnan
Len Sanguedolce, Solicitor
Loriann Monto-Secretary/Treas.

MINUTES READ:

Carl noted that the minutes needed a correction in the name of the lawsuit mentioned ,change the name to Monsanto rather than Zomerfeld,Loriann noted the request and will make the correction. Joe Rish made a motion to accept the minutes, Jeff Ford seconded. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's report was read for December 2023. Salt order was discussed and all is in order,Joe Rish will check into the state program(AGILITY) and report back. Amy questioned the \$2818.92 expense, Loriann explained it was for the Shadow Technologies computer invoice. Jeff questioned CW Schultz's expense,Carl explained it was for the service call for no heat in the building. Carl questioned the police payroll expense increase, Chief Duffy explained it was for the training he went to in NC. Carl noted the budget now reflects grants on different tabs and will be maintained as such moving forward. Amy motioned to accept the treasurer's report and Joe seconded the motion All in favor Debbie motioned to pay the bills and Amy seconded the motion, all were in favor.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Degnan read the police report for December. All members received a copy of the report to review. Jacki announced that Dan arranged a Taser training in Courtdale in April (2 free spots in the training for Courtdale for hosting the event,approx.\$1000 value.)Dan attended training in NC(Less lethal Instructor training) ,he paid his own way except for time spent in the training. (3) officers will be removed from the Courtdale payroll. Dan spoke to the less lethal training to re-evaluate to make Courtdale officers up to date on the procedures and training. The decision was made to make the switch to FirstNet for police internet/mobile hotspot(jetpack). The benefit is newer equipment and better, more reliable connectability.Verizon will be discontinued February 22,2024. Eventually the answering machine for the police will be phased out. The siren in the police vehicle was replaced at a cost of \$250. Live Scan and visual Alert have been discontinued because they are not needed in relation to the size of the

Borough/Police Dept. The records maintenance can be provided in house. Hearing attendance was discussed—Dan attends court hearings by using hourly rate while attending—as opposed to the old system of charging a flat rate per occurrence plus hourly rate. Carl commended Dan for doing a great job since joining Courtdale —Council agreed.

PUBLIC:

No Public comments

COMMITTEES:

No committee .

OLD BUSINESS:

Pringle-Courtdale Sewer agreement was discussed—Len spoke to Pringle’s Solicitor and they will have an agreement at the next council meeting.

The American Asphalt issue was discussed –Len sent an email to American Asphalt with no return action. Carl has reached out as well with no return action.

NEW BUSINESS:

Carl invited Scott to discuss the park bids; 10 bids were received. Council members received copies of the recommended proposals. By omitting the chain link fence(only installing privacy screens) it will bring the total cost down within the original limits. *Scott will submit a change order to remove 108 ft of chain link fence and keep screen on the back fence.* It is Scott’s engineering opinion that this change will have the least effect on the overall project. Specifics will be discussed for the “remembrance walk” paver idea in a future meeting This was not part of the original plan and will need to be spec’d out separately. HRG’s final recommendation was for Elevated Consulting LLC, at \$112,284.72(base bid plus alternate #3).Issue was discussed about cost of tree removal -property owner(Jeff Ford,)should be responsible for removal of overhanging trees,although the contractor has the right to trim the trees because of the issue of safety, as well as the overhang on courtdale property. Carl reminded the council that some of the American Rescue funds will be used for the 5% match of this grant. Council decided to research and possibly get the fence replacement covered through a separate grant or another funding source. Amy Yuhas made a motion to accept all the bids, Joe B seconded that motion, roll call was taken and all were in favor. Jeff Ford made a motion to award the project to Elevated Consulting,LLC in the amount of \$112,284.72,subject to receiving performance and payment bonds and subject to verifying they are authorized to work in the state of PA. Amy seconded his motion. Roll was taken and all were in agreement. Another motion was made by Joe R to issue the notice of intent to award Elevated consulting,LLC transmitting the contract agreement and volunteer execution. This motion was seconded by Joe B. Roll was taken and all were in favor.

Carl informed the council that the Borough insurance has increased by \$6,0000 because of the

Zomerfeld lawsuit, as well as the increase in premiums overall to municipality insurance. We will be researching other insurance companies for lower insurance premiums.

Amy made a motion to accept a resolution to change the Berkheimer liaison to secretary/treasurer. Jeff seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Tax collector payment of \$25.00(10@\$2.50 for December). Debbie motioned to pay and Amy seconded that motion. All were in favor

Gas line in valley View—was discussed and the meeting was canceled and the project has been postponed till 2026.

Sewer payment to Kingston and Luzerne will be researched and paid.

Debbie made a motion to change the cell phone/internet/mobile hotspot service for the police to First Net at a cost of \$43.74. Joe Seconded the motion. All in favor.

At this point Amy motioned to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel issues. Jeff seconded this motion and all wherein agreement.

Jeff made a motion to re- adjourn to regular session and Amy seconded her motion.

2024 employee raises were discussed. Carl reviewed increase amounts—retroactive to January 1,2024. Debbie made the motion to accept the increases in salaries and Joe B seconded her motion. All were in agreement.

Carl mentioned FEMA updated flood plain maps—all municipalities must have an updated map regardless of flood possibilities. He will be researching and doing updates to submit the ordinance to FEMA by the due date in June. Len will research the ordinance details and report back at the next meeting.

Jeff mentioned North St property –Inquiring if any permits were applied for and what the status of this ongoing project.

Carl requested an inquiry to Berkheimer to obtain a copy of the businesses paying a Business Privilege tax in Courtdale. Loriann will request said report from Berkheimer and report to Carl.

Carl will reach out to Dave Z regarding delinquent sewer accounts and report back at the next meeting.

Amy made a motion to adjourn, and Dabbie seconded the motion. All in favor Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

