

Tuesday, March 19,2024

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

### **MINUTES READ:**

Minutes from the February Council meeting were reviewed by all members of council. Joe Rish motioned to accept the minutes and Michael seconded Joe's motion. All were in favor.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer's report was read for February 2024. Loriann Mentioned that the visual alert for police, final invoice was paid in February –Misc Income was mentioned by Carl, the electric sewer meter that was install should have been being paid out of sewer funds–\$115.40 was transferred from sewer to general to cover the cost of this meter in 2023 and will be paid with sewer funds moving forward. Jeff inquired about how much was going through the meter. Carl explained we were under the acceptable amount. Jeff motioned to accept the treasurer's report and Debbie seconded the motion. Joe R motioned to pay the bills with Michael seconding his motion. All were in favor.

\*\*\*At this point, A motion was made by Jeff to adjourn for an executive session to discuss personnel issues, the motion was seconded by Michael, and all were in favor of adjournment. Once the session was concluded, Debbie motioned to reconvene the regular meeting with Michael seconding her motion, and all were in favor of reconvening.

### **MAYOR COMMENTS:**

Mayor Degnan read the police report for February 2024. All members received a copy of the report to review. Copies of the monthly reports are available at the secretary's office for review if needed at a later date. Jacki asked for clarification on the phone numbers for the police. The answering machine is the landline number and the jetpack number is access to the police officer. Jacki also reported that chief Dan was able to acquire (2) mobile AED's at a cost of \$3,262.00 which is financed by Geisinger. The AED's are ordered and scheduled to arrive in April and will be paid for with the funds from Geisinger. Jacki mentioned that Dan is requesting to have a whiteboard hung in the meeting room. Dan is also requesting to have the

yellow chairs removed from the upstairs storage room. Padded chairs replaced the yellow chairs during covid—Jacki will take photos and post online to sell the chairs. Dan requested \$75 to shred old confidential documents that were left from a clean out of old cabinets and whatnot. Debbie made a motion to approve the \$75 expense with Joe B seconding the motion and all were in favor.

### **PUBLIC:**

No Public comments

### **COMMITTEES:**

Police Committee; (JoeR,Debbie, Carl and Mayor Jacki)met regarding a new hire for police, 3/2/24  
Park Project Committee (Amy, Carl,Scott) met with Elevated Consulting to discuss start dates and sign documents.  
(Middle of May for grading and footers and June for park equipment), 3/7/24

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Pringle-Courtdale Sewer agreement was discussed—Len reported that he emailed Pringle on 1/26/24,2/20/2024, and 3/11/24 with no response. He will continue to contact Pringle. Carl has been working on updating the floodplain ordinance required by FEMA—Carl, working with Leslie from Luzerne County has the final draft of the Ordinance. Len read the ordinance description, and explained that he will add a repealer, a title calling it the Courtdale Flood Plain Ordinance, and a severability clause. Len will make the appropriate changes. Joe Rish motioned to pass the floodplain ordinance of 2024, with Jeff seconding the motion . Roll call was taken and all were in agreement to pass the ordinance.**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Council announced that it would like to announce the hiring of new police officer Tony Smith. Tony said a few words, saying he appreciates the opportunity, lives in forty fort, and is familiar with the other Courtdale police officers. Joe Rish made a motion to hire Tony Smith as a Sergeant with the Courtdale Police Department. Debbie seconded the motion and a roll call ws taken with all in agreement.  
Anticipated start date will be the beginning of April.

Sunoco cards will be issued to the street department and the fire department.All vehicle fuel will be on one bill with the state tax deducted.

Carl discussed the PA OneCall Sewer marking “program” . To streamline the process of marking the sewer lines when a dig request comes in —he is proposing that Mark and Shawn be reimbursed \$25 for going out to mark the lines calls once the calls come through. It has been a timely process for Carl to undertake himself to monitor all the calls made. Carl would like Joe R to research the blueprints for laterals of the sewer lines. Carl is also requesting that the blueprints of the sewer lines

be digitized for easier access and manageability of the PA ONECall calls. Joe B made a motion to reimburse Street Department workers \$25 for each time they are called out to mark sewer lines, Debbie seconded the motion and all were in favor. Michael made a motion to have the maps digitized, Jeff seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Park Project was discussed —Committee(Carl, Scott, Danny from elevated Consulting, Amy, and Jeff) met with the contractors to discuss park equipment arrival and progress of demo and grading. At this time it was discussed that the completion of the project could be approx. end of May to Mid June. At this time Loriann read an email from Amy in her absence. Amy was unable to make the meeting because of illness, she states in the email that she wanted to be at the meeting to discuss her concerns—she was only recently added to the park committee with all decisions about the equipment being made already—she wanted to have input because she sees what equipment is used the most—she said she briefly say the blueprints and suggested that the current swing set remains because they are used quite frequently and full—she also wanted to address the rusty fence situation—she apologizes if the swingset and fence situations have been addressed because she was not aware of previous committee discussions. She looks forward to further discussions/inclusion. Carl noted that he responded to her saying that at the previous meeting(January 2024) meeting the fence was discussed and decided to be omitted to save money and maybe replaced at a later date with separate grant money. The back fence will be covered with the fabric as discussed at the same January meeting. The swingset was previously discussed as well—Jeff Ford also expressed that he felt the same way about keeping the old swingset—Carl told him the swingset has already been discussed and decided. Carl and Mark R felt that someone may get hurt with the current swingset and the way the kids play with them Mark has been there several times where they wrap the swings around becoming a safety hazard. Jeff Ford also explained he is not paying for having the trees trimmed that overhang from his yard. Also discussed was that currently there are only swings for the kids to play on, with the addition of different equipment the kids will have more options to play.

Raises for tax collector and sewer collector were not discussed at the January meeting—The council agreed to give Dave a 3% raise. Jeff made the motion to give Dave Zasada the 3% raise with Debbie seconding the motion and all were in agreement. Joe B made a motion to give Carol Z a .25/transaction raise retroactive to January 2024, Jeff seconding the motion and all were in agreement.

Furnace Issues resulted in a larger invoice from the repairs—Carl called Schultz to review the charges and he was able to reduce the bill and some of the charges by about \$760—Joe R made a motion to pay the invoice to Schultz with Debbie seconding the motion and all were in agreement.

Ceiling Blocks are needed for the hallway to the police office—Debbie made the motion to pay \$140.16 for the ceiling blocks needed and Jeff seconded the motion will all in agreement.

Joe B made a motion to reimburse Carl approx \$49 for the WiFi booster he purchase from Amazon for the Ring doorbell, Jeff seconded the motion and all were in agreement to reimburse Carl.

dumpster—Loriann reviewed the dumpster situation—Council agreed to have the dumpster removed and switch to a large can and continue to have Curry pick up with regular Thursday pick ups. Discuss with Tom Curry and decide on a price.

Valley View Drive –Dumping yard waste in borough alley—Council decided that they will buy no dumping signs and posts and install in the alley where this issue is and the police will enforce the

signs once installed. (Len stated it is littering and it is a crime).

Joe B made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Jeff seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.