

DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY July 11, 2024
6:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

The General Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Harry Rogers, Council President.

Present were, Harry Rogers, Marc Drier, Kate Weaver, Patrick Melloy, Ann Marie Baker Borough Manager, Norman J Cowden, Shawn Millard, Mayor Richard Knecht, Dori Rankinen

Absent were, John McCormick, Michael Rodgers

Executive Meeting was held to discuss legal matters.

Motion #1 was moved and seconded (Norman Cowden/Dori Rankinen) to approve the minutes from previous meeting June 6, 2024.

Motion #1 carries by a Unanimous Vote (-0)

Name	Nomination	Motion	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John McCormick							X
Patrick Melloy				X			
Harry Rogers				X			
Dori Rankinen			X	X			
Mike Rodgers							X
Norman Cowden		X		X			
Shawn Millard				X			
Mayor Knecht							

Public Comment – Arlington Street members ask if there was a permit if someone was soliciting in the area. The Borough Manager would double check the ordinance book to see if there was and after checking did see that the borough does have an ordinance for solicitation.

The Police Report was read by Chief Embeck – Gave full report had some DUI stops in the borough. UPMC gave new medical bags to the units in the department. Assisted the US Marshalls a couple of times throughout the month. ENZO has been performing well and is trained well on commands. Traffic detail is happening more in both boroughs. Corporals are also rotating all shifts to give them a chance to work with all the officers.

Fire Department – County reporting system is not working so the chief will have report soon.

Sewer Report – Report was distributed to all the council.

Harry Rogers asked if there was a motion to extend the Cochran Ave Project if the council wanted to have discussion prior.

DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY July 11, 2024
6:00 PM

Dori Rankinen stated she felt that under the circumstances we needed to have some discussion.

Harry Rogers asked if anyone in the public wanted to ask any questions or take the floor.

Paul Mckinley Winter Street resident said he wanted to know if Shawn Millard wanted to start.

Shawn Millard stated he felt it was a violation of the sunshine law to speak on things if it was not on the agenda and during public comment. President Rogers stated that there were issues that were brought up on the extension of the project publicly and that the discussion was permitted.

Shawn Millard stated he is against the cost of the project completely and the extension.

Paul McKinley asked what additional cost he was speaking about.

Shawn Millard stated the 147,000 for one that he had in a handout. Borough Manager Ann Marie Baker advised that is not an extension for the sewer lateral repair and clean out project that Pine Mountain was doing that is a document that council received in April 2023 for the cost of the paving to the street once the infrastructure is repaired. That 147,000 is for paving and that is money allocated from liquid fuels. There is to be a motion later in the meeting to approve the advertisement for the paving which is why the council received the spreadsheet in their packets again.

Borough Council and the Mayor have received all the documentation and communication on Cochran Ave and Edgewood in the borough manager reports and along with the Borough Public Works, Borough Manager, Borough Engineers, and Pine Mountain meeting daily have reported any of the change orders out to council.

There is no added price for extension of the work timeline.

Originally the project was July 19th with completion of July 26th. The Engineer along with Pine Mountain, Borough Manager, and Public works have discussed what timeline would work now due to weather issues and other issues with this project and are requesting an extension to August 16th 2024 with final completion of August 30th 2024.

The Borough Manager explained multiple issues that they have had. We need to pave the road by OCTOBER 2024. No additional cost in the extension of the timeline. When we are completed with this project we will have a full report on each home. It is not abnormal to do an extension on a project. The borough Manager stated that in her 5 years and other projects the council had approved extensions to those projects with no added cost. She also stated that she and Public Works were very happy with the communication and work that Pine Mountain is performing in this job and that other than the change order for the couplers there has been no changes in price. They are still coming in way lower than the next bid that we received. \$443464.40

DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY July 11, 2024
6:00 PM

Shawn Millard questioned the bidding process – stating that he felt that if you bid on a contract and are awarded the contract you should not come back and ask for more money especially if you were the lowest bid that he felt that was a normal practice for most contractors and he felt that it was unfair to the taxpayers. The Borough Manager explained that depending on the issues that happen during the construction dictates if there is additional cost but that that is what change orders are for. She also stated that 250,000 of this project is funding by the County ARPA funds and that SEDA COG was administering the project so that there are even more restrictions and documentation that needs to be done to ensure all is being done as the contract states.

President Rogers also wanted to make sure that all of council understood that we are trying to be mindful of spending and by working with UGI and other utility companies to get work done and share in cost that we also realize we are under time restrictions. This is why it is important to get this job completed by at least August 30th.

Norman Cowden asked if this is something that is normal in a contract for a job done in the borough. The solicitor answered that he had just received the contract and that usually there is verbiage in the contract that addresses change orders, time extensions, etc.

The Borough Manager advised that the contract was shared with the council after they awarded the bid. She also stated that the Council agreed to have LIVIC Civil manage this project with the Borough Manager and Public Works. Solicitor Marc Drier said that he is comfortable hearing the borough engineer is involved that all is being followed and sounds like all the protocols have been followed.

The Borough Manager stated that she and Public Works is very happy with the work they have seen on this project.

Dori Rankinen asked Dean Edwards the contractor if they approve the extension to August 30th would he be asking for additional time and would he be sure to have it completed by then because she wanted to know if he would be working more than two days a week. Dean Edwards stated they work more than two days. Council Dori Rankinen stated that residents have been reporting that he has only been working 2 days a week. Dean stated that his payroll is reported and that is not accurate. Dori Rankinen wanted to make sure that Dean will be done if they approve the extension.

Shawn Millard was still against this because he felt there were no penalties if it was not completed and now, we were wasting taxpayers' money. The Borough Manager as well as Solicitor stated there are penalties in the contract and this was shared with all of council when they approved the lowest bid.

Brian Hoy from Pine Mountain explained the first change order for the fernco – second change order was to fix the leaks in the main that we were not advised initially needed to be repaired. He stated that they are looking to make sure they prevent any other issues. He stated they are documenting and that at this point they have only ran into two lines that are actually following the ordinance.

DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY July 11, 2024
6:00 PM

Harry asked about the lateral sewer project that residents had to do years ago and why were these things not caught or done.

The Borough Manager explained that the ordinance has not changed since 1984 and between 2004. No one is to have Orangeburg or terra cotta, and everyone must have a clean out. Not sure why this was not followed but there is nothing that can be done other than moving forward to fix the issue and make sure that each sewer line follows the borough ordinance for compliance. The Borough Council was advised she stated when they approved to change the responsibility of the sewer lines last year that by now making the residents only responsible from the curb to their home connection that the borough would have to pay for any repairs that needed to be done from the curb to the main. The Borough Manager was advised by some of council that the street mains were all good or should be because of the lateral program and slip line process that was done years ago.

There was much discussion on the sewer lateral project years ago and questions on why there was still terra cotta and no clean outs if the inspections were done by the borough. The Borough Manager explained we are just trying to fix the issues and move forward on an inspection process and documentation on all of our sewer laterals.

She stated once this project is completed, we will have over ½ the boroughs sewer system and streets along with stormwater will be in great condition.

Dan Phillips 2865 Cochran Ave – stated that he believed what we were stating accurate information because when they were camering the area he saw too the water running from the leaks so he agreed that we should be fixing and spending the money. Then Dori Rankinen asked Dan didn't he have an issue with moving the clean out and that he felt it should not be moved. The Borough Manager explained the ordinance states where the cleanouts should be and that you should have one. Cleanouts should be accessible for the borough public works so they can do inspections and having them up in your bushes etc. is not the best place for them.

Jenn Melloy 2661 Riverside Drive – asked why the ordinance was changed to have the curb to the street laterals now the responsibility of the borough when she and other residents paid for the connections years ago. How is this fair to those of us who paid, and will we get a refund?

The reason for it being changed was because for us to fix the infrastructure we would need to wait on residents to repair the street prior to us paving.

Paul McKinley wanted to know why the council raised the sewer bill 5.00 at the beginning of the year if these issues were not resolved.

Harry Rogers stated that since for years things were never raised and now, we are playing catch up, that this is why we are trying to get the infrastructure repaired and follow the ordinances.

DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY July 11, 2024
6:00 PM

Craig Kropp of Summer Street asked where the money is coming from to pay for the project. The Borough Manager explained that 250,000 is from the County ARPA funds the remainder is coming out of the Sewer Account.

Linda McKinley of Winter Street said that it seems like we are trying to do things correctly and is upset that whoever approved the laterals in the past are the ones that have put us in the situation that we are in.

Question was asked if we fix Cochran Ave would this be the last issue in the sewer system. The Borough Manager stated that we will not know until we start on the other streets.

Dan Phillips asked if there was any movement on the Trailer across the street from him.

Rich Boyles said that he was advised in the past when he fixed his sewer pipes, he was told he did not need to clean out.

Motion #2 was moved and seconded (Dori Rankinen/Patrick Melloy) to extend Cochran Ave Project to August 30th completion date.

Motion #2 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0)

Name	Nomination	Motion	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John McCormick							X
Patrick Melloy			X	X			
Harry Rogers				X			
Dori Rankinen		X		X			
Mike Rodgers							X
Norman Cowden				X			
Shawn Millard				X			
Mayor Knecht							

The Borough Manager gave all the council a copy of the Right to Know from Pine Mountain Excavating regarding they would like to have all communication about the project that involved comments about Pine Mountain.

Thom Rosamilia along the lines of what Mrs. Baker said about be careful of misinformation that you are putting out there about the contractor and that he wanted to address some of the derogatory remarks made in public from not all of council but some of council that should not be happening. He wanted the council to understand that Pine Mountain is doing everything in their power to follow the contract and get the work done per the Borough Ordinance and by no means have they been the reason for any delay in the project.

DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY July 11, 2024
6:00 PM

Borough Manager Report – Report included in packet –

Mayor only wanted to say thank you for the work on cleaning up the side of the road on Riverside Drive.

Property Maintenance & Building Codes Report – reviewed.

Codes sent over additional information on that is listed on the property maintenance issues.

The Borough Manager brought up the quality-of-life ticket information that council could adopt council just needs to advise if they want to pursue.

Motion #3 was moved and seconded (Norman Cowden/Patrick Melloy) approve the advertising for the Cochran Ave paving project.

Motion #3 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0)

Name	Nomination	Motion	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John McCormick							X
Patrick Melloy			X	X			
Harry Rogers				X			
Dori Rankinen				X			
Mike Rodgers							X
Norman Cowden		X		X			
Shawn Millard				X			
Mayor Knecht							

Community Events- Patrick is still working on a Spaghetti Dinner that the Council would serve to the public will be August 10th.

Solicitor – Still waiting on Mike Wiley on some things with Armstrong Township. Borough Manager asked solicitor to do some research with surveyor on the park (playground) behind the daycare it appears at this point the borough only owns the grassy area which will make some accessibility a little challenge but before we go any further need to have this looked into, so we know exactly what is owned by the borough. Patrick Melloy asked why we wouldn't think about selling the property if we don't see it feasible to maintain. The Borough Manager advised we will get more information and will report when we have details.

We have the money from the Heights Estate 17,798.74 that will be deposited to assist with some punch list items in the Heights.

Tax Collector – Updated on payments 91.98% collected

Presidents Report – nothing to report but we will be having an executive session after the meeting to discuss personnel matter.

DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY July 11, 2024
6:00 PM

Mayor Report - wanted to make the Fire Chief aware that a train has been hauling chemicals through the borough that were not hauled in the past just to be on the alert in the event there were an accident.

Will update on the Osha standards bill when it passes with the Fire Department.

GO JOE from WNEP is coming through the borough on the 22nd of July - Monday.

New Business - Kate Weaver wanted to congratulate The Borough Manger for completing the Leadership Lycoming Classes and graduating. The Borough Manager will update on all she learned soon.

Public Comment Period #2

Richard Gordon Valley Street asked about the paving on Valley Street and addressed some of the water issues.

Motion #4 was moved and seconded (Norman Cowden/Patrick Melloy) to adjourn at 7:42 pm

Motion #4 carries by a Unanimous Vote (5-0)

Name	Nomination	Motion	2 nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
John McCormick							X
Patrick Melloy			X	X			
Harry Rogers				X			
Dori Rankinen				X			
Mike Rodgers							X
Norman Cowden		X		X			
Shawn Millard				X			
Mayor Knecht							

The council did go into an executive meeting to discuss personnel matters after the general meeting was adjourned.

Approved: Ann Marie Baker Date: Aug 2, 2024
 Motion: John McCormick Second: Norman Cowden Date: Aug 2, 2024