

Workshop Meeting Activity

December 9, 2019

TITLE

MOTION

SECOND

Approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes of
November 18, 2019

Commissioner Williams

Commissioner Darragh

Approve the Act 172 Roster

Commissioner Darragh

Commissioner Richert

Adjournment

TOWNSHIP OF ALEPPO

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice President George Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Those in attendance were Commissioner Arthur Williams, Commissioner Daniel Darragh, Commissioner Amy Richert, Solicitor Jeffrey Hantz, and Manager Gwen Patterson. Vice President Jones announced that the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2019. Commissioner Darragh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

2020 REAL ESTATE TAX ORDINANCE:

Manager Patterson provided a draft of the ordinance and stated that it has been advertised for adoption at next week's Legislative meeting.

2020 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

Manager Patterson provided a draft of the ordinance and stated that it has been advertised for adoption at next week's Legislative Meeting.

RHODES AVENUE GEOTECH MONITORING:

Manager Patterson heard from Geotech that they want to come in this week to drill test holes for one day and it will require traffic restrictions for the day. Manager Patterson will contact the residents on Rhodes Avenue to let them know when the traffic restrictions will occur.

COOKIES AND COFFEE:

Manager Patterson stated that cookies and coffee will be served after next week's Legislative Meeting, and she will make the arrangements.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 MEETING DATES:

Manager Patterson provided a schedule of the meeting dates for 2020. Vice President Jones asked for a decision on the two offsite meetings that are held at Masonic and the Fire Station. The tentative date for the Legislative Meeting to be held at Masonic will be September 21, 2020, and the tentative date for the Workshop Meeting to be held at the Fire Station will be November 9, 2020.

ACT 172 ROSTER APPROVAL:

Manager Patterson stated this was done last year, and it is a tax credit program for volunteers of fire and ambulance service. Manager Patterson provided a list of the roster of people who met the criteria, and she has to submit the list to both taxing agencies. Commissioner Darragh made a motion to approve the Act 172 Roster. Commissioner Richert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MONEY IN RESERVE FOR EXPENSES FROM MASONIC LAWSUIT:

Vice President Jones stated that money was kept in reserve to cover expenses from the Masonic lawsuit and now that the lawsuit has been settled, he would like to discuss ideas to use the money. The source of the money was from refinancing sewer bonds three years ago. Commissioner Darragh stated the money should be used for something sewer related to benefit the sewer rate payers. He reviewed the idea of replacing water meters because old meters read inaccurately and the Township is experiencing a 31% water loss, which is more than the industry standard of 22%. The cost would be approximately \$235,000. The logistics of scheduling with the homeowners would need to be worked out, and evening and weekend work might be required. Vice President Jones stated that the Authority checks for leaks once a year, and they do a good job of monitoring major leaks, so they believe that is not the critical issue and it is the meters. Commissioner Darragh provided a spreadsheet from the engineer with the long range plan and how the meter replacement would impact future rate increase. \$250,000 of these funds were plugged into the 2019 closing cash balance to show the impact on potential rate increases. The intent is to minimize rate increases. Vice President Jones presented the idea of paying down the sewer debt; however, it might not impact rates.

ALEPPO TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY VACANCY:

Vice President Jones stated there has been one inquiry and one verbally committed expression of interest. Commission Darragh stated Dan O'Malley has been invited to attend the Legislative Meeting on December 16, 2019 to introduce himself and give his background.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Resident Joel Chandler, who lives on Ferndale Avenue, expressed his thanks to Manager Patterson and the Water Authority for quickly fixing the water leak on Weber. The water created a large rut in his driveway, and he appreciated that someone from the Authority was out the same day to fix it.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Jones at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Krecek
Township Secretary