

Evans City Borough Council Minutes
September 8, 2020

I. Call to Order/Pledge

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by President Cheri Deener-Kohan with the pledge of allegiance.

Prior to Roll Call, Robin Reppert was sworn in as Council Member by Mayor Dean Zinkhann.

II. Roll Call

Council Members Present:

Cheri Deener-Kohan
Norman Nelson
Rob Reppert
Brad Rubinosky
Diana Zoelle
Dean Zinkhann, Mayor

Others Present:

Elizabeth Crowley, Secretary

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Discussion Items

- a. Emlenton Borough: Diana Zoelle reported that Ben Gilberti suggested that we visit with Emlenton Borough. Emlenton was able to purchase their unused school building back for \$1 and turn it into a town center with businesses. A local oil company was able to step up and be the benefactor in the major running of the building. Diana and Beth will meet with Emlenton's Borough Manager at a later date to get ideas for Evans City.
- b. Housing Authority: A \$350,000 grant has been allocated by the state to replace the generator at President's Square. A new air-conditioner unit will need to be replaced at a later date. The community room in President's Square will be used by the library to show movies for the town.
- c. Code Enforcement: Craig Vickers is the head of a code enforcement agency that has officers in Jackson Twp. and Zelienople and would be available to enforce ordinances in Evans City as well. Cost of this service would be \$55/hr. If we had someone for 10 hours a week, it would cost \$29,000/year.
- d. Downtown Revitalization: 2 years ago, Cheri and Diana met with local businesses and residents to discuss and there was a lot of support for Economic Development and Revitalization. Diana, Beth, Neva and Mark Gordon met last week to discuss moving forward again. Proposals were asked for from HRG, DTRevitalization Group, and Gratis Connecting. HRG and DTR submitted proposals. Cheri Deener asked where the Comprehensive plan falls into this proposal? Diana announced that both companies have received copies of the current plan. HRG follows it closely, DTR seems to expand and allow for forward progress. Cheri called for a general consensus to move forward with updating the current comprehensive plan in which everyone was in agreement.
- e. One-Way Streets at the School: school backed out and no longer needs the street directions changed.
- f. EDCO Park: John Rodgers reported that the pool had a successful season this year. Fundraiser is coming up in November. Rob Reppert asked if any events were cancelled due to Covid? John responded that there were not very many night swims scheduled, all events were able to be socially distant. Diana Zoelle suggested council work toward giving 1 mil of taxes to the Park Authority to stabilize the budget while the borough is looking for grants and loans.
- g. Skid-Loader: The skid-loader has been delivered to rent for free for a week. Will try to use it for ditching while we have it. The company who is selling it gave us a proposal in case we would like to

purchase it at a later date which includes the trade in of the John Deere Backhoe. The purchase would be through a state contract, so bidding doesn't need to happen.

V. Official Actions

- a. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 3rd meeting were motioned for approval by Diana Zoelle, second by Brad Rubinosky. Vote 5-0. The minutes of the August 20th meeting were motioned for approval by Diana Zoelle, second by Cheri Deener. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.
- b. Payment of the Expenses: Norm Nelson motioned to approve the payment of expenses, second by Diana Zoelle. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.
- c. Closing of Streets for Library Movie Night: Rob Reppert made the motion to close S. Jackson St between Washington and S. Jefferson Sts on Friday, September 11, with a rain date on September 12, second by Norm Nelson. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.
- d. Burn Ban: Norm Nelson motioned to lift the burn ban in Evans City effective immediately, second by Brad Rubinosky. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.
- e. Christmas Decorating: Diana Zoelle motioned to begin decorating for Christmas the week of November 16, and taking down decorations the week of January 4, 2021, second by Brad Rubinosky. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.
- f. Bruce and Merrilees Contract: Norm Nelson motioned to sign the contract from Oct 1, 2020-Dec 31, 2021, second by Diana Zoelle. Roll Call vote as follows: Rubinosky – yes; Reppert – yes; Deener – yes; Nelson – yes; Zoelle – yes. Motion passed.
- g. 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation to Pension: Beth Crowley certified to the board the Minimum Municipal Obligation to Pension for 2021. Motion to accept the certification made by Rob Reppert, second by Norm Nelson. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.
- h. Electric & Gas Contract: Rob Reppert motioned to move our energy contract to Total Energy Resources, second by Norm Nelson. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.
- i. PennDOT Winter Maintenance Agreement: Norm Nelson motioned to sign the 5-year contract where PennDOT will reimburse us for the plowing of state roads, second by Rob Reppert. The resolution for the same was motioned by Norm Nelson, second by Diana Zoelle. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.
- j. Public Works Management Class Webinar in September: Brad Rubinosky motioned to allow Beth to take a webinar for Public Works Management for 6 credits towards Certified Borough Officials Course, second by Rob Reppert. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.
- h. Part-Time Worker: Norm Nelson motioned to re-advertise the part-time public works position, second by Brad Rubinosky. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.
- i. Selling of Water Parts: Norm Nelson motioned to sell the unwanted valves and fittings to another municipality, second by Diana Zoelle. Vote 5-0. Motion Passed.

VI. Reports:

- a. Mayor: Painted benches at the new site for the Veteran's Memorial. Police department had 101 service calls from Seven Fields, 51 from Evans City. A new full-time police officer was hired. A new parade route will need to be mapped due to weight limits on the bridge. The Halloween Parade will be cancelled this year due to Covid-19. Trick-or-Treat will continue as planned.
- b. Solicitor: absent.
- c. Committees:
 - (1) HR: An interview was conducted from the list of applicants. Most applicants lived too far away, wanted full-time, or had found other work. The applicant interviewed didn't have reliable transportation. Norm and Brad would like to re-advertise the position. Cheri suggested calling the Vo-Tech.
 - (2) Public Works: The ECWSA took as many of the valves and fittings for the water system as they needed, but there are still some left over. Norm would like to sell these to another municipality who may be able to use them. Also, Norm and Jack met the resident, Ms. Pfaffle, who attended a

prior meeting asking about the handicapped parking spot. They switched the parking meters so that the spot in front of her sister's house is marked as handicapped.

- d. President: The 2020 Evans City Census rate is at 75.2%. Cheri will call the election Bureau to see where voting will be held for this election. The budget timeline is in place. Negotiations are in place for the Public Works Crew. Norm announced that the finance committee will start meeting to set up the 2021 budget. Future meetings were discussed. October's meeting will be held at the park again and weather dependent in November. Due to inclement weather, meetings will be held via Zoom with public included. Mayor Zinkhann suggested holding meetings at the ECWSA garage. Cheri will look into that.

VII. **New/Unfinished Business**

Rob Reppert asked about changing the School Bus Route on First, Second, and Third Streets so the students don't have to wait on Washington. Norm will go with him to speak with the bus garage.

Beth Crowley shared the new legislation going through State Senate to require posting of the Municipal agendas at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting. She would like, going forward, to have all agenda items submitted to her by the last Monday of the month.

VIII. **Adjournment**

Rob Reppert motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm, second by Diana Zoelle. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned.

Elizabeth Crowley
Secretary-Treasurer