

**LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mayor Bartels called to order the Regular Meeting of Latrobe City Council at 6:34 P.M.

Mayor Bartels informed all that an Executive Session was held to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

Mayor Bartels asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bartels asked all for a moment of silence.

The City Secretary read Roll Call:

Deputy Mayor Ralph Jenko – present

Jim Kelley – present

Ann Amatucci – present

Bridget DiVittis – absent

William Yuhaniak – present

Dawn Vavick - present

Mayor Eric Bartels – present

Also present were the following: Lee Demosky, Solicitor; Richard Bosco, Police Chief; John Brasile, Fire Chief; Scott Wajdic, Public Works Director; Terry Carcella, City Manager; Dan Weimer, Code/Zoning Officer.

Mayor Bartels started the Public Hearing regarding Comcast and asked for public comments.

No public comment regarding Comcast.

Mayor Bartels moved into the Regular Meeting of Latrobe City Council.

Ms. Vavick moved to approve the meeting minutes for January 22, 2024, seconded by Mr. Yuhaniak. All in favor. Approved 6-0.

Mr. Kelley moved to approve the fiscal department reports and payroll for the month of January 2024, seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. All in favor. Approved 6-0.

CITIZENS' REQUEST (related to agenda)

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Bartels, Jenko, and Kelley - No report.

Public Safety and Fire Committee – Kelley, Vavick - No report.

Public Works Committee – DiVittis, Vavick – No report.

Personnel Committee – Bartels and Jenko – No report.

Renovation Committee – Jenko, Yuhaniak, Amatucci – Mr. Yuhaniak stated the renovations are 75% done. Next month we will have a more detailed report.

Events Committee – Amatucci, Yuhaniak, Vavick – Ms. Vavick reported that on February 10, 2024, the Cupid

Shuffle Race was hosted at the stadium with a few hundred participants. Greater Latrobe Parks & Recreation also hosted a Daddy / Daughter dance on February 10, 2024, with nearly two hundred Dad's and little girls. March 2, 2024, Greater Latrobe Parks & Recreation will be hosting Comedy Night at Huber Hall.

GLSD Student Showcase Committee – Mayor Bartels, DiVittis – Mayor Bartels stated that the committee will not have anything until late Spring.

BOARD AND AUTHORITY REPORTS

Library – No report.

Parks & Recreation – No report.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS FROM FEBRUARY 2024

Treasurer's Report See attachment "A"

Police Report See attachment "B"

Public Works Report See attachment "C"

Fire Report See attachment "D"

Code Report See attachment "E"

Tax Collector's Report See attachment "F"

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Department

Public Works Director, Scott Wajdic – Scott Wajdic reported that with the nice weather the street sweeper has been out cleaning the leaves that have blown onto the street and a few residents called regarding missed leaf bags. Public Works are still trying to get the holiday banners down. Also with the nice weather, the department is doing some general cleanup. The ground is saturated, and some street signs are leaning, we are trying to get those fixed. Public Works is ready for the impending snowstorm, should we get the snow.

Police Department

Police Chief, Richard Bosco – Chief Bosco reported that the police department is currently taking applications for a full-time police officer. The application process will be open until February 22, 2024. The physical agility test will be on March 8, 2024, and the written test will be held on March 9, 2024, to fulfill our Civil Service obligation to hire. Also, all fleet vehicles have been maintained by our city maintenance garage, the fleet is in good working order and are safe and functional.

The department has had an uptick in several areas, such as domestic violence, overdose, and juvenile crimes. The domestic violence situations have been handled accordingly. The overdose and Narcan administration situation left us responding to multiple calls. Officers saved all but one (1) person. The department officers are continually being trained. The department has been distributing more Narcan to family members and to the addicted individual's support care.

Increased juvenile related crimes have been unprecedented with the onset of good weather. In the last couple of weeks, there has been more juvenile activity on the street. Everything that has been brought to the attention of the department has been dealt with appropriately. One (1) incident, charges are pending where juveniles were trying to sell marijuana vape cartridges, and some older individuals were trying to rip off the juveniles by using counterfeit money. Everyone was successfully identified, and the department is in the process of bringing formal charges.

Fire Department

Fire Chief, John Brasile – Chief Brasile reported that the fire department responded to eighty-one (81) calls that were mostly storm related. The chief thanked public works for helping with the downed trees from the result of the storm. Chief Brasile stated that he had some inquiries regarding the Knox Boxes. Also, the department is applying for a regional radio grant for new handheld radios through assistance of Fire Fighter’s grant.

Co. #3 spent twenty thousand (\$20k) dollars of their own money, received by fundraisers for new lighting and flooring. Chief Brasile thanked Co. #3 for keeping up with the maintenance and by installing LED lighting which will save on electricity.

Code/Zoning Department

Code Enforcement Officer, Dan Weimer – Mr. Weimer reported for the month of January 2024, the code office had one (1) new building permit, three (3) repair permits, two (2) zoning letters, and five (5) zoning permits. Mr. Weimer also stated that he had one hundred five (105) calls, ten (10) complaints, two (2) QC tickets issued, with ten (10) pending corrections from previous months.

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION

Motion to Seek Bids for Avenue D Traffic Signal Replacement. This is a motion to seek bids for Avenue D traffic signal and placement. This is a ward of money the city received from the state last year. It is currently in the planning stage with our engineers. Mr. Carcella explained to the city council that the maintenance agreement and the motion go hand in hand. The agreement will include all city traffic lights. Mayor Bartels asked, with the current resolution, (2024-08) do we still approve future traffic signal replacements, or do they automatically go through? Mr. Carcella explained that the current resolution is just for the Avenue D signal. The ARLE grant will be used for the 981 signal and the city is looking into getting new flashers for the school. Mr. Carcella and Mr. Wajdic met with the engineers; Gibson-Thomas was instructed to start the application process for the ARLE grant. Mr. Kelley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2024-08

Resolution for Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with PennDOT. Mr. Yuhaniak made a motion seconded by Ms. Vavick. No discussion. Vote 6-0.

MOTION

Motion to Purchase a Pick-Up Truck for Public Works. Mr. Carcella stated that public works needs to replace Truck #5. The truck does not have a lot of miles on it. The truck that we are replacing is rusting and becoming non-functional. The Costars price from Shorkey Auto Group is \$62,875.93 which includes the liftgate, lightbar and demographics that would be needed. Mr. Carcella explained that it is hard finding a used vehicle with the liftgate attached. Mr. Kelley made a motion seconded by Mr. Yuhaniak. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION

Motion to Seek Bids for 2024 Road Maintenance and Paving. Mr. Carcella had given the city council a rough draft of the paving project. The city is looking to have bids turned in by March 25, 2024, and awarding at the April meeting. The city has some alleys that are not Liquid Fuels reimbursable, so we will be using the monies from the gas company to repair those. We would like to start early spring instead of late summer for the paving project. Mr. Jenko made a motion seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2024-09

Resolution to Appoint Captain Position in Latrobe Police Department. Solicitor Lee Demosky explained that he was asked by the city council to write an ordinance for consideration by council. If the council passes the resolution, it would be conditional approval based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement approving and signing a Memorandum of Understanding that will be an exhibit through the resolution.

Mayor Bartels added that the city has a history of pursuing this and it was always put on the back burner. The City of Latrobe has a desire for a clear chain of command. Mrs. Amatucci added that as a council member, she is excited about the work that is being done and moving forward with the chain of command. Mr. Yuhaniak made a recommendation to appoint Robert Daerr to the position of captain seconded by Mr. Kelley. Vote 6-0.

Robert Daerr introduced himself to the public. Rob has been with the Latrobe Police Department since 2015. He was also the School Resource Officer for the Greater Latrobe School District. Rob thanked everyone for having the confidence to appoint him to this position. This position will take effect March 1, 2024.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2024-10

Resolution to Remove Drug Box Deposit Box from City Administration Building. Solicitor Lee Demosky reminded the council that approximately a month ago the chief of police did a presentation and recommended that the drug box be removed. The resolution was written based on the chief's statements regarding issues with safety and the money that the city would need to invest to make a more secure evidence area for the box. The solicitor said that the hospital is located a short distance from the municipal building making it an available facility for the drop off of old medicine. The chief commented that he will be putting up a sign informing everyone of this decision and will give a 30-day grace period. The chief reached out to Rite Aid, and they will take the drugs minus inhalers, but he will get confirmation on that and also find out where the box is located in the hospital. Mrs. Amatucci made a motion seconded by Ms. Vavick. Vote 6-0.

ORDINANCE 2024-02

Ordinance to Amend City Code 3-31 Civil Service Commission. Mr. Demosky reminded council that at the January 22, 2024, meeting they heard testimony supporting the chief of police position to augment our current Civil Service Commission to include the formation of a police advisory commission. The commission would have the authority to augment the Civil Service Commission and provide mandates of standards for municipal police officers training and commission. The hearing was held and is now closed, so the city council can now enact the ordinance which was properly advertised by the city administration. The city currently has regulations on the books. Once the police advisory commission is put into place, the regulations will be reviewed and upgraded. Mr. Kelley made a motion seconded by Mr. Jenko. Vote 6-0.

MOTION

Motion to Sell or Trade Two Dodge Police Units. Mr. Carcella explained that the city currently has two (2) Dodge vehicles that he would like to put on Municibid or trade. He has a solid trade on item B-4 in the packets of \$14k dollars. Municibid ends tomorrow morning, and he will know whether they have sold at that time. Mr. Yuhaniak made a motion seconded by Mr. Jenko. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION

Motion to Purchase a 2023 Ford Explorer using ARPA Funds. Mr. Carcella informed the council that The price for the Ford Explorer is \$40,064.00, which includes the sale of the two cars when bid on or traded and the price for upfitting the vehicle. Mr. Kelley made a motion seconded by Mr. Yuhaniak. Motion carried 6-0.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2024-11

Resolution to make Appointment to Civil Service Commission. Mr. Demosky said that the city administration asked him to prepare a resolution for appointment to the Civil Service Commission. City administration provided Mr. Demosky with the name of Judith Maher. Ms. Vavick added that she knows the Maher family, and Mrs. Maher is a very smart and knowledgeable woman. Mrs. Amatucci made a motion seconded by Ms. Vavick. Motion carried 6-0.

NEW / UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

Solicitor's Report – No report.

CITIZEN'S REQUEST

Pat Mailey from 112 Pershing Circle, Latrobe, gave some background information on the new owners of Mailey's Bakery. The restaurant will be opening in April 2024, it will be a farm to table restaurant with an extensive menu and promises to be quite a success. Mr. Mailey mentioned some concerns regarding the surrounding buildings and the evening activity, but he was assured by the Mayor that the town is very safe, and the police department is out doing their due diligence.

Ryan Jones of 126 Joanne Drive questioned the council why alleyways are being paved and his street is not. Mr. Wajdic said that the alleys are not being prioritized, but some places do not have front street parking and the city forced some residents to park in the rear of their properties. Mr. Wajdic also commented that the paving list is not out yet.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Carcella said that February 26, 2024, is the next agenda meeting and he intends to have a discussion with the council regarding the HVAC upgrades and contract proposal. Mr. Carcella stated that we cannot take any action at this time because we are waiting for a grant. Mr. Carcella also wants to talk about sanitation bids and the study. He is expecting the consultant with the STMP program to come next week and will comment accordingly.

Regarding the 1701 Jefferson Street project, Mr. Carcella is hoping by the agenda meeting that he will have documentation to prepare the sub-division, in order to get that property turned over to a third part for an asking price of \$5k dollars and make it habitable for a new owner.

Mayor's Report

No report.

The Regular Meeting of the Council adjourned at 7:28 P.M with a motion by Mr. Yuhaniak seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. All in favor. Motion Carried 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Meholic, City Secretary