

**LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY OCTOBER 10, 2023
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mayor Bartels called to order the Regular Meeting of Latrobe City Council at 6:55 P.M.

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

Mayor Bartels asked all for a moment of silence.

The City Manager read Roll Call:

Deputy Mayor Ralph Jenko – present

Robert Forish – present

Jim Kelley – present

Ann Amatucci – absent

Bridget DiVittis – present

William Yuhaniak – present

Mayor Eric Bartels – present

Also present were the following: Lee Demosky, Solicitor; John Brasile, Fire Chief; Scott Wajdic, Public Works Director; Terry Carcella, City Manager.

Mr. Forish moved to approve the September 11, 2023 regular meeting minutes seconded by Mr. Jenko. Approved 6-0.

Mr. Yuhaniak moved to approve the paid bills/payroll for September 2023 seconded by Mr. Kelley. Approved 6-0.

CITIZENS' REQUEST (related to agenda)

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Public Safety and Fire Committee – Forish, Kelley – Ladder truck was tested.

Public Works Committee – Forish, DiVittis – No report.

Personnel Committee – Bartels, Jenko – No report.

Renovation Committee – Jenko, Yuhaniak – No report.

Events Committee – Mrs. Amatucci – Mayor Bartels spoke for Mrs. Amatucci. A free parking discussion is being put on the agenda so council can decide where the free parking should be.

GLSD Student Showcase Committee – Mayor Bartels – Mayor Bartels will be reaching out to Dr. Benning for the awarding in December.

BOARD AND AUTHORITY REPORTS

LMA – No Report.

Library – Mrs. DiVittis reported that the Library is working on their budget, while donations are still coming in. Renovations are still on hold for now until the budget is set.

Parks & Recreation – Mayor Bartels said they are working on the budget. When Unity Township and the City of Latrobe separated a few years back, the structure had changed. Then when they reunited a again, Unity Township and the City of Latrobe are contributing significantly less than 10 years ago.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS FROM SEPTEMBER 2023

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 – Mr. Wajdic reported that the Courtyard Plaza is finally completed. The schedule for leaf collection begins October 15, 2023. The gas company is moving from Ligonier Street to Lincoln and Fairmont Streets to replace more gas lines. The gas company will be at Josephine Street to fix the patch properly by Friday. The Veteran's banners will be coming down after Veteran's day to put up the holiday banners. The EV chargers are ready as soon as the website is up and running.

Police Department

Police Chief, Richard Bosco – Det./Sgt. Michael Wigand spoke for Chief Bosco in his absence. Det./Sgt. Wigand reported; the month started off busy. The department was dispatched through the hospital for a male with a gunshot wound to the abdomen. Detectives from our office worked with the Sheriff's Department and with the County Detectives Bureau to determine the location and all parties involved. Within 4 days the shooter was identified and charged with attempted homicide.

The department hosted a search and seizure class presented by the Institute for Law Enforcement Education which was attended by departments located throughout Western PA. Officers from our department attended additional training including Defensive Tactics and Commercial Vehicle sessions, new record management training, which involved all officers and administration, with a go live date of November 7, 2023.

With the help of PA Dept. of Military Affairs and the Latrobe Task Force, we destroyed 6.2 pounds of prescription medication, 3.4 pounds of Methamphetamine, 9.2 pounds of Heroin, and 72.4 pounds of Marijuana. For the month of September 22 traffic citations were issued, 8 non-traffic citations, and 336 total calls of service, bringing the year-to-date total to 3,406. 4 arrest warrants were served, and 3 search warrants were served in conjunction with criminal automotive investigations. We had 2 overdose investigations this month with one being a fatality. Year to date criminal arrests bring the total to 97.

Fire Department

Fire Chief, John Brasile – Chief Brasile reported that the month of September was slow, with a busy month of October. Fire Prevention was pushed back a week. Ground ladders were tested, and this is the 5-year non-destructive test for the Ladder truck. The truck will be inspected from nut to bolt to make sure there aren't any structural cracks in the frame and body. Central will host around 100 children for Fire Prevention week,

Wednesday the 18th, the Chief will be at LES from 9am to the end of class. Kinder Schull will be on Thursday the 19th. After that we have Trick or Treat, Veteran's Day parade, Turkey Trot and Holly Jolly Christmas that will take us to the end of the year.

Code/Zoning Department

Code Enforcement Officer, James Nieusma – Mr. Carcella reported for Mr. Weimer in his absence. On September 21st and 22nd, the city did a blitz of 4 structures within the city. This required assistance from the Fire Chief, the Code Officer, and the Police Chief to make sure we were protected. The first 3 structures that we looked at were up on Chestnut Street, they had a total of 4 violations, and a re-inspection was done on those properties.

The other structure was 333 Main Street which had a little over 100 violations that are serious. We have had 2 re-inspections already and are having another one within the next 10 days. The City of Latrobe is making sure that the health, safety, and welfare of the residents were protected with what was found. The owner is working with us and correcting things at this present time. These violations are serious. Mr. Carcella mentioned that this was good training for the new Code Officer with great assistance from the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief. We are going to make sure that the residents have proper living conditions by looking at the code under Property Management. The fire doors are deficient, they were propped open and broken. The City of Latrobe is looking at this and seeing that the larger units are the most problematic versus the single units.

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION

Motion to approve Public Works Mechanic / CDL position. The recommendation comes from the staff, the wage for this position will be set at \$26.75/hour. This position will be full-time with full benefits. This will bring the staff to 8 until one retires. Mr. Herpak lives outside of the 10-mile radius, and the union has agreed and made an exception for this position. The position will be filled pending physical and drug screening. Motion was made by Mr. Forish seconded by Mrs. DiVittis. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION

Motion to advertise for Sanitation Collections Personnel. This is just to advertise the possibility that the city will employ them with a starting rate of \$28/hour for the new position and a new classification. This position will be a non-CDL position, which will involve manual labor tossing trash bags and operating a non-CDL truck. Mayor Bartels asked if we had an idea of how much we would be able to get done in a single day, Mr. Carcella replied that it would depend on the size of the route and that 2 people would be on the truck. Mrs. DiVittis asked if when the workers are finished, they can help Scott at the transfer station and Mr. Carcella replied yes. Any one of the public works employees can fill in when trash collectors are using a vacation, personal, or sick day, because there is no light duty. This would be an alternate schedule so they can start collection at 6 a.m. This is a work in progress, but we are very confident. The motion was made by Mr. Kelley seconded by Mr. Forish. Motion carries 6-0.

MOTION

Motion to seek an RFP for 2023 model year Trash Collection Vehicle. Mr. Carcella reported that the collection would start January 1, 2024, so we would have to have the truck and employees in place by mid-December. Motion was made by Mr. Yuhaniak seconded by Mr. Forish. Motion carries 6-0.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Resolution to Contract with Cohen Law Group on Cable Franchise Contract Renewal. Mr. Carcella said that the contract renewal also includes an audit. This is a 10-year agreement. Mr. Carcella recommended that we do the audit and start negotiations for a new contract that ends in 2024. Mr. Kelley made a motion seconded by Mr. Forish. Vote 6-0.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCE 2023-3

Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map. Mr. Kelley made a motion seconded by Mrs. DiVittis. No discussion. Vote 6-0.

NEW / UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. DiVittis questioned who decides what kind of business can go into the store fronts in the city. Mr. Demosky explained in detail, but in the end the Zoning Hearing Board makes that decision.

Mayor Bartels had a request from Parks and Recreation asking Public Works to continue to plow the loop at Legion Keener.

Solicitor's Report – No report.

CITIZEN'S REQUEST

None.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Carcella said that health care costs have increased by 10.75% with our current vendor. He has been working on getting 3 different quotes. If the cost of the increase is more than 10%, the city can open negotiations to seek another vendor or raise the contribution amount. Mr. Jenko agreed to sit on the committee. Mr. Carcella said that this is all part of the budget process this time of year.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Bartels reminded all the that the Agenda Session will be moved to October 24th, because the city will be participating in the Chamber of Commerce event.

Before the next meeting we have Veteran's Day coming up and the parade was moved to Saturday, November 11th which may make it easier for people to come out and support our Veterans.

The Regular Meeting of Council adjourned at 7:22 P.M with a motion by Mr. Forish seconded by Mr. Yuhaniak. All in favor 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Meholic, City Secretary