

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

February 1, 2017

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Council President Bogan Goughler opened the meeting at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted there will be no hurtful or harmful speech allowed.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (American Flag)

Council President Goughler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present at the meeting were Council members Bogan Goughler, Howard Barger, John McClelland and Mayor Jeffrey MacKenzie. Council Members Robert Resinger and Larry Baughman were excused. Also present were Borough Solicitor Brian Spaid and Chief Carlson.

V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA

VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*limited to 3 minutes each*)

- A. Mike Garbacz wanted to thank Council for meeting with the fire departments. Mr. Garbacz also presented Council with Act 172, which provides a tax break to those who volunteer at the fire department(s). Mr. Garbacz also questioned why a loan was taken out to purchase a dump truck and recommended the Borough consider purchasing used Government equipment. Mr. Sporer said the Borough did not have the funds at the time to purchase the vehicle outright and the interest rate was low at the time.
- B. Charlie McDaniel updated Council that the lights have begun to be installed in Sugarcreek Village and he wanted to thank Council for installing the lights. Mr. McDaniel also stated he would not oppose a street light tax for Sugarcreek Village.
- C. Jeremy Simcheck added that the fund request submitted in the previous meeting would be used for debt reduction purposes. He also suggested starting a committee to aid in the inception and implementation of Act 172.
- D. Linda Turner express gratitude for what Lt. Ashbaugh did for his cousin in naming him an Honorary Police Officer for the day. Ms. Turner questioned why another full – time officer could not be hired, especially since there was a tax increase. Mr. Goughler stated the funds are not available and the millage increase was to maintain the department as is.
- E. Ryan Ashbaugh questioned why another full – time officer cannot be hired. Lt. Ashbaugh stated the Union has run the numbers and they feel there are enough funds in the Police budget to hire Officer Highfield as full – time. Lt. Ashbaugh asked for clarification in the numbers.
- F. Luke Behe wanted to express his gratitude for what the Police Department did for Lt. Ashbaugh's cousin.

VIII. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. No report.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Maintenance Foreman:
 - 1. No report.
- B. Police Chief:
 - 1. Chief Carlson presented Council with a written report.
- C. Administrator/Special Projects:
 - 1. No report.
- D. Zoning Officer:
 - 1. No report.
- E. CDBG Administrator:
 - 1. No report.

- F. Solicitor:
1. Mr. Spaid said he received a correspondence from Mike Garbacz in regards to Act 172, which gives volunteers up to a 20% tax credit on their Real Estate taxes and/or Earned Income Tax credit. This would be up to the discretion of the Council and the Council would have to pass an ordinance. The Council and the fire departments would also have to determine how to indicate who is an active member/volunteer. Mr. Spaid recommended waiting until the other two (2) Council members are present to discuss this issue further.

X. COUNCIL REPORT

- A. Howard Barger stated the lights in Sugarcreek Village are installed and operational.
- B. Motion by John McClelland, being duly seconded by Howard Barger to approve the issuance of the funds to Rocky Grove and Reno V.F.D. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Motion by Howard Barger, being duly seconded by John McClelland to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2017 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Motion by John McClelland, being duly seconded by Howard Barger to approve the payment of bills/issuance of checks as presented by the Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

XV. CORRESPONDENCE

XVI. BOARD OF APPEALS

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council recessed at 7:17 pm for an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege of information or confidentiality protected by the law and any action to follow. The meeting was reconvened at 7:36 pm.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS CON'T.

- A. Motion by John McClelland, being duly seconded by Howard Barger to approve Dustin Vincent as an intern in the Administrative Office for 240 hours and to be paid minimum wage. Motion carried unanimously.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Motion by John McClelland, being duly seconded by Howard Barger to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

Bogan Goughler, Council President