

**Watson town Borough  
Council Meeting  
December 11, 2023**

**OPENING:** The December 8, 2023 Watson town Borough Council Meeting began at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at 318 Main Street, Watson town. Mayor Russell McClintock gave the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Greg Miller, Vice President Dan Folk, Todd Moyer, Ralph Young, Roy Smedley, Fred Merrill, Mayor Russell McClintock, Chief of Police Chris Snyder, Solicitor Jon DeWald, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Eric Dandes of the Daily Item, Janet Rump, Bernadette Albertson, Vera Young, Randy Minium, Virginia Wirth and Brent Frey

**APPROVAL Of MINUTES:** Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Fred Merrill to approve November’s meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Merrill	- yes	Smedley	- yes
Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor motion carried.

**BILLS & TRANSFERS:** Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Roy Smedley to approve December’s bills and transfers in the amount of \$481,793.17. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Smedley	- yes	Merrill	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**VISITORS:** none

**COMMITTEES:**

**FINANCE:** nothing at this time

**EMA:** nothing at this time

**CEMETERY:** Jay spoke briefly about Wreaths Across America – 638 wreaths are being placed in our cemetery – volunteers are needed – everyone is gathering at noon in the new cemetery.

**ELECTRIC:** nothing at this time

**INSURANCE:** nothing at this time; Jay spoke about EHD’s Worker’s Compensation renewal with reduced rates and better rebates

**PARKS:** Roy Smedley gave a success summary on the Winter Wonderland held last weekend; he thanked the Chief, Public Works and Council for their support and the event ended above and beyond anything they could have expected.

**PERSONNEL:** nothing at this time

**PROTECTION  
To PERSONS &  
PROPERTY:** nothing at this time

**STREETS &  
HIGHWAYS:** Jay spoke of the recent sale of public works equipment on Municibid.

**REFUSE:** nothing at this time

**ORDINANCE  
2023-03:** Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Fred Merrill to approve Ordinance 2023-03 setting the 2024 millage rate at 21.25 mills. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Smedley	- yes	Merrill	- yes
Folk	- yes	Young	- no

Motion carried by majority.

**2024 BUDGET:** Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve of the 2024 Budget. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Smedley	- yes	Merrill	- yes
Folk	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**LIBRARY  
DONATION:**

Fred Merrill made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve a \$8000.00 donation to Montgomery House Library. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Merrill	- yes	Smedley	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS  
UNION  
AGREEMENT:**

Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Public Works Union effective 2024-2026. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Merrill	- yes	Smedley	- yes
Young	- yes	Folk	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**O'BRIEN  
RESIGNED:**

Fred Merrill made a motion, seconded by Roy Smedley to accept the resignation of probationary police officer Caitlyn O'Brien. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Merrill	- yes	Smedley	- yes
Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**2024  
MEETING  
SCHEDULE:**

Dan Folk made motion, seconded by Fred Merrill to advertise the 2024 Meeting Schedule. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Smedley	- yes	Merrill	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**SALARY INCREASES:**

Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk approving salary increases for Lisa and Brendi. They are not covered by Collective Bargaining Agreement but their increases are the same as Public Works. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Smedley	- yes	Merrill	- yes
Folk	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**GIFT CARDS:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Roy Smedley to approve the purchase of gift card for employees for Christmas. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Smedley	- yes	Merrill	- yes
Folk	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**PELRAS CONFERENCE:**

Fred Merrill made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve Jay's attendance to the 2024 PELRAS Conference – March 13-15, 2024. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Merrill	- yes	Smedley	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**LEHIGH ENGINEERING RETAINED:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve retaining Lehigh Engineering as Code Enforcement & Building Inspectors for the Borough. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Merrill	- yes	Smedley	- yes
Young	- yes	Folk	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**RALPH HUMMEL RETAINED:**

Roy Smedley made a motion, seconded by Todd Moyer to approve retaining Ralph Hummel as Sewage Enforcement Officer for the Borough. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Merrill	- yes	Smedley	- yes
Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**BRIAN  
HARRISON  
RE-APPOINTED:**

Fred Merrill made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to re-appoint Brian Harrison to the Civil Service Commission. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Folk	- yes
Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Smedley	- yes	Merrill	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**LINDA  
DAUBERT  
RE-APPOINTED:**

Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Fred Merrill to re-appoint Linda Daubert to the Zoning Hearing Board. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Moyer	- yes	Miller	- yes
Smedley	- yes	Merrill	- yes
Folk	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**JILLIAN  
YEVICS  
RE-APPOINTED:**

Roy Smedley made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to re-appoint Jillian Yevics to the Planning Commission. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Smedley	- yes	Merrill	- yes
Folk	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**SARAH HANNA  
RE-APPOINTED:**

Todd Moyer made a motion, seconded by Fred Merrill to re-appoint Sarah Hanna to the Planning Commission. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Moyer	- yes
Merrill	- yes	Smedley	- yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

**MAYOR:** Mayor Russell McClintock bid everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**POLICE:** written

**FIRE &  
AMBULANCE:** written

**CODE  
ENFORCEMENT:** written

**SOLICITOR:** nothing to add

**BOROUGH  
MANAGER:** written; Jay mentioned tonight's meeting as Ralph Young's last as he is retiring from Borough Council.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** written; Brent Frey spoke briefly about scheduled power outages due to upgrades by Comcast.

**SECRETARY:** Brendi read a thank you from Brett Moyer regarding Winter Wonderland; she also mentioned 156 kids are enrolled in the Chief Carl Reed Christmas Program so far.

**720 ASH STREET:** Jay said the Borough is set to close on the conservatorship for 720 Ash Street on Friday, December 8, 2023.

**NO WORKSHOP:** Greg Miller mentioned there is no Committee Workshop being held this month because of Christmas.

**FYI's:** Wreaths Across America – Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> @ noon  
Borough Office closed – December 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Reorganization meeting – January 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7 pm

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before Council; the meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer