

Council Meeting  
September 13, 2021

Turtle Creek Borough regular monthly Council Meeting, held on September 13, 2021, was called to order by President Nick Bianchi who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

President Bianchi – present	Mr. Osman -- present
Mr. Estocin – absent	Mr. Spencer – present
Ms. Henkel – present	Mrs. Tinsley -- present
Mr. Nolan – present	Mayor Kelley – absent
Solicitor – present	

**Motion**

Ms. Henkel, Mr. Spencer authorizing Council to enter into a Public Hearing for StormWater Management. Motion carried.

The Head Engineer for the MS4 Program from Glenn Engineering came to give the annual status update on the MS4 Sewer Project.

**Motion**

Mr. Osman, Mrs. Tinsley authorizing Council to exit the Public Hearing and return to the regular September 13, 2021 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

**Approval of the August minutes:**

Correction: Page 3 - change from 20 day clause to 30 day clause  
Page 4 - change from Mute Point to Moot Point (resident said mute point but the correct phrase is moot point.)

### **Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Mr. Osman approving the August 2021 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

### **Correspondence:**

The Turtle Creek Watershed Association is holding its annual Rubber Duck Race at Irwin Park on September 25, 2021 at 12:30pm. Cost per duck is \$5.

A glass recycling bin will be placed in the Boyce Park Ski Lodge parking lot September 18 - 23 from 7am until sundown.

\* President Bianchi asked Chief McCaul to give an update on the incidents on the 1400 block of Maple Avenue.

Chief McCaul stated that the citizens concern is at 1407 Maple Avenue. Since 2018 there have been 13 calls to that address. 10 were domestic disputes between family members and 3 were shots fired. One from an incident that began in North Versailles, one where the victim ran to that address, not knowing who they were, because there was an open garage, and one being a single gunshot wound that is still under investigation, however, it is believed to be self-inflicted. He assured the residents that they are doing everything they can.

\*Question: Is it the owner or tenant that lives there?

\*Answer: Tenant

### **Citizens Reports:**

Anthony Klimko - resident of 103 Kenyon Street stated that he was here about the letter he received from the Borough stating there have been complaints regarding a chicken coop and chickens running loose from his property. He asked Council for clarification of the letter.

President Bianchi stated that Mr. Evashavic will explain.

Mr. Evashavic stated that it is his understanding that Mr. Klimko has 3 chicken coops on his property. Under the Borough Ordinance 1072,

the Borough Zoning Ordinance, he is required to get a building permit, and/or a change permit.

The second issue is the chickens in the road and leaving Mr. Klimko's property and going to other properties. This is a violation of Ordinance 1079, which addresses all animals. You must keep the chickens on your property and under control.

President Bianchi asked Mr. Klimko to look at the Ordinances Mr. Evashavic stated, and we will go from there.

Joe Sauter – resident of 1620 Larch Street stated that we have bigger issues other than chickens, like cats and rats. He also stated that the dump is infested with mosquitos and the Co-Op has racoons.

President Bianchi stated that we do not own the dump, the Co-Op is its own entity, and that there has been a complaint filed and we are dealing with that.

Lori Klimko - resident of 103 Kenyon Street wanted to thank Ms. Henkel for her help with the chicken problem.

Louis Bell - resident of 428 Church Street stated that he has filed 2 complaints about the grass at 426 Church Street and nothing has happened.

Chief McCaul stated that citations have been issued.

President Bianchi stated that when a complaint is filed with the Magistrate, it is up to the Magistrate to notify and serve the property owner. He suggested that Mr. Bell goes to the Magistrates office and ask him what the status is. We did what we could, now it is up to him.

Beth Hamill – resident of 1413 Maple Avenue thanked Council for putting up the basketball hoops at Hamilton Park.

Ms. Hamill stated that the residents of the 1400 block of Maple Avenue are concerned about the ongoing violence and were supposed to come to the Council Meeting but did not. She asked what she could tell them.

President Bianchi stated that she should tell them what Chief McCaul said in his statement.

Lynn McClelland - resident of 301 Cunningham Road asked if the Borough could set up a form to put into the lease of renters, and is

there anything Council can do when it comes to endangering the neighborhood.

Mr. Evashavic - stated that Council cannot tell you what to put in a lease, and any criminal matters must be handled by the Police. Council does not control criminal matters, only civil matters.

Chris Moreno - resident of Chestnut Street asked Mr. Laurito if he could come up and put black-top in the holes on Chestnut Street.

Mr. Laurito stated that he has been working on it.

Ms. Moreno asked Council if they would consider having a day to get rid of hard to dispose of items.

President Bianchi stated that there are programs out there and they would look into it.

Mrs. Tinsley stated that we joined Connect and they have a recycling committee and that something is in the works.

Ron Gary - resident of 1208 Chestnut Street stated that the only catch basins are at the end of the street and with all the rain they have had lately, the water has been causing issues where they did the landslide work.

President Bianchi stated that Ms. Henkel and the Borough Engineer have already been up there.

Mr. Gary also stated that since the stadium has been in use again, it is a mess. He asked if Council could contact the school.

President Bianchi said they would notify the school.

Jim Currie - resident of 608 Locust Street stated that since we know where all the problems are in town, we should put cameras in those locations.

President Bianchi stated they would look into funding for more cameras.

### **Committee Reports:**

President Bianchi – stated that every year, the Municipality has to approve the Minimal Municipal Obligation. This is what the Municipality pays into the retirement plan. We have two pension plans; uniform and non-uniform.

**Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Mr. Osman approving the motion to set the 2022 Minimal Municipal Obligation for Uniform employees in the amount of \$103,823. Motion carried.

**Motion**

Ms. Henkel, Mrs. Tinsley approving the motion to set the 2022 Minimal Municipal Obligation for Non-Uniform employees at \$14,465.60. Motion carried.

The Borough is a member of the Steel Valley Authority, an organization that addresses economic issues in the Mon Valley. Currently the By-Laws request 3 members to be appointed by the Borough to serve on the Board of Directors. They have recently changed their By-Laws to require 2 members. All members must approve the resolution.

**Motion**

Mr. Osman, Mr. Nolan approving Resolution 700-21, decreasing the number of members to the Steel Valley Authority Board of Directors from 3 to 2. Motion carried.

Ms. Henkel – none

Mr. Estocin – absent

Mr. Nolan – none

Mr. Osman – stated that the lowest responsible bidder for the Seneca Street sewer repair is Jet Jack in the amount of \$39,800.

**Motion**

Mr. Osman, Ms. Henkel awarding the contract for the Seneca Street sewer repair to Jet Jack in the amount of \$39,800. Motion carried.

**Motion**

Mr. Osman, Mr. Spencer approving the motion to retain the North Versailles Street Sweeper once a month in the amount of \$500/month. Motion carried.

Mrs. Tinsley – stated that the Home Plate Garden is winding down. The farmstand will be held on Saturday from 10am - noon only. The garden has produced 2000 lbs. of produce this year. The Pitt Students will be coming to help close down the garden on October 9 for their Civic Action Week.

Mr. Spencer – stated that the Mayor, Chief and Police and Public Safety Committee interviewed candidates for Part-Time Police Officers. Matthew Colgert was hired retroactive to September 9, 2021 at the rate of \$19.32/hr.

**Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Ms. Henkel authorizing the hiring of Part-Time Police Officer Matthew Colgert at the rate of \$19.32/hr., retroactive to September 9, 2021. Motion carried.

Mr. Spencer stated that they received a resignation letter from Officer Mary Somasundrum due to relocating. He thanked Officer Mary for her hard work and wished her well in the future.

**Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Ms. Henkel accepting the resignation of Officer Mary Somasundrum. Motion carried.

**Police and Public Safety:**

Mayor Kelley - absent

Chief McCaul read the Chiefs reports for August 2021

**Chiefs Report for August 2021:**

- Total Incidents 492
- Total Lock-Ups 21
- Traffic 46
- Suspicious Persons 20
- Theft 7
- Stolen Vehicles & Gun 3
- Wanted persons 8
- Domestic 58
- Overdose 3
- Properties cited 23

Ms. Henkel thanked Chief McCaul for the additional information in the Chiefs report.

Solicitor – none

**Old Business:**

Ratifying payment of the August 2021 bills.

**Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Mr. Osman ratifying the action taken by the Borough Administrator in the payment of the August 2021 bills in the amount of \$284,757.53. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

President Bianchi stated that there has been a change in the Sunshine Act. Municipalities now have to identify the actions that will be taken at meetings. Motions must be on the agenda , and the agenda must be on the website 24 hours before the meeting as well as in an area in our building by one of the two doors.

**Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Mrs. Tinsley adjourning until the next meeting on Monday October 4, 2021. Motion carried.

Recorded by: Kera Rocco