

August 2, 2021

Turtle Creek Borough regular monthly Council meeting held on August 2, 2021 was called to order by President Nick Bianchi who led the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked that, after the Pledge to please remain standing for a moment of silence for the passing of Walter Kraeer. Mr. Kraeer has been a dedicated servant to our community. He served as a Volunteer Fireman, a Police Officer, and an alternate for our Zoning Board. He was a good friend and he will be missed.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Approval of the June minutes:**

Correction: Page 1 – 9<sup>th</sup> Street not Avenue

**Motion**

Ms. Henkel, Mr. Spencer approving the June 2021 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

**Approval of the July minutes:**

Correction: Page 3 – President Bianchi asked that the addresses of the properties up for demolition be added.

**Motion**

Mr. Osman, Mrs. Tinsley approving the July 2021 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

President Bianchi turned over the meeting to Mayor Kelley.

Mayor Kelley read a Proclamation in honor of the retirement of Chief Dale Kraeer.

Chief Kraeer worked for the Turtle Creek Police Department for 28 years, becoming Chief on April 1, 1996. They congratulated Chief Kraeer on his honorable retirement.

Officer Winsco asked Chief Kraeer to turn on his radio for a last call from County 911.

### **Correspondence:**

Senator Brewster will have a satellite office at the Borough Building on Tuesdays from 9am – 4pm

### **Citizens Reports:**

President Bianchi stated that normally the protocol is that only residents or property owners are allowed to speak, but tonight he will make an exception

New resident, gave no name – stated that she had heard that the dog catcher/kennel had changed to Hoffman's and they are not happy about it. They have a petition with 505 signatures asking to go back to Sable Kennels.

President Bianchi stated that they would accept the petition and check into it. He stated that they have 20 day clause if they decided to change their mind.

Donna Prislac - resident of 238 Chicora St., East McKeesport stated that she was here in support of Sable Kennel also. She finds it disrespectful that we went with someone from Delmont.

President Bianchi stated that we would take that into consideration and Council will make a decision.

Louis Bell - resident of 428 Church Street stated that the owner of his property is not cutting the grass.

President Bianchi stated that charges were filed against the owner and there will be a hearing that Mr. Bell could attend.

Dawn Weichler – owner of Sable Kennel, stated that it has been an honor to work with all of you, and stated that the complaint against

her was from an outsider and asked Council to reconsider the contract with her.

President Bianchi apologized if that was the case, and stated again that they would look into it. Ms. Weichler stated that was a mute point, but then stated that she hopes they reach out and reconsider.

### **Committee Reports:**

President Bianchi – stated that, in relation to the retaining wall that fell on Oak Avenue Ext. onto properties on Lynn Avenue, the Borough submitted an application for, and received, a grant from the County in the amount of \$90,000.

### **Motion**

Ms. Henkel, Mrs. Tinsley accepting the grant in the amount of \$90,000 and to authorize Glenn Engineering to prepare the specifications and to advertise. Motion carried.

The Borough received an Economic Development and Community Development Grant in the amount of \$50,000 to replace the Borough's backhoe.

### **Motion**

Mr. Osman, Mr. Estocin accepting and acknowledging the grant received to replace the backhoe, and to award and submit a final invoice in the amount of \$50,000. Motion carried.

With the retirement of Chief Kraeer, Council has a role to play in his replacement.

### **Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Ms. Henkel approving the motion to hire John McCaul as acting Chief to the Borough of Turtle Creek, pending a Civil Service non-competitive test and to set his hourly wage at \$43.75, effective August 3, 2021. Motion carried.

President Bianchi asked Mrs. Pantalone to contact the Civil Service Committee to set up the non-competitive test as soon as possible. He also stated that is the desire of Council to make John the permanent Chief in September and congratulated him.

John McCaul thanked council for the opportunity and stated that since he started here, he has felt like family.

Ms. Henkel – congratulated Chief Kraeer on his retirement and stated that it has been an honor to work with him for the 15 years that she has been on Council, and she looks forward to working with John McCaul as the Chief.

Mr. Estocin – stated that he has all the confidence that it will be a smooth transition from Dale to John as Chief and that John has all the confidence of Council that he will do a great job.

Mr. Nolan – absent

Mr. Osman – stated that, as Chief of the Fire Department, he appreciates all the help he and his Police Department have given them. He congratulated him on his retirement and thanked him for everything he has done for and with us.

Mrs. Tinsley – thanked Council for supporting the Community and the Community Garden. She thanked Dale for always being available to talk to us and to the residents. It's very important to have someone like that in your position. She wished John the best of luck and stated that he had a great role model.

Mr. Spencer – stated that he has been the Chairman of the Police and Public Safety Committee for the past 15 years and has worked very closely with Dale, and it has been an honor and a privilege to work with him. He congratulated John and stated that he looks forward to working with him.

### **Police and Public Safety:**

Mayor Kelley:

Mayor Kelley read the Chiefs reports for July 2021

**Chiefs Report for July 2021:**

- Total Incidents 459
- Total Lock-Ups 10
- Traffic 53
- Suspicious Persons 19
- Theft 4
- Stolen Vehicles & Gun 4
- Wanted persons 7
- Domestic 40
- Overdose 1
- Properties cited 18

Mayor Kelley thanked Chief Kraeer for his service. It has been a pleasure working with you for the last 7 years. You welcomed me and my ideas with open arms. After knowing you my whole life, it was nice to get to know you in this different way.

She stated that she is so happy to still be here to work with Officer McCaul as the new Chief. She stated that she is so proud to have the Officers that they have here and the work that they do, and that goes to Chief Kraeer and his leadership and the leadership of Officer McCaul as the new Chief in the years to come.

Solicitor – stated that he has been present for many Borough Officials retirements, and he has never heard kinder words spoken about someone, and that certainly says something about you not only as a Policeman, but as a person. He congratulated Chief Kraeer on his retirement and wished him well.

**Old Business:**

- Ratifying payment of the July 2021 bills.

**Motion**

Mr. Spencer, Mr. Osman ratifying the action taken by the Borough Administrator in the payment of the July 2021 bills in

the amount of \$549,913.56, with the largest being a transfer in the amount of \$268,895.51. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Motion**

Mr. Osman, Ms. Henkel establishing an account with First Commonwealth Bank, for the funds through the American Relief in the amount of \$268,895. Motion carried.

**Motion**

Mr. Osman, Mr. Spencer adjourning until the next meeting on Monday September 13, 2021 at 7pm. Motion carried.

Recorded by: Kera Rocco