Work Session Minutes
July 6, 2020

Minutes for July 6, 2020 Work Session, gaveled into session at 8:30 a.m.

Mayor Garry stated that Councilman Kulak and Councilman Miller could not attend the work session.

Mayor Garry asked if there are any questions regarding the employee handbook.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated that he sent out a new draft to everyone the biggest questions should be discussed in executive session. The other changes that he put in the last few days were minimal.

Council had discussion regarding eliminating some of the holidays, employee duties, and hiring of an individual to start learning positions to assist the remaining two office personnel.

Discussion then turned to an ordinance regarding fireworks. Solicitor Pappasergi stated that there is a general noise ordinance under the Zoning Ordinance that they could fall under. The City cannot make an ordinance that is more or less restrictive than the state fireworks law. State law allows you to shoot off fireworks 150 feet from any building. The City wouldn't be allowed to make it more than or less than state law.

Chief Harris stated that his concern is the areal style fireworks that could come back down onto buildings.

Solicitor Pappasergi there were several fire calls over the weekend in Pittsburgh, Monessen, and Rostraver due to fireworks. If they were legal fireworks set off in legal manners there is no citation that can be drawn from those fire calls. Given everything being in close proximity to the City, he doubts that there are many places you could shoot of areal fireworks where you are not within 150 feet of a building. Even if they were shooting them off in the middle of the infield of the Mounds Park, chances are you are probable within 150 feet of one of the houses or buildings.

Discussion then turned to loud vehicles from the vehicle exhaust and radio that actually vibrate windows in houses as they pass. Chief Harris stated that what is unreasonable to one person isn't unreasonable to someone else and that is the issue as to what is unreasonable.

Mayor Garry stated that we have two businesses that are having issues with dumpsters being picked up due to the dumpsters being blocked by vehicles legally parked in the parking lot.

Councilwoman Williams stated this has been an ongoing issue for these two businesses and had spoken to the Street Department regarding the curb and removing two meters to allow for the garbage company to pick up and empty the dumpsters.

Mayor received a call from Judy Caudill stating that Tom Caudill would be unable to continue on the Transit Authority Board and need to find a replacement.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated he would have to look into the requirements to be on the board. Council has potential candidates but would like to speak to them first.

Mayor Garry then stated the Police Department is having staffing issues such as some part time officers are leaving for other positions.

Chief Harris states that there has been an increase of open positions in other departments due to retirement and less individuals coming out of the academy. The availability to hire is limited and compared to other areas our contract requires that we start out part time police officers at $15.00 per hour and after six months it increases to $20.60 per hour. With that first six months at $15.00 the officers that would be available are making more than that at other departments as a part time officers. He is requesting that we waive the $15.00 per hour for new officers be waived for this year and that we start them at $20.60 to try to get some officers hired so that the City doesn't have to pay overtime which wouldn't be cost efficient.

Council asked the Chief to work the figures to see if hiring full time officer's is cost effective opposed to increasing part time pay.

Mayor Garry stated there is questions regarding mercantile and mechanical taxes.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated he has looked at mercantile and per capita tax ordinances are outdated and probably need to be revamped. These are ordinances that were passed in 1974 and it's the way it has always been done but is it the proper way to do it.

Treasurer Roy Sarver stated that the mercantile and mechanical taxes were due to be paid by June 30th. The taxes due for mercantile are based on 2019 income not 2020. Now we are into July what do we do postpone it or take it to the magistrate.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated there is no magistrate action for failing to pay it would be penalty and interest tacked on under state law. He strongly suggests that the City do a three month extension for payment. Giving them until September 30th to file and pay. He will draw up a resolution for council meeting.

Mayor Garry stated that there is a resident that wishes an address change as she is having issues with UPS and Fedex getting deliveries as there is no sign at Warne Street Extension. There are two houses on Warne Street Extension but it is not an open paved street.

Chief Harris states that the police have had calls there and it is in the 911 system.

Councilwoman Williams stated that there are some people that have not had their 2019 Rental Inspections and are not responding to have their 2020 inspection completed and may need to have the solicitor get involved.

Councilman Polonoli stated that he is getting swamped by people wanting to use the parks for free. The Library wants to have kids at Chess Park on Tuesdays to do a story reading. Had the Church for Bible School that just canceled that want to use them for free. It seems it is continuous that everyone wants the parks. If we sponsor it that comes back on the City with the liability.

Councilman Polonoli stated that it is time for LSA and last year we only had a couple days to get and LSA together. Does anyone have any ideas what we should be doing for LSA. He was thinking about doing it for the City garage and also the salt bin. He would like to put those two projects together as one and put in as one.

Chief Harris wanted to let council know that he spoke to Ken and we had a computer go down at the substation in Union Township and we have ordered a new one. The computers are now getting to the point that they going to fail due to their age and we will need to replace the rest.

Council had discussion on what exactly was set up for this year and the possibility of replacing so many computers each year.

Mayor Garry stated that since there was no further business to discuss that the work session is closed.

Gregory L. Garry
Mayor

ATTEST:

Tami Hill
City Clerk