

**Point Marion Borough Council Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
October 14, 2024**

Council meeting was opened with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance by President Joseph Corcoran.

**Members present:** Jack Stewart, Mitch Cottrell, Anthony Jordan, Joseph Corcoran

**Absent:** Billie Jo Nicklow, Bob Goodwin, Doug Sholtis, Carl Ables and James Cottrell

**Others present:** Officer N. Wilson, Christine Cottrell, Wendy Cottrell

Roll call was taken by the Secretary and quorum was established.

Minutes of the October 3, 2024 meeting were presented and a motion was made by Anthony Jordan, seconded by Mitch Cottrell to accept the amended minutes. Motion carried.

**INTUITY TRAINING OVERVIEW**

2 attended from the community, 3 from council and 3 staff members were in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Christine Cottrell asked if the audit report scheduled for Wednesday was open to the public. Mitch replied that it is not because it was the Liquid Fuel Audit.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Bank Accounts Update – Linda provided a listing of all the accounts and the balances in each. She also provided a list of bills to be paid.

Audits/Reports – Linda updated council on the two audits due on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Jack noted he would like to be there for the Liquid Fuel Audit. Joe plans to attend as well.

McClure Wolfe Payments- McClure Wolfe has been paid in full. The Boro took over the QuickBooks account and told them we would no longer be using them for tax purposes. The Boro will continue to use their services for payroll at this time.

A payroll administration proposal has been submitted from Smart Cents Business Services, LLC to take over payroll in the future. Council asked that Chanell Daniocek, owner, be invited to attend the next meeting to talk and answer questions. It was also noted that the boro should advertise for others to submit a proposal as well.

Status of Capital Improvement Loan. Linda provided a report showing the new balance.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

A. Oswald Hearing Update.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Public Safety:** Officer Wilson provided information regarding the ticket writing process going to computerized tickets in the near future. The boro was gifted with a printer to print tickets, so there will be no cost there. He provided the information from L-Tron, which shows the equipment needed. The equipment quotation is listed as \$1,289.43. The amount necessary for the license for the computer is \$2300.00. The County has stopped providing the tickets for citations and we will soon be required to use this new method. A decision was made to approve the purchase of the L-Tron, as well as the license. A motion was made by Mitch Cottrell and seconded by Anthony Jordan to purchase but to hold off until further review by Sec/Treas. Motion carried.

A check was received from the woman who caused damage to the Point Marion Park fence. It was paid in full.

Mitch checked on the 2021 fund raising evidence that was taken to the DA's office. He is going to call and make an appointment to check on the status of the investigation. Officer Wilson noted that since it is a felony, there is a 5-year time limit to file. We have 1 year left.

### **PARK**

Wendy Cottrell updated council on the success of the October Fest Event held at the park on October 12, 2024 from 12pm to 4pm. Total collected from event: \$1,100.00.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT:**

Sewer lines have been replaced. New screen replaced and is working great. New filters and beads in place. New water meters installed. There were 69 shutoffs. Some tampering with meters was detected. A report will be given to Officer Wilson once more information has been obtained. A new lock box system has been implemented for shut offs and is working well. A lot of water and sewer lines have been repaired. Grass has been cut at the park and at the sewage plant. Backhoe greased. New parking signs were put up on Cyrus Street. Mitch contacted the gas company to complain about the road due to the tar settling and causing major humps in the road. They will come look at the damage. The roads will be repaved next year. New turbidimeters have been installed at the water plant. The yearly filter evaluation was conducted on October 2.

A request has been made to begin union negotiations with the boro. Anthony Jordan noted that he would like to see this completed by the new year. Dave would like to purchase a battery-operated grease gun. There is also a need for electric ran so that the new turbidimeters can be used.

### **CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:**

Jack updated council with the code officer report.

A major glitch in the Big K building – it is no longer Big K, but a Federal Building. It was sold at a county tax sale twice, Big K claims ownership, they were found guilty for violations and a demo permit was given to take the upper floor off. Deposition order states that the Federal Court owns it and the parking lot next to it. A custody report was given, and was done in 2022. Scott Tingler was the owner that went to prison. Has the Office of the Recorder of Deeds made a mistake? We have received \$5000.00 from them in a guilty plea. Appeal date is set for November 17, 2024 and we are filing for a continuance. No one knows what all of this mean. Big K so far has said nothing at all. A stop work order has been put into effect. There should be records in the Recorder of Deeds Office in Uniontown that states all of the selling. The Federal Government is now the ones responsible for maintaining the building now.

Court date for recently cited areas is scheduled for November 14, 2024.

A request to increase the code officer's pay from \$22.00 per hour to \$25.00 per hour was brought up.

Discussion about people's water shut off – it has been requested that properties be posted as uninhabitable after 3 days. Mark said if no one is living in the home, there is no need to post as uninhabitable. Mitch noted that there are landlords that let places stay empty and not pay the bill but then put a tenant in and they make them responsible to pay the bill. By posting the home, it would inform the new renter that there is a problem with the water before they move in, thus saving them from paying someone else's water bill.

Linda brought up an online form for the code enforcement officer. Jack opposed but was in favor of doing a general online complaint.

Springhill/Nicholson Townships were both sent certified letters. Nicholson signed that they received theirs. Springhill Township has not responded. Jack plans to attend the next Springhill Township meeting to bring it up. The meetings are held from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024.

Conversation ensued regarding the Fire Department being called when a tree is down. Most of the calls for the FD is for Springhill Township.

Butcher building: Nothing new to report.

Railroad Street One Way Progress: The County was called and Mr. Ambrose was told that we are working with Eric Snyder to make improvements.

**Unfinished Business:**

Location for Community Forum: Firehall October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm.

Halloween Day Parade permit/security: Joe to ask Gary for information.

Bill Pay on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month: Anthony – pay on the night of the meetings like before. Get with Gary for a meeting to establish a scheduled payment date. Joe to attend.

Park Evidence – delivered to the DA. Need to stay on it.

Dave Lowe – paperwork in order - taken care of. Appropriate letter received.

New copier: To be delivered sometime this month. There was a call regarding its delivery on Monday.

Anthony noted that they should come in, set the new one up to all the printers, and remove the old one.

**New Business:**

A Curfew Ordinance is already in place. Office Wilson has requested that we have one due to the youth running around in the neighborhood after dark. Mitch provided a sample ordinance as an example. Jack noted that there is an ordinance already in place. Linda provided the signed copy which will be emailed to Seth to put up on the boro website. There are plans to discuss the ordinance at the Open Forum meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. It was determined to leave the current curfew ordinance as it.

A request was brought forward for the purchase of an enclosed bulletin board for the outside of the boro building. Paperwork was provided with size and cost. The purchase was approved, pending Anthony Jordan checking to see if he had a spare one.

A motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Anthony Jordan to enter in to executive session at 8:00pm. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mitch Cottrell and seconded by Jack Stewart to exit executive session and enter to regular session at 9:06pm. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Mitch Cottrell to renew the park loan with United Bank for matching Phase 1 of the Park Grant to the amount of \$60,000.00. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Mitch Cottrell to appoint Joe Duda of Actuarial Consulting, Inc., as our Actuary for the Police Pension Plan under Act 205A.

A motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Mitch Cottrell to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Motion carried

  
**President**

  
**Secretary**

  
**Date**