

**Point Marion Borough Council Regular Meeting
Minutes
October 28, 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, Doug Sholtis

Absent: Billie Jo Nicklow, Bob Goodwin, Carl Ables

Others present: Officer N. Wilson, Christine Cottrell, Wendy Cottrell, Helmut and Kathy Binder.

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

Minutes of the October 14, 2024 meeting were presented and a motion was made by Mitch Cottrell, seconded by Jack Stewart to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM MEETING OUTCOME:

2 attended from the community, 3 from council and 3 staff members were in attendance. Eric Snyder updated the group regarding the progress of the Rail Trails and Railroad Street becoming a one-way. Mitch Cottrell read updates provided by Rick Kelsey regarding the Columbia Gas work in Point Marion. The Curfew and Loitering Ordinances were discussed, as reminders to the community. Mitch Cottrell gave Infrastructure updates, which included the DEP quarterly reports explanation in detail.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Complaints about the homes along Morgantown Street: Garbage is being strewn into empty homes. Vacant & abandon homes are still being used as flop houses by the homeless. The only proof we have is by word of mouth. There are videos of people going into the neighbor's empty home. Worried about safety of children and self. Grass complaints – has not been cut for two seasons at the home located on Stewartstown Street.

Other public comments/questions: The EBike plugins are for the EBike charging only. The Boy Scout building is owned by the Rotary Club. A volunteer committee would have to be formed in order to watch over the recycling bin. The Borough does not pay for the bin - it's provided by a county project. Talks are in process to get it back. The 2023 audit is not available yet. Lawn tractor expense was due to purchasing two industrial mowers for the park. We are providing meetings quarterly for the public and had the Open Forum on October 21st. There was also an open meeting for using the new Intuity Program to view water bills online.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Linda provided the bank account reports, along with the current bills due for review. Updates for the Liquid Fuels and AmTrust Audits were list as all went well according to the auditors and we are currently waiting for the follow up letters for signature. Channel from Smart Cents Business Services, LLC was scheduled to meet with council this evening to talk about payroll processing, but she had to cancel due to illness. We will reschedule for the next meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

A meeting with the DA occurred and they are happy to answer any and all questions regarding the 2021 Fund Raising Evidence. They are working on it and it's still under investigation. No charges have been mentioned to date.

Doug suggested to council that if someone comes to pay it off their lien, call him. Fees will be applied in addition to code officer and engineering fees that may be due. Talk to Jack, Mark or Doug first.

There has been no new hearing scheduled at this time regarding the Oswald complaint.

There is paperwork that needs to be filled out for the Emergency Mitigation Meeting by the end of November. Copies of the forms will be sent and he would like whomever wants to, to meet and get them filled out and submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

None

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Nothing new to report. Still working on figuring out who the owners of the Big K Building are. Two buildings in repository are going to be torn down. One is a big home and the other is a cottage. Title to the other cottage has not been found to date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Infrastructure: Mitch reported that Nick has been extremely busy. An ordinance needs to be created for homes that homeless are sleeping in - when asked why they are there, they are saying they work there. The ordinance should also include no work is to be conducted after dark. This ordinance will give Nick the legal right to ask people to vacate the properties.

Updates from Utility workers: Grass cutting completed at the park. Water lines have been repaired. New lines are done. Sewer line repair on Main Street. Cold patching completed. Two trees down at the park – one has been cut up. Columbia Gas is working on roads and Mitch asked them to wrap it up quickly for tomorrow's parade.

PARK: Wendy Cottrell updated council on the Trunk or Treat night. She has also been researching cameras and received a quote for 7 cameras and internet of \$15,000.00. She has a 100% funder for this project. A contract will be drawn up and a copy will be given to Doug. Jack and Wendy to meet with the company 'Via Link' on Wednesday to go over all the information.

Unfinished Business:

Moving council from 7-member seat to 5-member seat. To be discussed at a future meeting.

New Business:

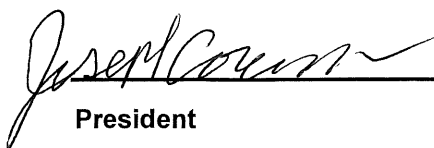
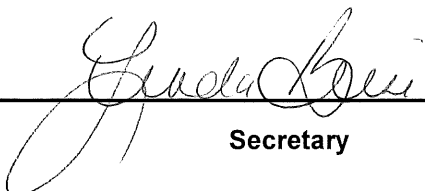
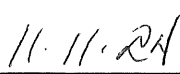
The raising of taxes. Tabled until next meeting.

A motion was made by Mitch Cottrell to enter into executive session. Seconded by Jack Stewart. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Mitch Cottrell to enter into regular session. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mitch Cottrell and seconded by Anthony Jordan to sign the Resolution and the Contract Agreement for JP Environmental, LLC to complete the work for the Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project at the cost of \$126,800.00. Motion carried.

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

President
Secretary
Date