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OLD FORGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

7:00 P.M.

OLD FORGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
314 SOUTH MAIN STREET
OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- RUSSELL RINALDI, PRESIDENT
- JAMES HOOVER, VICE-PRESIDENT
- ANDREW BUTLER
- MICHAEL KOMENSKY
- MICHAEL LETTIERI
- WILLIAM RINALDI, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR
- MARYLYNN BARTOLETTI, BOROUGH MANAGER
- ROBERT LEGG, MAYOR

Mark Wozniak
Official Court Reporter

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Good evening,
2 ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call the
3 meeting to order with the Pledge of
4 Allegiance.

5 (The Pledge of Allegiance was
6 recited.)

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Roll call,
8 please, Marylynn.

9 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilwoman
10 Shotwell is absent. Councilman Komensky?

11 MR. KOMENSKY: Present.

12 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
13 Lettieri?

14 MR. LETTIERI: Present.

15 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Butler?

16 MR. BUTLER: Present.

17 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilwoman
18 Avvisato is absent. Councilman Hoover?

19 MR. HOOVER: Present.

20 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Rinaldi?

21 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Here. Once
22 again, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the
23 regular meeting of the Old Forge Borough.
24 Tonight is Tuesday, November 12, 2024.
25 First of all, we'll start off by apologizing

1 for starting a little bit late. For about
2 15, 20 minutes we had an executive session.
3 Ran a little long. Apologize for that.

4 The purpose of tonight's meeting is
5 to go through a few housekeeping motions.
6 We'll then hear from our department heads,
7 we'll go down the table, hear from our
8 solicitor, our borough manager, mayor and
9 our members of council. We have a public
10 sign-in sheet at the chief's desk. If
11 anyone from the public would like to address
12 us we'll give you a few minutes at the end
13 of the meeting.

14 With that said, we're going to go to
15 our first housekeeping motion, which is a
16 motion to approve the minutes from the prior
17 meeting.

18 MR. BUTLER: I'll make that motion.

19 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
20 Butler.

21 MR. LETTIERI: I'll second the
22 motion.

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
24 Councilman Lettieri. On the question?
25 Public input? Roll call, please.

1 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
2 Komensky?

3 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

4 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
5 Lettieri?

6 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

7 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Butler?

8 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

9 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Hoover?

10 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

11 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Rinaldi?

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. The
13 second item is motion to approve treasurer's
14 report. Please note this does not include
15 the sewer accounts.

16 MR. BUTLER: I'll make the motion.

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
18 Butler.

19 MR. KOMENSKY: Second.

20 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
21 Councilman Komensky. On the question?
22 Public input? Roll call, please.

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Komensky?

24 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

25 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Lettieri?

1 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

2 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Butler?

3 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

4 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Hoover?

5 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

6 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Rinaldi?

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Third
8 item is motion to approve invoices for
9 payment. Please note again this doesn't
10 include the sewer account.

11 MR. LETTIERI: I'll make that
12 motion.

13 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
14 Lettieri.

15 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

16 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
17 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
18 input? Roll call, please.

19 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Komensky?

20 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Lettieri?

22 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Butler?

24 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

25 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Hoover?

1 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

2 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Rinaldi?

3 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Fourth
4 item is a motion to approve treasurer's
5 report for the sewer department.

6 MR. LETTIERI: I'll make that
7 motion.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
9 Lettieri.

10 MR KOMENSKY: I'll second it.

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
12 Councilman Komensky. On the question?
13 Public input? Roll call, please.

14 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Komensky?

15 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

16 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Lettieri?

17 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Butler?

19 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

20 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Hoover?

21 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Rinaldi?

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. The last
24 item is a motion to approve sewer department
25 invoices for payment.

1 MR. HOOVER: I'll make the motion.

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
3 Hoover.

4 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

5 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
6 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
7 input? Roll call, please.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Komensky?

9 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

10 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Lettieri?

11 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

12 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Butler?

13 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

14 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Hoover?

15 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

16 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Rinaldi?

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. We'll
18 move into our first department head, DPW
19 manager Joseph Lenceski. Joe, good evening.
20 Anything for the meeting?

21 MR. LENCESKI: Nothing for the
22 meeting.

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Anyone have
24 any questions for Joe?

25 MR. BUTLER: Joe, did you get

1 pictures from that house?

2 MR. LENCESKI: Yes.

3 MR. HOOVER: Dave, he's complaining
4 when they did the milling on Nicholas.
5 Kenny Paulish lives there. 205, maybe.
6 They got too close to his driveway. He got
7 a new concrete driveway. The one corner is
8 cut. I don't know if they did that, but it
9 looks like there's a hole there and they
10 threw some asphalt in. I don't know if that
11 was done or it was like that.

12 MR. LOPATKA: They broke the
13 concrete?

14 MR. HOOVER: On the edge going down.
15 They got too close with the milling. This
16 is 112.

17 MR. LENCESKI: I had other people
18 complaining.

19 MR. HOOVER: Maybe next week I'll
20 call you. When you're available me, you and
21 Joe and grab a guy from American. There's
22 other issues on the other streets.

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: You guys try
24 and set that up on a Monday or Tuesday, I'll
25 make an effort to be there as well. Like I

1 said, you make it, I'll make sure I'm there.

2 MS. BARTOLETTI: I have a list of
3 about seven residents.

4 MR. HOOVER: And the sealing's not
5 done yet. The sealing was in front of those
6 houses on Sunday morning and I said oh,
7 they're going to do it today. I thought
8 they were going to tar it but they didn't.

9 MR. LOPATKA: I noticed that
10 yesterday when I was down there.

11 MR. HOOVER: Let's set it up now.
12 Tuesday after 11:00 is good for me. 1:00?
13 You guys tells me.

14 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Like Joe said,
15 Councilman Hoover and the engineer and I'm
16 sure other members of the board. I know I
17 have questions. We have a couple areas,
18 questions on some spots, what they did.
19 That's why Councilman Hoover wants to set up
20 a meeting with us and then we're going to
21 address them with all the concerns.

22 MR. LOPATKA: 11:00?

23 MR. HOOVER: Where do you want to
24 meet?

25 MR. LOPATKA: Meet them here.

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Any other
2 questions for Joe? Joe, thank you.

3 Mike Sokolowski, code
4 enforcement/zoning officer. Good evening,
5 Mike. Anything for the meeting?

6 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Nothing for the
7 meeting.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Anybody have
9 any questions for Michael?

10 MR. BUTLER: What are we doing with
11 the abandoned houses? I know it's a
12 nightmare.

13 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I'm still working
14 on the one on Sussex Street. I had three
15 people called who are interested in buying
16 it. They're asking how to get unabandoned,
17 like what has to be done. The rest of
18 them --

19 MR. BUTLER: The one on Ripple
20 Street, do we even know who owns that house?

21 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah. I sent a
22 letter. I gave them 30 days. No reply yet.
23 It's probably close to it now.

24 MR. BUTLER: We just don't want to
25 see anybody get hurt.

1 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Next step is going
2 to the magistrate.

3 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Mike, just for
4 curiosity purposes, those three properties
5 on Sussex, you said you have people
6 inquiring about buying them?

7 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yes.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: People in town
9 or out of state?

10 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I'm not sure. One
11 guy was from Scranton that came in. He came
12 right into the office.

13 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I didn't mean
14 out of state, I meant out of town. The
15 other two?

16 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I'm not sure.

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Just for
18 curiosity purposes. Anybody have any
19 questions for Mike?

20 MR. HOOVER: Mike, did a contractor
21 or utility company get a cut for Nicholas
22 and that new -- we just paved -- Kohler.

23 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: One with, like, the
24 front driveway. They called that in. It
25 was an emergency.

1 MR. HOOVER: They're going to have
2 to pave that 20 feet on both sides.

3 MR. LOPATKA: Twenty-five.

4 MR. HOOVER: On both sides of that
5 cut because it's a newly paved road.

6 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: We looked at it.

7 MR. HOOVER: Did they get a permit?
8 Probably not yet.

9 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: No. They always
10 send it in.

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Any other
12 questions for Michael? Thanks, Mike.

13 Engineer, Dave Lopatka, anything for
14 the meeting?

15 MR. LOPATKA: I have noting for the
16 meeting.

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Anybody have
18 any questions for Dave?

19 MR. BUTLER: Did you look at those
20 plans?

21 MR. LOPATKA: I did.

22 MR. BUTLER: Are they kosher?

23 MR. LOPATKA: Probably get the
24 pre-engineered and basically build a
25 foundation on both sides and put it in

1 place. But, I mean, the only other thing, I
2 think, just looking at it, they're making it
3 out of wood. A lot of the rails and the
4 bottom are wood. Steel beams are supporting
5 it, then they're building wood over it.
6 Like, that's a little bit more of a
7 maintenance issue over time as opposed to
8 these pre-engineered ones. Pre-engineered,
9 they basically take it and put it on a crane
10 and set it in place. It's aluminum or
11 galvanized and you don't have to worry about
12 it. I think you can get them -- price-wise
13 you can get them -- we just did one -- and
14 I'm not a hundred percent sure of the length
15 of that one. Probably like 90-some feet.

16 MR. BUTLER: Ninety-four feet, I
17 think.

18 MR. LOPATKA: So we just did one, I
19 think it was 45 feet, and dropped off on
20 site, not set, was like 30 grand for the
21 pre-engineered one. You set it in place.
22 We'll look at it.

23 MR. BUTLER: Probably double that.

24 MR. LOPATKA: Probably close to it.
25 And the footing. That doesn't include the

1 footing. So overall, I mean, what they did
2 I think was fine, but I think we can
3 probably do it where it might be a little
4 cheaper and it might not need the
5 maintenance in the long run.

6 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Aluminum?

7 MR. LOPATKA: Oh, yeah. They're
8 pretty much maintenance free.

9 MR. BUTLER: Handicap accessible.
10 Right?

11 MR. LOPATKA: Yeah. There's a
12 company that we've worked with a few times
13 on these. That's the recommended way to do
14 it. All you're really doing from the labor
15 cost, the labor cost is a lot cheaper, too,
16 because it's already prebuilt. All you have
17 to do is you pour it and build the footers,
18 and then you just basically set the bridge a
19 in place. All the beams are already in
20 place. All they have to do is just set it
21 in place in the right spot and they screw it
22 down and it's done. There's nothing else
23 that has to be done with them. Some of them
24 are really nice, too.

25 MR. BUTLER: You can get different

1 width and stuff?

2 MR. LOPATKA: Different width,
3 whatever kind of length. We'll take a
4 better look at it.

5 MS. BARTOLETTI: How long do you
6 think it would take to come up with a plan
7 for a bridge like that?

8 MR. LOPATKA: A plan overall
9 wouldn't take long to put together.
10 Technically you have to get a permit because
11 you're working in a stream.

12 MS. BARTOLETTI: How long does that
13 usually take? I know that they're tricky.

14 MR. LOPATKA: Depending. For
15 something like it should be, a final
16 construction permit, which isn't a crazy
17 amount of time. A joint you're probably
18 looking at six to eight months. Just a
19 regular crossing permit you're probably
20 looking at a couple months. Two, three
21 months. You get a permit you're technically
22 still building the footers kind of inside
23 the stream and crossing the stream and you
24 have to do a hydraulic analysis to make sure
25 you're not overtopping the bridge itself

1 when you place it there.

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Correct me if
3 I'm wrong. Part of my question is going to
4 piggyback off hers. The plan and cost
5 estimate, the question is because we have a
6 deadline on the money we can use that we
7 were granted through the federal government.
8 So we have to get the plans and price back
9 to them so we know our totals on the
10 project.

11 MR. LOPATKA: When is the timeframe?

12 MS. BARTOLETTI: I'll give you a
13 call tomorrow. We can go over the details
14 of it.

15 MR. LOPATKA: I think the plan or
16 cost estimates, we can get that pretty
17 quick.

18 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Just need the
19 cost estimates of these projects. We have
20 other projects that Marylynn's going to talk
21 to you about. We need cost estimates pretty
22 soon so we can present them back.

23 MR. LOPATKA: I'll make sure we'll
24 get you an estimate back. Again, we'll look
25 at what they've provided. We'll check and

1 see what the cost would be for the aluminum
2 versus.

3 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Anyone else
4 have questions for Dave? Thanks, Dave.

5 Police chief, Jason Dubernas, good
6 evening. Anything for the meeting?

7 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Just the parking on
8 Franklin and Bennett Street. I passed that
9 out for everybody. That will be on the
10 north side of the roadway.

11 Then tomorrow I will e-mail
12 everybody. I went to a civil service class.
13 Couple new things that were changed in civil
14 service. I'll send you all the power points
15 on that.

16 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Appreciate
17 that. Anything else, Chief?

18 CHIEF DUBERNAS: That's it.

19 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Anybody have
20 any questions for the chief?

21 MR. LETTIERI: Chief, 321-323 Grace
22 Street, the corner apartment building, in
23 the back yard there's about five cars shoved
24 in the back, in the back yard. There's
25 tires. It's starting to become like a

1 little junkyard back there.

2 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Is that the house
3 that's set back?

4 MR. LETTIERI: Coming up Grace
5 Street it's right on the corner before you
6 make the right to go to the high school.

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Farrell's old
8 house.

9 MR. LETTIERI: It's getting worse.
10 They just put more junk back there. If we
11 can check the vehicles, I guess.

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Also, Mike, if
13 you can contact them as well. Is he trying
14 to run a business out of there? Are those
15 his personal cars? I mean, I like the idea
16 of Councilman Lettieri sending the police
17 chief as well.

18 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I can go over there
19 with Jay.

20 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Check it out.
21 Let him know what he can and can't do. Any
22 other questions for the chief? Thank you,
23 Chief.

24 Assistant fire chief, Bill Stull.
25 Bill, good evening. Anything for the

1 meeting?

2 MR. STULL: No.

3 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Anybody have
4 any questions for Bill? Thank you, Bill.

5 Attorney Rinaldi, good evening.
6 Anything for the meeting?

7 ATTY. RINALDI: A resolution
8 extending the garbage contract for a final
9 year, until June of 2026, and Marylynn has
10 the original easement for Pagnotti Park.

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Anybody have
12 any questions for the solicitor? Thank you,
13 Bill.

14 Marylynn, borough manager, good
15 evening. Anything for the meeting?

16 MS. BARTOLETTI: First, does anyone
17 have any questions on any of my financial
18 reports? No? So as you know, we had our
19 budget meeting today again and the budget
20 will be tentatively passed on December 3rd.
21 We'll be scheduling a special meeting before
22 the work session. Then we will pass the
23 formal budget at the December public
24 meeting.

25 So I do have a question. Probably

1 this is for you, Jimmy. Are we going to do
2 the loan next year for paving? Since we
3 pretty much have used all the money that we
4 had saved up for paving. I know you want to
5 do paving again next year. So would you
6 like me to start the process of a loan with
7 PennDOT?

8 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

9 MS. BARTOLETTI: Everyone's good
10 with that? Okay. We can probably put that
11 on the agenda for December but I'll start
12 the process of it.

13 Then I just want to read this to
14 make it part of our meeting minutes. We
15 received a letter from the auditor general
16 in regard to the police pension, and it says
17 "Act 205 of 1984 requires the municipal
18 pension reporting program to make bi-annual
19 distress determinations for all
20 municipalities. The result of the 2022
21 distress determination for your municipality
22 is as follows: Total distress score is
23 zero, and to obtain a distressed score of
24 zero the funded ratio of all pension plans
25 combined must be 90 percent or greater, and

1 your funded ratio is 123 percent." So
2 that's very good. Just so you know that. I
3 just wanted it do be part of our minutes.

4 MR. HOOVER: Did you pass that along
5 to everybody?

6 MS. BARTOLETTI: It's more for you
7 guys. It tells you that the police pension
8 is in good standing, that it's very strong
9 and it can handle anything that's going to
10 be coming up for the future. The
11 liabilities are not more than the assets.
12 So that's basically what that is telling
13 you.

14 You're going to do the motion
15 tonight to approve the list of spending for
16 the ARPA funds, and that's all I have.

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Anybody have
18 any questions for Marylynn?

19 MS. SMECHERKO: What are the AARP
20 funds?

21 MS. BARTOLETTI: It's money the
22 borough got for Covid. It's money the
23 federal government gave out. Originally it
24 was \$826,000. It's more now because there's
25 interest. The borough's planning on using

1 it toward recreation.

2 MS. SMECHERKO: Is it just for
3 elderly? When you say AARP --

4 MS. BARTOLETTI: No, it's ARPA.
5 American Rescue Plan money.

6 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Any other
7 questions for Marylynn? Thanks, Mare.
8 Before we go into new business we're going
9 to go to public comment.

10 MS. SMECHERKO: I live in the Forge
11 Estate development. The reason I'm here
12 tonight is because for years we've been
13 sitting on our porch and just seeing the
14 cars race right through Nicholas onto our
15 street, Winter Street, without stopping.
16 Now, if you come out and take a look, like
17 Russ did, you'll see the stop sign is here.
18 They come out, but yet the street runs
19 across here.

20 So what I was hoping for was maybe
21 an engineer would come out and look and see.
22 I said maybe a triangle of some kind or do
23 something where the traffic goes in one way,
24 comes out the other.

25 MR. LOPATKA: We did, actually.

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: And we were
2 there yesterday. We spoke last week when I
3 came out to meet you. We came out
4 yesterday. Dave's going to get a plan, a
5 proposal together. Council's aware of the
6 situation as well. So once Dave gets that
7 in order, he said it shouldn't take too
8 long. He's going to present it back to
9 council to see what ideas he can come up
10 with for that intersection.

11 The way he described it to me it
12 sounded, to me -- and I'm no engineer, but
13 it sounded relatively like a really good
14 fix. So the fix he explained, he's going to
15 prepare it all and then bring it to council.

16 Dave, how long, do you think?

17 MR. LOPATKA: I'll have it for next
18 meeting.

19 MS. SMECHERKO: Will I have to come
20 here to get that?

21 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: You're more
22 than welcome to come. Our next meeting is
23 December 3rd. That's our public work
24 session. Then the following meeting after
25 that is our voting meeting, December 17th.

1 But you're welcome to come to either
2 meeting. They're both public. But if you
3 would just like to see a copy of it you can
4 still get a copy without coming to the
5 meeting. Once Dave gives it to Marylynn,
6 Marylynn will give it to us. It's just
7 going to be a sketch right now. Just a
8 quick hard copy just so we get an idea of
9 what we're looking at. We just want to look
10 at it so we have a visual to see exactly
11 what his idea is.

12 MS. SMECHERKO: I'd just ask, too,
13 if there is a streetlight in that somewhere?
14 Because it's so dark in that one area in our
15 neighborhood. You can ask any of our
16 neighbors. Our end it's pitch black.

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: We don't have
18 a streetlight in there.

19 MS. SMECHERKO: I called PPL and I
20 was told it had to go through here.

21 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: It does. If
22 you're inquiring about a streetlight we
23 would ask the DPW manager first to go over,
24 Joe, and see where an area is to put it. If
25 we put a streetlight on the corner where the

1 stop is right now, where we already have the
2 right-of-way, we can put it there. Wherever
3 Joe would see fit to be best. Or if we
4 somehow designed it to put in that island or
5 that triangle. We'll let Joe go over there
6 and take a look and see what the best area
7 is. It is pretty dark over there.

8 MS. SMECHERKO: I know a lot of our
9 neighbors have been asking about stop signs,
10 or my thought was put the speed bumps in. I
11 know you said there's new speed bumps. I
12 was hoping maybe that was an option if
13 you're not going to put stop signs to slow
14 that traffic. It's like a runway from one
15 end of Winter Street down and back, and how
16 many times people coming out of Nicholas
17 almost get clipped by the cars.

18 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: We can ask
19 him -- and you did bring it up. We can ask
20 Dave to go over and take a look. The speed
21 bumps now are not the old style. The way
22 the state approved the speed bumps now it's
23 a ramp, a platform and a ramp.

24 MR. LOPATKA: We just designed one
25 for around the school in Dunmore to slow

1 traffic down. They're not the little bump
2 anymore. They go up six inches. Lot of
3 people use them as a crosswalk as well.

4 MS. SMECHERKO: Dunn Avenue could
5 use them, too, by the housing.

6 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: We'll take a
7 look at that area.

8 MR. LOPATKA: They're technically
9 not supposed to be used for speed control.
10 Signage is more useful for speed control in
11 addition to maintenance, like wintertime,
12 for plowing.

13 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Stop signs you
14 can't use for speed control. We can put
15 slow children signs in the area.

16 MS. SMECHERKO: The only problem
17 with that is there's not a lot of
18 intersections where you can stick a stop
19 sign. By the time they're coming through.
20 They have the right-of-way. And Russ did
21 mention that that's a bus stop there.

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: If it parts
23 right in the middle, I also let council know
24 if we did do this type of island in the
25 intersection and the bus stops there the bus

1 would actually be stopping, at least I would
2 think, in the safest spot because now it's
3 guarded by the island or this triangle.

4 MR. LOPATKA: It's not something you
5 can do with paint striping. You have to put
6 some kind of curbing there to direct
7 traffic. If you just stripe it people will
8 drive right through.

9 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I was only
10 throwing out ideas. We leave it up to him.

11 MS. SMECHERKO: And my other
12 question again was the parks. Who's
13 responsible for the parks? Okay. Do you do
14 an inspection every month on those parks,
15 see if anything is broken or the mulch is?

16 MR. LENCESKI: We bring a company in
17 annually to inspect everything.

18 MS. SMECHERKO: Once a year? When I
19 worked for head start we had to inspect our
20 playgrounds every single month. We had an
21 inspection sheet.

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Joe and the
23 crew themselves, they go around periodically
24 and check. But to be inspected by a
25 company, they come in. But our people do go

1 around throughout the summer, the spring and
2 summer months. Joe's at all of our parks
3 constantly and whatever part of his crew he
4 brings with him. They're always checking
5 the equipment.

6 MS. SMECHERKO: And for how much
7 mulch is due under your slides and all that.
8 The annual guy comes and tells you that?

9 MR. LENCESKI: They do recommend
10 putting it in every year.

11 MS. SMECHERKO: When I was over
12 there it was so bad.

13 MS. BARTOLETTI: We weren't totally
14 ready because it wasn't in the season when
15 you contacted me. We get tractor-trailers
16 of special mulch to put in.

17 MR. LENCESKI: Playground mulch.

18 MS. SMECHERKO: Thank you for the
19 pickleball courts.

20 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Hi, Mike.
21 Good evening.

22 MR. ZUPON: Good evening. I'm
23 writing this letter because as a resident of
24 506 Lawrence Street I have been witnessing
25 problems at a rental property located at

1 Grace Street, at the rear of Arcaro &
2 Genell's and next door to Prince of Peace
3 rectory.

4 Last week, on 11/1/24, approximately
5 7 a.m., I witnessed someone trying to break
6 a window on one of the apartments. It was
7 done intentionally and violently. I
8 immediately called 911 for police response
9 and the situation was handled.

10 For the last year or so I have been
11 hearing a lot of arguing, foul language at
12 all hours of the day and night. I've also
13 been seeing garbage piled up all around the
14 property. Several of the neighbors are also
15 experiencing the same problems, but because
16 of the violence they're afraid to come
17 forward. The area that this is occurring in
18 is heavily traveled by school children and
19 also only several feet from the hub of our
20 restaurant area of town.

21 Furthermore, our only catholic
22 church is right next to the property.
23 People going to church should not have to
24 listen to vulgar language and be afraid for
25 their safety. I hope we can take some

1 action to immediately rectify the situation
2 before someone gets hurt. It's ongoing all
3 the time.

4 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Mike, I
5 actually spoke to Father Guss. He contacted
6 me a couple times within the past two, three
7 days. I know this because I drove up there
8 couple days ago and I saw there was a fence
9 installed in back, and I know he was
10 complaining about the garbage. I guess he
11 also said somebody came out the back door
12 and they were cursing at him. The dogs go
13 onto his property.

14 He also said that throughout the
15 whole day and night -- and I have -- I'm
16 going to give it to the chief. There's four
17 cars, three cars that are parked in front of
18 the rectory all day, all night, but they're
19 only tenants in that building because he
20 watches them and his secretary watches them.
21 So they park there and they go around to the
22 side and they enter.

23 The reason I bring that up, he asked
24 me if he could have a 15 minute parking sign
25 just right at his door. I told him I would

1 ask the chief and I'd ask Bill how we would
2 go about doing that because he said people
3 coming throughout the daytime. He said he's
4 doing a lot of business with the rectory.
5 But it's just right in front of his door.
6 I'm going to give you the license plates.
7 I'm not going to say them here.

8 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Just to let you
9 know the director of HUD for that building
10 over there, he came to see me last week and
11 he told me a bunch of change is coming. Mr.
12 Wansacz. He got all the reports, wanted to
13 know how many times --

14 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Mr. Wansacz
15 was here?

16 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Last Tuesday or
17 Wednesday. The day of the incident he came
18 in and said there's a bunch of changes
19 coming to that building. I know the fence
20 was one of them. He was here because
21 there's a whole group of things going on
22 with that building. It's a HUD program.

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Lackawanna
24 County owns it.

25 MR. ZUPON: It's getting to the

1 point like it was. There was a shooting a
2 few years ago and a stabbing there. It's
3 back to that.

4 CHIEF DUBERNAS: That wasn't a part
5 of HUD. They have all kind of restrictions
6 now. He's supposed to be coming back next
7 week.

8 MR. ZUPON: It just seems like it's
9 going back to the way it was.

10 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I was going to
11 say we're going to have you go over as well.

12 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I was there last
13 week. I met with the property manager and
14 talked to Jim Wansacz on the phone
15 personally. He is trying to get it under
16 control. There's a few people living there
17 that are getting evicted. They're going to
18 be out of there by December. Especially the
19 one on the end with the dog that's going in
20 Father Guss' yard. And there's one on --
21 the first one going in. There was a guy
22 living there, which I was there with the
23 property manager and he questioned who the
24 guy was. He wasn't supposed to be there.
25 He is taking care of that.

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Well, it seems
2 you and the chief are both aware of the
3 situation, and as of right now he's saying
4 it's going to be rectified. So we're going
5 to have to see in the next few weeks.

6 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yes.

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I was going to
8 ask you to go over, but if you're already
9 aware of it that's good as well.

10 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I gave them a
11 permit to put a fence up. So now the fence
12 is between the two properties which the
13 people cannot let the dogs go onto the
14 church property.

15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: He said now
16 that the fence is up he feels a little more
17 safe and a little more secure from the
18 people.

19 MR. ZUPON: Not only that, we have a
20 leash law in town. Am I correct?

21 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes.

22 MR. ZUPON: They let the dog run.
23 It's constantly running all over the yard.
24 It's like a Shepherd. Constantly running
25 everywhere every day.

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Mike, if you
2 could stop over and let them know that.

3 MR. ZUPON: It's a little girl.
4 She'll chase him all over the neighborhood.

5 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: If you see it, call
6 me.

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Or if you see
8 which apartment it is let Mike know. Chief,
9 I was going to bring not all that up during
10 my time, but if he requested just a 15
11 minute parking how would he go about that?

12 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Just do like we did
13 with the ABC Kiddy Campus. Five minutes,
14 ten, whatever. Just a drop off. How far do
15 you want it to be, one spot or two spots.

16 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: He just said
17 the one spot right in front of the door.
18 You could probably fit three cars there. He
19 was just asking me in front for people who
20 come in and do business with the rectory
21 throughout the day.

22 CHIEF DUBERNAS: I'll go over and
23 take a look at it.

24 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Okay. With
25 that said, we'll go into new business.

1 First item under new business is going to be
2 a resolution to extend the garbage contract
3 with JP Mascaro for one year, July 1, 2025
4 to June 30, 2026. Motion on the floor will
5 be to authorize the resolution or ratify to
6 extend for one year the refuse and bulk
7 waste collection and disposal contract with
8 Solid Waste Services, Incorporated doing
9 business as JP Mascaro & Sons until June 30,
10 2026.

11 MR. HOOVER: I'll make that motion.

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
13 Hoover.

14 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
16 Councilman Butler. On the question?

17 MR. HOOVER: Mare, this is the last
18 time we can extend this?

19 MS. BARTOLETTI: Yes, it's the last
20 year. So this will be our second year that
21 we extended it, so it will have to go out to
22 bid after this.

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: On the
24 question? Public input? Roll call, please.

25 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman

1 Komensky?

2 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

3 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman

4 Lettieri?

5 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

6 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Butler?

7 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

8 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Hoover?

9 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

10 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Rinaldi?

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Second

12 item, this is just going to be a motion to
13 add it to the agenda. This is a motion to
14 add Marylynn to advertise for a special
15 meeting before our work session December 3,
16 2024, to pass the tentative budget. This
17 will just be a motion to add it.

18 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll make that motion
19 to add it.

20 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
21 Komensky.

22 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
24 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
25 input? Roll call, please.

1 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
2 Komensky?

3 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

4 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
5 Lettieri?

6 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

7 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Butler?

8 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

9 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Hoover?

10 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

11 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Rinaldi?

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. This
13 will be item number three. This is going to
14 be a motion to approve to have the special
15 meeting on December 3, 2024.

16 MR. BUTLER: I'll make the motion.

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
18 Butler.

19 MR. LETTIERI: Second.

20 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
21 Councilman Lettieri. On the question?
22 Public input? Roll call, please.

23 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
24 Komensky?

25 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

1 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
2 Lettieri?

3 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

4 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Butler?

5 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

6 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Hoover?

7 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

8 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Rinaldi?

9 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes.

10 Marylynn, do you want to read the list?

11 MS. BARTOLETTI: The list will
12 include the bridge at Pagnotti Park,
13 rebuilding that area. Replacing all brown
14 and green playground equipment at the Marion
15 Street park. Resurfacing the basketball
16 courts at Marion Street park. Fixing the
17 tennis court at Marion Street park.
18 Updating the walking trail and adding
19 equipment at Marion Street park. Building a
20 shed at Marion Street park. Removing the
21 bocci court at Marion Street park.
22 Resurfacing the basketball courts at Miles
23 Street park. Rebuilding the wall at Miles
24 Street park. Replace two playground
25 equipment pieces at Miles Street park. That

1 is all the recreation parts.

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: So this is
3 going to be a motion on the floor to add the
4 ARPA list that Marylynn just defined for us.
5 This is just a motion to add.

6 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll make that
7 motion.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
9 Komensky.

10 MR. LETTIERI: I'll second it.

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
12 Councilman Lettieri. On the question?
13 Public input? Roll call, please.

14 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
15 Komensky?

16 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

17 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
18 Lettieri?

19 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

20 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Butler?

21 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

22 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Hoover?

23 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

24 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
25 Rinaldi?

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. This is
2 now going to be a motion to approve the list
3 for the ARPA money, the projects.

4 MR. BUTLER: I'll make that motion.

5 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
6 Butler.

7 MR. LETTIERI: I'll second it.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
9 Councilman Lettieri. On the question?
10 Public input? Roll call, please.

11 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
12 Komensky?

13 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

14 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman
15 Lettieri?

16 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

17 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Butler?

18 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

19 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Hoover?

20 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

21 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Rinaldi?

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Are
23 there any items for new business? Before we
24 go down the table do any members have any
25 items for any business?

1 MR. HOOVER: I want to let Joe know
2 that we decided to use the money, the grant
3 you guys received, for the lights rather
4 than the Miles Street field. So we're going
5 to let Dave know.

6 MR. DESTEFANO: Are we planning
7 fixing anything else up around that
8 building? A lot of people from out of town
9 coming to the games there. They're going to
10 play at night. Walking in from there we
11 don't have that all lit up all around it.
12 That's my only fear.

13 MS. BARTOLETTI: That's part of our
14 master plan. That's all part of it. We've
15 changed it so it's already in motion with
16 our engineer.

17 MR. HOOVER: We didn't forget about
18 you.

19 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Joe, once we
20 get down there and start the project with
21 the lights, as Councilman Hoover just
22 stated, I and I think everyone at the table
23 will be okay with it, we'll also send our
24 engineer down or Joe or both and just look
25 maybe in some of those areas. If the

1 business?

2 With that said, we'll start at the
3 end. Mayor Legg, good evening. Anything
4 for the meeting?

5 MAYOR LEGG: I have to say Joe,
6 Chief and Mike and Marylynn, your monthly
7 reports are excellent. Everything that you
8 guys do is on there and it's great.

9 I got to tell you, Mr. Chairman, I'm
10 very excited about the dog. That's all I
11 have. Thank you.

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Just for the
13 public's knowledge, the mayor came to
14 council a month ago and inquired about a K-9
15 dog, so we did put it into the budget, the
16 process of beginning for the dog. We have
17 to purchase the dog, we have to find out
18 more about the information as far as what
19 the training cost, the officer cost, the
20 vehicle cost. But the dog itself we put
21 right now into the budget. Just information
22 for the public.

23 MR. HOOVER: We have to find an
24 officer that wants to do it.

25 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: The mayor said

1 he has two inquiries right now. Hopefully
2 one of those two will be the one who will
3 step up. Anything else, Mayor.

4 MAYOR LEGG: That's all.

5 MR. KOMENSKY: I have a few things.
6 Joe, Mike and the Chief, I can set up a
7 meeting for Snow Forge. I'll get with you
8 guys after the meeting so we can have a
9 public safety meeting. I'll talk to you
10 guys after the meeting.

11 The next thing is, Bill, could you
12 make sure you add to the agenda next month
13 to purchase radios for the fire department
14 from Motorola Solutions, Inc. in the amount
15 of \$98,950 from the ASL fund. I'll have the
16 paperwork changed to the borough name on it.

17 The last thing that I have is I just
18 want to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving
19 with you and your families and stay safe.

20 MR. LETTIERI: I have nothing.

21 MR. BUTLER: I have nothing.

22 MR. HOOVER: Mare, what was that
23 number for the garbage? Do you have that?

24 MR. KOMENSKY: 526.

25 MS. BARTOLETTI: That's for our

1 Mascaro contract price from July 1 of 2025
2 until June 30 of 2026. So what we do when
3 we do the budget is half of one year's
4 contract and half of the other year's
5 contract.

6 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I just have
7 three things. First thing would be council
8 met before and we had an executive session
9 earlier in the meeting.

10 My second thing would be Dave, I
11 know I contacted you on this but to let
12 council know, potential guardrail or curb
13 down on Howard Street where they paved and
14 they widened the road.

15 MR. LOPATKA: I'll get there.

16 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Where they
17 widened the road on Howard Street and paved
18 it, you drive down there it's now about a
19 five to seven foot embankment.

20 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I saw that.

21 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: So I think the
22 borough should install some type of
23 guardrail. Dave, you get down and take a
24 look. I think curb would be too low. Just
25 to let council know that.

1 And the last item I have is just to
2 echo off Councilman Komensky. I wish
3 everybody a safe, healthy and happy
4 Thanksgiving. We'll see you next month.

5 At this time the chair would
6 entertain a motion to adjourn.

7 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll make that
8 motion.

9 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
10 Komensky. All in favor?

11 (Unanimous. Meeting adjourned.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that I attended the foregoing proceeding, took stenographic notes of the same, that the foregoing, consisting of 46 pages, is a true and correct copy, done to the best of my ability, of same and the whole thereof.



Mark Wozniak
Official Court Reporter