

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

OLD FORGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: COUNCIL WORK SESSION

MARCH 3, 2020
7:00 P.M.
OLD FORGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
314 SOUTH MAIN STREET
OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- ROBERT SEMENZA, PRESIDENT
- RUSSELL RINALDI
- LOUIS FEBBO
- RICK NOTARI
- JAMES HOOVER
- MICHAEL LETTIERI
- WILLIAM RINALDI, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR
- MARYLYNN BARTOLETTI, BOROUGH MANAGER

Mark Wozniak
Official Court Reporter

1 MR. SEMENZA: Good evening, ladies
2 and gentlemen. Welcome to the Old Forge
3 Borough Council meeting. I'd like to start
4 the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

5 (The Pledge of Allegiance was
6 recited.)

7 MR. SEMENZA: Welcome to the March
8 3rd council meeting. The purpose of
9 tonight's meeting is to set the agenda for
10 our March 17th meeting. We'll hear from our
11 department heads, see if they have anything
12 for the agenda.

13 There's a public sign-in sheet if
14 anybody would like to address council.

15 I'll go down the table, see if any
16 council members have anything to address.
17 Marylynn, roll call.

18 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Febbo?

19 MR. FEBBO: Here.

20 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Hoover?

21 MR. HOOVER: Here.

22 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Notari?

23 MR. NOTARI: Present.

24 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman

25 Lettieri?

1 MR. LETTIERI: Here.

2 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Rinaldi?

3 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Here.

4 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilwoman

5 Avvisato is absent. Councilman Semenza?

6 MR. SEMENZA: Here. We'll go to
7 Paul, zoning/code enforcement.

8 MR. PAPI: We're making a nice
9 transition here.

10 MR. SEMENZA: How is everything
11 going?

12 MR. PAPI: Good. Joe's ready to go.
13 Couple more days.

14 MR. SEMENZA: How about you with
15 zoning/code enforcement?

16 MR. PAPI: I'm just getting into
17 that now, Bob.

18 MR. SEMENZA: Do you have anything
19 for the agenda?

20 MR. PAPI: I have somebody coming to
21 the planning commission meeting, but it's
22 only informational. They want to put a cell
23 tower in up at the school but it's not zoned
24 for a cell tower.

25 MR. SEMENZA: That's on Mariotti's

1 property?

2 MR. PAPI: Yes. They're going to
3 come and talk to the planning commission.
4 It's Thursday, 7:30.

5 MR. HOOVER: Did somebody try to do
6 that before?

7 MR. PAPI: Yes.

8 MR. NOTARI: They came before us
9 before.

10 MR. SEMENZA: Anybody have any
11 questions for Paul? Thank's, Paul. Joe,
12 DPW street commissioner. How do you like
13 your new job?

14 MR. LENCESKI: Great. I have a
15 great time. Paul's incredible, Marylynn.
16 If I knew what I know now I would have given
17 them a bigger raise. It's going smooth.
18 Paul's showing me the ropes. We did the
19 recycling grant today. The DPW guys are
20 great. Very helpful. They tell me what's
21 going on. Just try to take advantage of
22 Thursday and Friday right now because
23 usually that's the picking up of yard waste.
24 Right now with the lack of snow and no yard
25 waste, just trying to prioritize everything

1 that we need to do.

2 MR. SEMENZA: With a light year like
3 this, weather wise, have people been out
4 cleaning their yards and do they put yard
5 waste to the curb?

6 MR. PAPI: No.

7 MR. SEMENZA: Because they know we
8 don't pick it up?

9 MS. BARTOLETTI: They call here.

10 MR. PAPI: Usually doesn't start
11 until they cut the grass.

12 MR. SEMENZA: I'm saying like trees,
13 branches, storms or whatever.

14 MR. PAPI: The guys pick up most of
15 the stuff.

16 MR. SEMENZA: Well, Joe, you
17 probably have nothing for the agenda.
18 Anybody have any questions for Joe?

19 MR. FEBBO: Just in general, did we
20 ever get the lights fixed down there?

21 MR. LENCESKI: I spoke with Urban
22 yesterday. He was in Florida. He's going
23 to get back to me later in the week, he
24 said.

25 MR. NOTARI: Welcome, Joe.

1 MR. SEMENZA: Thanks, Joe. Dave
2 Lopatka, anything?

3 MR. LOPATKA: Bill will have those
4 ordinances, storm water ordinance and elicit
5 discharge ordinance.

6 I actually passed along to you guys
7 footprints. I don't know if you want to
8 talk about it now or later.

9 MR. SEMENZA: I was going over it a
10 little bit before with Marylynn. A few
11 minor changes she's got on there. Where the
12 doors are going to be, stuff like that.

13 MR. LOPATKA: I'll talk with her and
14 get it straightened out. We'll get to work
15 on it.

16 MR. SEMENZA: I think it looks
17 great.

18 MR. LOPATKA: It was a little bit of
19 a challenge with the police back in.

20 MR. SEMENZA: So we got this done
21 here. What kind of time frame are we
22 looking at?

23 MR. LOPATKA: We'll get that right
24 in to engineering. I'm hoping within a
25 couple weeks we can have drawings ready to

1 go out.

2 MR. HOOVER: Shouldn't half the
3 drawings be done? It didn't change that
4 much. We just added the firehouse?

5 MR. LOPATKA: A lot of it changed.
6 A lot of the interior walls changed. Most
7 of it on this side didn't change that much.

8 MR. SEMENZA: For our April work
9 session meeting could you have it ready to
10 go out to bid if we call a special meeting?

11 MR. LOPATKA: Let me find out. If
12 you guys are okay with that, whatever
13 changes Marylynn has --

14 MR. SEMENZA: Does anybody have any
15 questions for Dave? That will be five
16 weeks.

17 MR. LOPATKA: That should give us
18 enough time.

19 MR. PAPI: On the electrical end did
20 they make provisions for the Christmas
21 lights?

22 MR. LOPATKA: You guys tell us --

23 MR. NOTARI: My only question is the
24 accessibility of the mayor's office to the
25 public --

1 MS. BARTOLETTI: It's very
2 accessible.

3 MR. NOTARI: However, the public is
4 also accessible now to the council meeting
5 room and the back of the council chambers.

6 MR. LOPATKA: Well, first of all,
7 you're still going to be locked down on
8 either door. People can't just come in. It
9 will be locked down on the front door and
10 the back door. So once somebody's buzzed,
11 if you guys have a meeting there's access.
12 They have to have access to the restrooms
13 and what not on either side of the hallway.
14 The borough office and the police area, the
15 doors coming off of that main hallway coming
16 into the borough office and that other
17 hallway, that will be locked down.

18 MR. NOTARI: That's all secured, but
19 the mayor's office and the council meeting
20 room is not secured. It's secure for our
21 staff in our office, but there's no security
22 here to get to the mayor's office or here or
23 here.

24 MR. SEMENZA: Do you want to have a
25 secure door there?

1 MS. BARTOLETTI: The secure door is
2 when you first come in in the main entrance.

3 MR. NOTARI: How about the elevator?

4 MR. LOPATKA: You have to get buzzed
5 in to the elevator.

6 MS. BARTOLETTI: When you're in the
7 elevator and you get to the top, then you're
8 going to have to get buzzed in from there.

9 MR. HOOVER: It goes down that
10 hallway.

11 MR. LOPATKA: The building overall
12 is secure, and if somebody buzzes you in
13 they'll know who they buzzed in.

14 MS. BARTOLETTI: Once you get in the
15 elevator and the elevator opens into the
16 building it's like a landing area, a
17 vestibule.

18 MR. SEMENZA: Anything else, Dave?

19 MR. LOPATKA: No.

20 MR. SEMENZA: Anything else for
21 Dave? Thanks, Dave. Chief, do you have
22 anything for the agenda?

23 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Just what I just
24 discussed about the guns.

25 MR. SEMENZA: All right. Anybody

1 have any questions for Chief Dubernas?

2 CHIEF DUBERNAS: I also have the K-9
3 handler.

4 MR. SEMENZA: Thank you, Chief.
5 Bill, anything for the agenda?

6 ATTY. RINALDI: One ordinance that
7 repeals and replaces the storm water
8 management order under our SALDO, and
9 another ordinance, illicit discharge into
10 the storm water system. Two ordinances on
11 the agenda.

12 MR. SEMENZA: Anybody have any
13 questions for Bill?

14 CHIEF DUBERNAS: I have one other
15 thing. East Morton Street, I did a study on
16 that. There's over 400 foot of visibility
17 where they want that stop sign. They're not
18 going to get a stop sign there. No
19 accidents, nothing. You can't use it to
20 deter speed. I have it all done. It's not
21 going to come up anymore.

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Where did they
23 want it?

24 CHIEF DUBERNAS: East Morton and Sue
25 Court. It's over 410 feet.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Who inquired about it?

CHIEF DUBERNAS: Councilwoman Avvisato.

MR. SEMENZA: Guess what, there's no doubt people speed down that road and many other roads in Old Forge.

MR. PAPI: Never been an accident.

MR. SEMENZA: We asked you to do your job, you did it. Thanks for the findings. Anything else? Anybody have any questions for Bill Rinaldi? Thanks, Bill Marylynn, anything?

MS. BARTOLETTI: No, just the building, I guess, and a couple things when we go to executive tonight.

MR. SEMENZA: Anybody have any questions for Marylynn? Thanks, Marylynn. I'm going to have an executive session after the meeting. I'm going to ask all department heads to stay. Paul, Dave, Joe. All department heads stay after the meeting.

At this time we'll go to public comment. Chris?

MR. GOETZ: Just two questions.

1 One, has any Old Forge Borough official
2 cited Trion Equipment on Keyser Avenue for
3 operating without a permit?

4 MR. SEMENZA: Have we cite them?

5 MR. FEBBO: He doesn't have a
6 permit.

7 MR. GOETZ: Wouldn't be the chief of
8 police. Has any borough official cited him
9 for not having a permit?

10 MR. SEMENZA: I have not. Any
11 borough official?

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I have not,
13 no.

14 MR. GOETZ: Has any borough official
15 cited Scrap Enterprises for operating a
16 business in the borough without a permit?

17 ATTY. RINALDI: That's part of the
18 contempt.

19 MR. GOETZ: So no borough official
20 has done anything? Thank you. That's all I
21 have.

22 MR. SEMENZA: John?

23 MR. JURISKY: I got my answers. I
24 talked to Paul.

25 MR. NOTARI: So we have businesses

1 operating without a permit in town?

2 ATTY. RINALDI: We can talk about it
3 in executive.

4 MR. GUIDA: Hi, Council. I think
5 some of you know why I'm here today.
6 There's a little levity to this story. My
7 three year old Godson was asking his
8 grandmother this morning when are they going
9 to open up the park? So, you know, I'm kind
10 of a little bit hung up on, like, the park
11 being locked. The weather's changed,
12 whether we agree on that or we disagree.
13 The school district didn't have one single
14 snow day this year.

15 So with the warmer weather people
16 want to get outside. The borough park is
17 locked. So there's -- I found myself going
18 down to Duryea, McDade. I realized this is
19 so silly because I see a lot of Old Forge
20 residents in Duryea and we have a wonderful
21 park here in Old Forge. It just got me
22 thinking coming from my position as a school
23 guidance counselor. I know everybody
24 unanimously at this table would agree that
25 we want kids outside. We want kids having

1 the childhood that we had. Unfortunately,
2 kids are spending tons of time on iPads,
3 video games. ADHA, all kinds of things like
4 that.

5 So I feel like, as I thought more
6 about it, it's an inconvenience to go to
7 Duryea, and I have a lot of pride in my
8 town. This is really silly driving to
9 Duryea, when half a block away I have a
10 really great park to access. It's locked
11 up.

12 What message are we sending to our
13 youth? We always say that we want kids
14 outside but the park is locked. It's a
15 great park.

16 MR. SEMENZA: First, I will tell you
17 we never open the parks before April 1st.
18 Forever. So as long as I can remember it's
19 been April 1st. Our park maintenance does
20 not start yet. Say broken glass falls and
21 it's not cleaned up by anybody. I'm not
22 saying it's going to happen, but stuff like
23 that. The parks are not ready for public
24 use yet. Do you understand what I'm saying?

25 We're going to start them earlier

1 this year. Hopefully it will be open a
2 little bit before April 1st but I can't
3 guarantee it. But that's been the protocol
4 and that's always what we did.

5 MR. GUIDA: I just want to kind of
6 get the conversation started tonight. I
7 talked to Ricky, he said 20 years, he'd like
8 to see it happen. What would it take?

9 MR. SEMENZA: Up until probably ten
10 years ago, right now times are changing. So
11 maybe it's time that it will open sooner. I
12 mean, we can be under 16 inches of snow,
13 like we were three years ago, in two weeks.

14 MR. PAPI: The water is shut off.

15 MR. SEMENZA: We have to winterize
16 the parks.

17 MR. GUIDA: I guess my point is what
18 would it take -- like, let's consider what
19 the barriers are. The water, possible
20 maintenance. Is that something that we'd
21 have to consider the budget for?

22 MR. SEMENZA: It's not even the
23 budget. The water is shut off. We turn the
24 water on and we get zero degree temperatures
25 for a week we're going to bust pipes.

1 MR. GUIDA: What would we need to
2 turn the water on for?

3 MR. SEMENZA: Bathrooms.

4 MR. GUIDA: Pagnotti park is
5 unlocked.

6 MR. SEMENZA: The water's not on
7 there.

8 MR. GUIDA: I really don't think the
9 barriers should, like, take 20 years. Is it
10 a budgetary conversation --

11 MR. SEMENZA: It has nothing to do
12 with the budget. It has to do with
13 protocol, how we run it. Our park
14 maintenance has not started yet. The park's
15 not clean.

16 MR. GUIDA: It's not consistent.

17 MR. SEMENZA: For 20 years it's been
18 April 1st. That's consistent.

19 MS. BARTOLETTI: Pagnotti's open
20 because someone broke the lock off. It's
21 not even technically supposed to be open.

22 MR. HOOVER: This is the first year
23 that we've actually had a couple warm -- the
24 weather's been good. The last two days it's
25 been 50 degrees. We can get snow Friday.

1 Should it be open? Maybe. Like Bobby said,
2 it has to be cleaned up before we open it.

3 MR. GUIDA: Maybe we can operate
4 under different seasonal hours.

5 MR. SEMENZA: Our parks are
6 maintained by our staff seasonal, and
7 they're maintained from the end of March
8 until, roughly, October. We don't have them
9 during the winter months. We can't put it
10 on the DPW because they have their own job
11 to do.

12 MR. GUIDA: Well, I guess all I can
13 ask you guys is at least have the
14 conversation.

15 MR. SEMENZA: I don't believe Duryea
16 closes their park.

17 MR. GUIDA: It was locked around the
18 end of February. Get the kids out of the
19 house.

20 MR. NOTARI: I'm going to bring it
21 up at our next recreation committee meeting.

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: The park by
23 the school is available, too.

24 MR. GUIDA: Thank all you guys for
25 your time. I don't think we have to move a

1 mountain to get it done. Even change it to
2 March 1st.

3 MR. SEMENZA: Thank you. At this
4 time the chair is going to go down the
5 table, see if anybody has anything to
6 discuss.

7 MAYOR LEGG: I'd just like to
8 welcome and congratulate Joe. Good kid.
9 I'm sure he's going to do a great job.
10 That's all.

11 MR. FEBBO: Nothing.

12 MR. NOTARI: Today in the
13 classifieds I saw a CDBG meeting here for
14 Tuesday, the 17th. That's going to happen
15 before our regular meeting?

16 MS. BARTOLETTI: Yes. They usually
17 come before the meeting.

18 MR. NOTARI: It said public hearing.

19 MS. BARTOLETTI: They have to
20 advertise it in case the public wants to
21 come.

22 MR. NOTARI: That money, we have to
23 come up with a project? Or do you have an
24 idea?

25 MS. BARTOLETTI: Well, right now the

1 past money we're using for the elevator, and
2 then we'll have to come up with a project
3 going forward. That will eat up the old
4 money.

5 MR. NOTARI: Welcome, Joe.

6 MR. HOOVER: Nothing.

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I'm good.

8 MR. SEMENZA: All right. I'm going
9 to have an executive session after the
10 meeting.

11 At this time the chair is going to
12 entertain a motion to adjourn.

13 MR. NOTARI: I'll make that motion.

14 MR. SEMENZA: By Councilman Notari.

15 All in favor?

16 (Unanimous. Meeting adjourned.)
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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 19 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