

WEATHERLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 27, 2025
5:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of Weatherly Borough Council was held on January 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Paul Hadzick called the meeting to order, followed by the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

Council Members attending: Michael Bellizia, Vincent Cuddeford II, Joseph Cyburt, Theresa D’Andrea, Jeffery Miller, Norman Richie, and Paul Hadzick.

Also attending: Borough Manager, Harold Pudliner; Borough Solicitor, James Nanovic; Borough Secretary, Lori O’Donnell; Deputy Borough Manager, Tracy Grover; Police Chief Brian Markovchick, Blue Ridge Cable Channel 13 Cameraperson, Drew Snowberger; Times News reporter, Kelly Socha; Journal Newspaper reporter, Ruth Isenberg; and citizens: Christina Jones, Paula Gregory, Donna & Joseph Thomas, Bernadette & Mark Brasvage, Becky Gregory, Alice McQuaide, Drs. Emilia & Adrian Secheresiu, Robert Maleski, Tracie Mengle, Nicole Composto, Donney Weston, William Beattie, Chad Maleski, Brad Miletto, Brad Howton, Matthew Quinn, Joshua Krieger, John & Desiree Furmanchin, Lisa Waak, AnneMarie Shevlin, Annette Stroll, Corey Gerhart, Kim Gardy, Dr. Francis Braconaro, Stacey & Jeffrey Pleban, Donna Murmello, Mark Murmello, Jason Murmello and Dylan Murmello, Charlie Puzetti, Alexander Chaikalis and Katie Nahm.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 30, 2024, were presented to Council for approval.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 30, 2024, were approved on a motion by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Jeffery Miller, and approved by general acclaim of Council.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The Treasurer’s Report for December, 2024, was presented and reflected a balance of \$163,897.04.

The Treasurer’s Report for December, 2024, was approved on a motion by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Theresa D’Andrea and by general acclaim of Council.

BILLS:

The bills for January, 2025, totaling \$260,496.86 were presented to Council.

A motion to approve all of the bills was made by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Jeffery Miller and approved by general acclaim of Council.

BUSINESS:

1. Proclamation for Donna Murmello.

The following proclamation was presented to Donna Murmello for her 50 years of nursing service. Donna worked in Dr. Secheresiu’s office here in Weatherly.

The Borough of Weatherly
PROCLAMATION
In Recognition of Donna Murmello
January 27, 2025

WHEREAS, Donna Murmello, a Registered Nurse who has served the Community and Health Care Systems unwaveringly. For the past Fifty years, Donna has shown true dedication to her work and has always treated her patients with compassion, respect and understanding, and

WHEREAS, Residents of Weatherly and the patients of the Health Organizations that she has worked for, have come to know Donna for her kindness, professional care and unselfish devotion. Donna's work ethic and care is to be acknowledged with the utmost respect and gratitude, and

WHEREAS, the Weatherly Borough Council acknowledges and admires the commitment and patience Donna has provided to her patients during her years of loyal service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I PAUL HADZICK, THE MAYOR of Weatherly, Pennsylvania does hereby acknowledge the Fifty years of dedication, commitment, and emotional support that Donna Murmello has provided to her patients and the community. Her fifty years of exemplified service as a Health Care Professional is the type of care we all aspire to have.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this 27th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Hadzick acknowledged and recognized the borough employees from the park, street, electric, water and sewer departments. He stated that he would like to open the budget to hopefully increase employees' wages and per a study he and Norman Richie found the employees are under paid. The study included 365 Boroughs within the state and per the study they concluded that our employees were \$10-15 per hour underpaid. He stated that our employees have a quick response time and get things done. Council members: Richie, Cyburt, D'Andrea, Miller and Bellizia agreed that the employees have a quick response, fix things in a minimal amount of time and do a good job. Michael Bellizia said that the study may show that the employees are under paid, but were the numbers ran to see the effect on the budget if the wages were increased. He added that he felt they deserve the increase, but can we support it he asked. Mayor Hadzick's response was that the budget was approved while he was not at the meeting because he was sick. He also added that the utility rates were increased. Michael Bellizia stated that the electric rates were increased to cover the increase in the transmission fees. Mayor Hadzick stated that the water and sewer departments have profits each month. He said to Mr. Bellizia: "What are the numbers?", you don't know, but he does. Jeffery Miller asked where the money is coming from for a \$20 increase per hour, we can work on it as we can afford it. Mr. Miller added that he felt that the mayor was on a person vendetta.

Corey Gerhart stated that he will soon be employed here for 30 years, he has seen the way Council negotiates". He used the Police Department as an example, but they do not have anyone to negotiate for them. Being a lineman is just as dangerous as being a police officer, but they are the lowest paid in the State. He asked Council to just be fair. He also added that there has been no improvement in the pension plan in 30 years. Jeffery Miller commented that he is paid lower than other areas, but takes pride in his work and that we are located in a low pay area. Mr. Miller then asked the employees if they came to the meeting on their own or were they old to come. Mayor Hadzick invited them, but Brad Miletto said they got together in the garage and decided to come to the meeting. Mayor Hadzick just wants the employees treated fairly. Joseph Cyburt stated that the employees are treated well. Brad Howton said that they are fixing water lines with clamps, there is no plan he added. They need to change the way things are going. Mayor Hadzick added that the backhoe is 20 years old. Brad Howton said it was at 5 Star being fixed. They voted for an \$800,000 fire truck, but no equipment for the Borough. Brad Howton also mentioned

that they need to read the meters each month and the citizens take it out on the meter readers and Lori, he thought we were supposed to be getting remote read meters. Mr. Pudliner stated that remote meters were looked into, but were very expensive. He has met with Dave Mayo and will be getting prices from him and there is a grant through American Municipal Power being written by Regional Appalachian. Norman Richie stated that they went way over the budget last year and the reins need to be tightened and spending cut. He added that there are things getting done that do not have to be done and things not getting done when it does need to be done.

A motion to form a committee to hear from employees was made by Michael Bellizia, seconded by Joseph Cyburt and approved by general acclaim of Council. Mayor Hadzick said that he will determine when and who will go on the committee.

2. Resolution for Tax Anticipation Loan

Mr. Pudliner informed Council that once the resolution is passed the other paperwork is complete, and they will be sent in to Harrisburg for approval.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEATHERLY
AUTHORIZING A TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE;
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF SAID NOTE AND
AUTHORIZING SUCH OTHER ACTION AS APPLICABLE.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of Weatherly Borough, Carbon County, Pennsylvania, hereinafter called the Local Government Unit, anticipate current revenues as yet uncollected; and

WHEREAS, the said Local Government Unit has inadequate funds for current expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the said Local Government Unit has determined that it is necessary to borrow for the purpose of meeting current expenses by issuing a note to be repaid from said anticipated revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council finds that a private sale by negotiation is in the best financial interest of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank has submitted to the said Local Government Unit a proposal to purchase a tax anticipation note of the Local Government Unit and the Local Government Unit desires by the adoption of this resolution to accept such proposal and authorize the issuance and sale of its tax and revenue anticipation note;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

1. The Local Government Unit hereby authorizes the issuance of a tax and revenue anticipation note in the amount of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$100,000.00) DOLLARS in anticipation of the receipt of current taxes and revenues to be sold at private sale.

2. The note shall be in the denomination of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$100,000.00) DOLLARS; shall be redeemable at any time at the option of the officers of the Local Government Unit without penalty or premium, shall be fully registered without coupons, shall be dated in 2025 bearing interest at the rate of 3.55% percent, shall mature on December 31, 2025, shall be payable at the Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania and shall be substantially in the form annexed to the resolution as Exhibit "A" and hereby made a part of the resolution as though fully set forth in this place.

3. The proposal of the Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank to purchase the note dated December 31, 2024 is hereby accepted and shall be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting. A true and correct copy

of said Proposal is attached hereto as Exhibit B, and the appropriate executive officers are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver a duplicate original of the acceptance of said proposal to the Bank.

4. The Local Government Unit hereby pledges to the Bank and grants to the Bank a first lien and charge on its taxes and revenues to be received during the period when the note is outstanding to secure the payment of the indebtedness evidenced hereby and the interest thereon

5. Payment of principal and interest shall be made in the following amounts and on the following dates:

A. Interest payments shall be made monthly on the outstanding principal balance;

B. Principal shall be paid on or before December 31, 2025

6. The appropriate executive officer shall be and hereby is authorized and directed to execute and deliver in the name of, on behalf of, and under the seal of, the Local Government Unit, the tax and revenue anticipation note in the form and containing terms described above, and the Secretary of the Local Government Unit be and hereby is authorized and directed to attest the same.

7. The appropriate executive or fiscal officer be and hereby is authorized and directed to prepare or cause to be prepared and to file a Certificate as to Taxes and Revenues to be Collected as required by Section 8128 of the Local Government Unit Debt Act. A true and correct copy of said Certificate is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

8. The executive officers of the Local Government Unit be and hereby are authorized and directed to perform all acts which are necessary and proper for the valid issuance and securing of the note.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set his hand and affixed the Seal of the Local Government Unit this 27th of January, 2025.

A motion to approve the Resolution for Tax Anticipation Loan was made by Jeffery Miller, seconded by Michael Bellizia and approved by general acclaim of Council.

3. Discussion on 2025 Road Paving Program.

Mr. Pudliner stated that he was giving Council two different roads to select one for this year's paving project. He would like to bid both of the streets, North Street and Second Street, and would like to pave Second Street if the price comes in low enough. North Street would be from Allen Avenue to the dead end to the east. Second Street is possible would be from Carbon Street to Blakeslee Avenue.

4. Sale of Impound Yard Vehicles and Equipment.

Mr. Pudliner stated that he needed Council's approval to added two more item to the sale list: 2004 Subaru Forrester – Black and an Old Lamp Post.

A motion to approve the two items for sale was made by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Norman Richie and approved by general acclaim of Council.

5. Discussion on Form of Government.

Mayor Hadzick stated that our current form of government is 50 years old and is not a good form of government. The President of Council should be elected by Council and he feels other should have the option to be elected by Council members. As the President of Council/Mayor he can only call a state of emergency and present proclamations. Only five municipalities have this form of government. He would like to have the solicitor write up a referendum for the ballot to be voted on by the residents. He said he is a mayor who can not do anything. Joseph Cyburt commented that he felt it seemed to work well, no one is looking for a power trip and felt that the Paul Hadzick gets the respect as a mayor. Mayor Hadzick said he has nothing to do, he is only a tie breaking vote on Council. Solicitor Nanovic stated that Mayor Hadzick said was not true, the mayor does not break ties, they have an equal vote like everyone else. Solicitor Nanovic explained why the form of government was changed and it takes more than just a referendum and believes there should be a petition. He did not research it, but will if asked. A statute states what needs to

be done, which is the same process as the last time. Mayor Hadzick said that he spoke to the election bureau who spoke to the State Department and the solicitor just writes a referendum. Michael Bellizia asked how does the change in the form of government benefit the Borough. Mayor Hadzick explained that in the current form of government the Borough Manager has power to do things and four members of Council have to agree to make something happen – Borough Manager has absolute control. Borough Manager, Harold Pudliner, stated that he brings projects and issues to Council for approval. Mayor Hadzick said that Council can not go to the employees, the employees have to go through the borough manager and not Council. Joseph Cyburt said that the form of government should be left alone. Jeffery Miller said that Title 8 & 53 should be read and know what the form of government is and not jump into it. The other members of council felt the same way, that they should jump into anything. Norman Richie said that the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Chairman of the Legislative Branch said it is a screwed-up form of government. Mayor Hadzick said that Title 8 says that as the mayor he can do executive orders. Solicitor Nanovic said Dillon's Rule states that he cannot do executive orders.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONEL:

A motion to enter executive session at 6:34 pm was made by Norman Richie, and seconded by Michael Bellizia.

A motion to exit executive session at 6:46 pm was made by Joseph Cyburt, and seconded by Theresa D'Andrea.

ADJOURN:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm pm was made by Norman Richie, seconded by Jeffery Miller.