Adamstown Borough Council **November 5, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM at the Adamstown Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant, 235 E. Swartzville Road, Denver by Council President Randy Good.

Council Present: Randy Good, Dave Matz, Alex McManimen, deLyn Alumbaugh, Paul Marx, Mark Bansner

Visitors present: Sgt. Phil Snavely, Officer Brady Bixler, Deputy Chief Dan Wieder, Laura Russell, Jess Garner, Jessica McManimen, Mike Marti, Adam Stokrp, Korry Stokrp, Zach Hoffman, Wendy Kerschner, Heather Marx, Ethan Marx, Steve Davis, Michele Walter Fry

Others present: John Schmidt, Mike Palm, Julie Scherer, Sam Toffy

MINUTES: Minutes from the October 1, 2024 meeting were approved with a motion from D. Matz, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously approved.

BILL LIST: Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to approve all bills and receipts presented.

POLICE REPORT:

The October Police Report was read by Sgt. Snavely. He also gave an update on recent speed details around the borough. Data results showed that there is not a speeding issue on Willow Street, with approximately one vehicle per hour found to be speeding. R. Good said we need to investigate flashing lights or something else to install near the school, as a few drivers were found to be speeding along Adamstown Road. J. Schmidt said he was in contact with the District 8 Traffic Engineer and was told that PennDOT will be conducting a traffic study of Willow Street from Rt. 272 to Rt. 897, focusing on whether or not they will be able to restrict commercial trucks from using that road.

FIRE REPORT:

The October Fire Report was read by Deputy Chief Wieder. He also briefly discussed grants, Act 172 and pool memberships for fire department members who make up 25% of the call volume from the previous year. This was all referred to the F&S Committee for consideration.

VISITORS BUSINESS:

Laura Russell, Adamstown Area Library (AAL) – Ms. Russell first introduced the new AAL Director, Jess Garner, who will be taking the place of former director Carolyn Reiste. Ms. Russell gave an update of the Library programs and everything the Library has to offer to its patrons.

Adam Stokrp, Boy Scout Troop 4318 – Scout Stokrp addressed Council regarding installing a story walk involving signs along the trail through the grove, as his Eagle Scout project. He would be working closely with Jess from the Library regarding the location of the signs. There was a concern due to past vandalism in the grove and along the trail. He presented a quote with an estimated cost of $2,175.

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by P. Marx and unanimously carried to approve moving forward with the project and revisiting with Council once he collects donations to see how Council could further help.

SPECIAL TOPICS: None.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Oxidation Ditches – M. Palm said a motor has been replaced in one of the oxidation ditches, The parts would have cost approximately $130K for the mixer and shaft, but the parts were fabricated by a local shop for $10K. PW staff did all of the work in-house. They are also working on replacing parts on the two clarifiers.

Voluntary Water Restriction Plan – Due to the dry weather and lack of rain, M. Palm is recommending the borough implement a voluntary water restriction plan.

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by A. McManimen and unanimously carried to approve implementing a voluntary water restriction plan to include no smoking on borough lands.

EPA Pretreatment Report Letter – SDE drafted a letter for Borough Council to authorize PW Superintendent M. Palm to be an official signer on any EPA reports.

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by A. McManimen and unanimously carried to approve signing the authorization letter appointing M. Palm as signer on any EPA reports.

Ken's Locksmithing Proposal for Grove Restrooms – In an effort to allow the grove restrooms to be open to the public during the day, d. Alumbaugh worked with Ken's Locksmithing to obtain a proposal to provide special locking doors on the restrooms. M. Palm said they are proposing a programmable lock with a timer on the restroom doors. This will be tabled until the December meeting.

Cameras Installed – M. Palm said that when P. Marx recently did some upgrades to the computers at the plant, cameras were not being used were installed so they could remotely log in and observe the systems at the plant.

ADAMSTOWN 2026:

Possible Committee Projects – d. Alumbaugh gave a project update from a recent Committee meeting held last week.

BUILDING:

A. McManimen said the Committee will be meeting on November 14th.

COMMUNITY: None.

FINANCE:

2025 Proposed Budget– R. Good gave a recap of the proposed budget, saying there will be a tax increase, from 2.041 to 2.241 mils. We have not had a tax increase since 2011, and it will still be the lowest tax rate of any borough in the County. Sewer rates will increase 5% across the board and water rates, which have not increased since 2012, will increase to $4.50/1K gallons over 5K gallons.

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to approve advertising the draft 2025 budget for adoption at the December meeting.

FIRE/SAFETY: None.

IT: None.

PERSONNEL:

Alex McManimen thanked J. Scherer for sending follow-up letters for outstanding bills, which resulted in recouping approximately $5K.

RECREATION: None.

ROADS AND BRIDGES: None.

WATER/SEWER/MS4:

3rd Quarter Late Fees – Due to the recent hurricane in North Carolina, water/sewer payments sent through the mail are not being received at the lockbox in a timely manner. D. Matz is recommending that due to the current circumstances, wait two weeks before applying late fees to the billing system for the 3rd quarter 2024 billing only.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to approve delaying the application of late fees two weeks to allow for payments to be received/posted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Resolution #2024-14 – Requesting grant funds in the amount of $1M from the local share account statewide for Borough Office Improvements and Adamstown Area Library Expansion Project

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution #2024-14 as presented.

Resolution #2024-15 - Requesting grant funds in the amount of $190,476.25 from the local share account statewide for Borough Stormwater Pipe Replacement/Rehabilitation Project

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by A. McManimen and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution #2024-15 as presented.

Resolution #2024-16 - Requesting grant funds in the amount of $442,103.00 from the local share account statewide for Borough Pump Station Elimination Project

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by A. McManimen and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution #2024-16 as presented.

Resolution #2024-17 - Requesting grant funds in the amount of $639,967.00 from the local share account statewide for Borough Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Rehabilitation Project

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution #2024-17 as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Northern Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce (NLCCC) – A membership application was presented to join the NLCCC at a cost of $175 for the 2025 calendar year.

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by A. McManimen and unanimously carried to join the NLCCC at a membership cost of $175.

Resolution #2024-13 - Resolution #2024-13 was drafted by SDE to add Kevin Beyer as an SDE SEO.

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution #2024-13 as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council went into executive session at 8:50PM to discuss insurance and wages.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:18PM.

Adjournment:

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by A. McManimen and unanimously carried to adjourn.
The meeting ended at 9:18PM.

Attested: _____
Sam Toffy, Adamstown Borough Administrative Secretary