Adamstown Borough Council **September 3, 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, James Johnson-Null, Mark Bansner

Visitors present: Chief Chris McKim, Steve Aronson, Derek Miller, Tom Unger, Zach Hoffman, Wendy Kerschner, Heather Marx, Helen Shaak, James Bretz, Maryann Smolar, Diane Hartman, Michele Walter Fry

Others present: John Schmidt, Julie Scherer, Sam Toffy

MINUTES: Minutes from the August 6, 2024 meeting were approved with a motion from d. Alumbaugh, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously approved.

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

POLICE REPORT:

The August Police Report was read by Chief McKim.
Chief McKim introduced Steve Aronson, who attended on behalf of the Friends of the Ephrata Police Foundation. Mr. Aronson said the Foundation is being launched and they would like all the municipalities covered by Ephrata Police Department to be involved. The organization will be 100% volunteer, and its goal is to raise money to supplement the tools that are provided to the police department. He is looking for community or business leader representation from each of the municipalities to serve as an advisory board more so than being a working board. There will be subcommittees to do fundraising, event planning, etc. Chief McKim added that this is only in the beginning stages, and it has not been approved by Borough Council yet, but it will be completely independent of government.

FIRE REPORT:

The August Fire Report was read by Chief Miller. The Fire Company will be celebrating their 150th anniversary on September 22nd at IronSpire from 12PM-4PM. All are welcome to join in on the celebration!

M. Bansner asked who should be contacted if someone is burning since the borough has a no-burn policy. Chief Miller said the Fire Company could be contacted and they could alert the resident(s) in question of our policy. Burn barrels are not permitted. A small open fire is allowed to prepare food for consumption, provided it is located safely away from any structures. He said that a gas grill should be located at least 10' from a structure. Resident J. Bretz asked if it is acceptable to have a 5'x5' fire to burn food and Chief McKim encouraged anyone with concerns to call the police so they could investigate. Residents D. Hartman and M. Smolar commented that a neighbor just had a truckload of large pieces of firewood delivered and they regularly have bon fires, but they don't believe the property owners are cooking on it. Again, Chief McKim said that if anyone has concerns, they should not hesitate to contact the police to investigate.

VISITORS BUSINESS:

Library Update – A. McManimen said that the Library held their 10th annual golf outing. This fundraising event has made over $100K in the last 10 years. This was another successful year, with over 135 participants. A small refrigerator has been added to the Library to sell drinks and cold snacks to patrons. The search for a replacement for Library Director has been narrowed down to 3 applicants with the goal of having someone hired by November 1st.

SPECIAL TOPICS: None.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Pump Upgrade – R. Good said that we received over $5,500 back from PPL for the pump upgrade we did for energy savings.

A. McManimen said that 2 new blades and shafts were purchased from Zimm-O-Matic for less than $10K. Both oxygenation tanks have new blades and shafts. This saved the borough over $100K. R. Good is requesting that we approve up to $250 to provide lunch for the Public Works Department the employees at Zimm-O-Matic for the outstanding job they did in helping the borough to save so much money.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to approve buying lunch for the Public Works Department and the employees at Zimm-O-Matic NTE $250.

ADAMSTOWN 2026:

Adamstown Borough Park Playground – d. Alumbaugh is requesting approval of the 3 payment requests to SLC Excavating, LLC for completion of work on the park playground:

- Application for Payment #2 in the amount of $74,890.60
- Application for Payment #3 in the amount of $11,308.59
- Application for Payment #4 in the amount of $6,937.38

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by J. Johnson-Null and unanimously carried to approve payment for work done as requested by SLC Excavating, LLC.

BUILDING: None.

COMMUNITY:

A photo of the sign in front of Domino's showing the grants that the borough has been awarded was presented by d. Alumbaugh. We were awarded a Green Light-Go grant in the amount of $315,382 and two DCNR grants, Phase 1 in the amount of $100K and Phase 2 in the amount of $476,500.

He also presented a picture of the well-attended official ribbon cutting ceremony, held at the park playground on Saturday, August 24th at 11AM. At the ceremony he thanked the various key players who were instrumental in helping us to get the grant. On the same day, from 5PM to 8PM there was live music in the park by The New Individuals. It drew a good crowd, and the new playground equipment was full of children playing on it.

ZHB Meetings – d. Alumbaugh said that there are sometimes critical issues that go before the ZHB for consideration. Going forward, those issues should go before Council prior to being heard by the ZHB so that Council could become involved if necessary. If they feel the need to be represented at the hearing, they could do so representing a position which means that their input, as a Council member, would be taken into consideration when making the official Decision.

FINANCE:

Pension MMO –Council was provided with the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) in the amount of $24,110 for the Adamstown Borough Pension Plan.

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to approve the 2025 MMO in the amount of $24,110.

Monthly Police Services Bills – J. Scherer is requesting that Council approve paying the Ephrata Police bills as they are received so they are paid by the due date.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to approve paying the Ephrata Police bills as they are received.

FIRE/SAFETY:

J. Schmidt said he is continuing to receive consulting and pricing on cameras. He plans to report back to Council at the November meeting with recommendations.

He also thanked d. Alumbaugh for organizing the ribbon cutting ceremony. He said it was a very nice event.

IT:

M. Palm would like to add network WiFi at the lower building at the WWTP. P. Marx received a quote from Laughing Rock for one access point for inside the building and one access point outside the building for security cameras. He is proposing a new network on the wall and installing the new equipment in a compartment. A deposit of $1,148.88 is required to order the equipment, with the entire project NTE $2,500. P. Marx is donating the cable for the project.

Motioned by P. Marx, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to approve Laughing Rock quote NTE $2,500.

PERSONNEL:

PW Position – A. McManimen said that after interviewing several applicants for the PW position, a candidate was chosen. He is recommending hiring the candidate at a starting hourly wage of $30.25/hour with a 75¢ increase after 90 days contingent upon passing all required clearances as outlined in his acceptance offer letter dated September 3, 2024.

Motioned by A. McManimen, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried to approve hiring PW candidate as outlined above.

RECREATION:

J. Johnson-Null said the pool is officially closed and we had a banner year. There were 126 early bird memberships sold over the Labor Day weekend for next season.

ROADS AND BRIDGES: None.

WATER/SEWER/MS4:

D. Matz said that with the recent equipment breakdown at the plant, it proves that something unexpected could happen at any time. He said they are continuing to look to the future to streamline of sewage collection system which the PW Department did a great job handling the recent equipment breakdown.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Green Light-Go Grant – R. Good asked for a motion to sign the Green Light-Go Grant Application. The total cost of the project will be approximately $400K, with 80% being paid by the State and 20% being paid by the Borough. This is for the replacement of the traffic light at the intersection of Rt. 272 and Willow Street as well as the pedestrian crossing buttons and emergency vehicle control.

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by A. McManimen and unanimously carried to approve signing the Green Light-Go Agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

40 Willow Street SWM Agreement – R. Good said he met with the owners to discuss issues with some of the verbiage in the Agreement. This will be looked further into and brought back to Council once it is rectified.

LSA State-Wide Grants – T. Unger said that from September 1st through November 30th which are grants that are funded by PA Racehorse and Gaming. Each grant application is a maximum of $1M with no required match. There is a $100 non-refundable application fee. The Borough is interested in submitting applications for the following:

- Admin building
- Sewer trunkline rehab
- Pump station
- Storm water pipe replacement

T. Unger said that if we use SDE to apply for multiple grants, they will charge us $2,500 per application.

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by P. Marx and unanimously carried to move forward with submitting applications for all four projects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council went into executive session at 8:20PM to discuss past due bills.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:30PM.

Adjournment:

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to adjourn.
The meeting ended at 8:32PM.

Attested: _____
Sam Toffy, Adamstown Borough Administrative Secretary