

Towanda Borough Regular Council Meeting Minutes June 6, 2022

The Towanda Borough Council Meeting was held on Monday, June 6, 2022, at the Borough Municipal Building, 724 Main Street, Towanda, PA. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Vice-President Eberlin.

Present: Vice President Eberlin, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Saring, Mr. Kovalcin, Mr. Schulze, Mrs. Hatch & Mr. Parks

Absent: Mr. Roof & President Christini

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

BobbiJo Smiley of 4 William Street spoke about being unable to park in front of her home. She has no driveway to pull into and claims that she was told she would have a parking space when she bought the house. Allied Services has a community living home at 12 Mix Avenue and the employees park in front of and nearby her home regularly. She would like to have a space designated for parking for her and her neighbors that do not have off-street parking. Vice-President Eberlin stated that he does understand her, and he will have Manager Egleston and Mr. Sluyter look into her parking situation and get back to her.

Reggie Douglas, a Trustee of the 1st Presbyterian Church was present with a concern about parking spots (the church does not have a parking lot) during the week the church as numerous meetings and outreaches for the community that is affected by paying for parking on streets on either side of the church (Pine & Court Streets). A lot of the church members are elderly and it is a hardship for them to walk from the parking garage to the church. Mr. Douglas's suggestion is to stay with the pay for parking on those 2 streets, but keep free parking for a short time (2 or 3 hours). That would solve the church's problem.

Cathy Guffy of 130 Charles Street is a member of the 1st Presbyterian Church also and she gave a couple of examples. One elderly lady who is severely ill and she attended two different meetings in the church and received a ticket because she was over the three-hour limit. Therefore, she parked in the parking garage and walked with a cane to the church which was not a good situation for her to be in. The church also has a group of women who meet mostly weekly except in winter when it is icy, and they are in their 80s and 90s with mobility issues. In addition, they don't have smartphones. If they do, it is for emergencies. Mrs. Guffy can see how the parking is impacting them. She stated that they also have staff that periodically need to bring items into the church or load items like recycling material. Also, they have a kids club on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year that starts at 5:30 PM, but some adults come in earlier to get the meal and other preparations ready.

Vice-President Eberlin thanked her and Mr. Douglas for all the good things the church is doing and if there is an option they will discuss and consider it. Manager Egleston stated that we realize that under ParkMobile it is geared more toward smartphones but it is also driven by a 1-800 number (on the signs) that they can call from any phone to pay for parking. She stated we are looking down the road at possibly adding actual physical meters on the streets, but they have been busy working on a solution that will still have three-hour free parking on Main Street, but also give people options where they could walk within a block anywhere on Main Street where they could pay for the remaining part of the day. The borough feels the current metered parking is the most cost-effective way to get started and we will probably be looking at other alternatives as we continue to do the metered parking on the side streets that wouldn't necessarily require a smartphone but we want to make sure it will work before we install it.

Charlotte Parks of Kali's Mission presented the report. She stated that there have been 19 Towanda Borough cats spayed and neutered since April 2022. They have been found on Riverfront Park, Poplar Street, Ward Avenue, North Main Street, and Tidd Alley. On June 8th they will be in the borough trapping at Riverfront Park, Second Street, North Main Street, and Elizabeth Street. For fundraising, they will have a concession stand at Tommy Fairchild Park (formerly Riverfront) during the Thursday night "Concerts in the Park" Series selling water, soda, chips, and hot dogs with toppings. They are continuing the "Got Sneakers" program where they collected used donated sneakers to send overseas to people in need. This program pays \$.50 to \$3.00 per pair of sneakers (to Kali's Mission). They also submitted their 2023 United Way Grant application. Also, Mrs. Parks stated that they will start trapping for Wysox Township (at the trailer park) and Dushore borough soon.

In conclusion, Mrs. Parks thanked Towanda Borough council members for supporting Kali's Mission and said "they could have never done it without the borough's support." "Towanda Borough is the key to making this program work in other places."

Manager Egleston introduced Erica Locke, a summer intern from Bradford County Action, who has been here for a week. We have kept her busy so far.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES:

Motion to approve May 2, 2022, Regular meeting minutes was made by Mr. Saring and seconded by Mrs. Miller. Motion passed.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Roof was absent but the report was included in the packet. Mr. Parks stated they are still waiting for the part for the new fire truck to arrive.

FIRE BOARD REPORT:

Mr. Parks stated that they had a meeting but he had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Miller thanked the police and fire department and Guthrie EMS for coming out for the parade for Porschia Bennett, Towanda High School senior who earned her second consecutive Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) championship Friday in the high jump at Shippensburg University. The mayor proclaimed May 27th Porschia Bennett Day in Towanda Borough to celebrate her win. There was a big turnout for the parade and lots of "Black Knight Pride."

Also, Mayor Miller stated that the concert series will start on June 16th.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Epler gave his report.

- Towanda Borough Police received training from the Pennsylvania State Crash Reporting Law Enforcement Liaison on the TraCS system, along with E-filing citations and crash reporting. The TraCS system is up and running and we have used it on several citations, although we have to use it in station until our new In-car computers arrive.
- Officer Roberts and I attended a round table discussion at the Guthrie Memorial Campus for an armed hostile male scenario.
- Seatbelt and DUI enforcements were conducted during the month.

- We had a bomb threat at the Towanda High School this month. The Towanda Area Schools and Towanda Police Dept worked great together and a detailed investigation was performed and the suspect has been identified and charged. The decision to clear the High School with 2 bomb dogs was made even though the suspect was on video throughout their travels while in the school. This was done as an extra measure of caution.
- Officer Hennessy was busy this month with Career Days, a drug sniff, and a presentation for Community Helpers Day for Kindergarten Students at the J. Andrew Morrow Primary School. He also assisted with St. Agnes school's lockdown drill.

MAY 2022 – Monthly Report

350	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	2	JUVENILE PETITIONS
37	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	1	K-9 SERVICE (BORO)
10	NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	12	THEFT REPORTS
2	DUI ARRESTS	7	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS
92	DISTURBANCE CALLS	3	VEHICLE DOORS OPENED
2	VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	11	WARNINGS ISSUED
3	OUT OF TOWN ASSISTS	1	K-9 SERVICES
9	CRIMINAL ARRESTS		

POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mrs. Hatch gave a summary of the meeting tonight.

- She stated that Chief Epler covered everything that they covered in their meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/ PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Mr. Sluyter, Code Enforcement Officer reviewed the report.

MAY 2022 SUMMARY – CODE ENFORCEMENT STATS

PERMITS & CONTRACTORS		MONTH	YTD
Permits Issued		16	80
Permit Fees Paid	\$	1,765	9,818.30
Code Inspections Fees	\$	675	3,398.30
Borough Total after Code Inspections Fees	\$	1,090	6,420
Permit Work Value	\$	94,148	586,192.34
Contractors Registered		21	50
Contractors Registrations Amount	\$	2,100	5,000

UCC Reportable Permits

Month YTD \$ Fees \$ Fees YTD

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#1 Residential – New		1		4.50
#2 Residential – Other	1	12	4.50	54.00
#3 Commercial – New		3		13.50
#4 Commercial – Other	2	4	9.00	18.00
TOTALS	3	20	13.50	90.00

COMPLAINTS

	Received		Investigated		Resolved	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
Single Family Non-Rental	35	84	33	74		24
1 & 2 Family Rentals	28	80	25	67		26
Commercial Rental Units	14	43	14	41		11
Commercial Non-Rental	10	24	8	20		8
TOTALS	87	231	80	202	0	69

Rental Dwelling Unit Inspections

	Month	YTD
1st Inspection	10	45
2nd Inspection		
3rd Inspection		
FEES PAID \$	0	200

PARKING:

Tickets by Status

	Month	Year-to-Date
Issued	62	146
Paid	26	181
Dismissed	12	59
Warning	9	47
Abandoned	0	1
Citation	0	57

Tickets by Street Location

	Month	Year-to-Date

