

The **Agenda Meeting** of Charleroi Borough Council was held on May 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Roll Call showed the following Members of Council present: Larry Celaschi, Nancy Ellis, Jerry Jericho, Frank Paterra, Paul Pivovarnik and Joseph Smith

Randy DiPiazza was absent

Also, present were: Mayor Gregg Doerfler Borough Manager Matt Staniszewski, Solicitor Mark Stopperich and Borough Secretary Roberta Doerfler.

It was announced that Council had an executive session prior to tonight's meeting at 5:00p.m. to discuss a legal matter.

There were no voting items during the agenda meeting.

Meeting was then adjourned.

The **Regular Meeting** of Charleroi Borough Council was held on May 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Roll Call showed the following Members of Council present: Larry Celaschi, Nancy Ellis, Jerry Jericho, Frank Paterra, Paul Pivovarnik and Joseph Smith

Randy DiPiazza was absent

Also, present were: Mayor Gregg Doerfler Borough Manager Matt Staniszewski, Solicitor Sean Logue and Borough Secretary Roberta Doerfler.

Motion by Larry Celaschi and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2023

Roll Call Vote showed Larry Celaschi, Jerry Jericho, Frank Paterra, Paul Pivovarnik and Joseph Smith voting "yes" and Nancy Ellis voting "no" Motion Carried

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Ahmed Jasim-Black Lotus Group explained to Council his idea of New Construction in Charleroi
- Sarah Collier-W.C.P.C. water trails and Rivertown's came to discuss the EZ docks in the Monongahela River at Second Street
- Mark Alterici- spoke to council as well about the EZ dock stating that there is a lot of fishing and boating that happens in the Monongahela River
- Lulu Cissi - spoke to council about the clean-up day that she has scheduled for May 21, 2023 with Fourth Street BBQ

**AGENDA:**

1. Motion by Larry Celaschi and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve the April/May 2023 list of expenses and payments in the amount of \$148,406.71 as reported

Roll Call Vote showed Larry Celaschi, Jerry Jericho, Frank Paterra, Paul Pivovarnik and Joseph Smith voting "yes" and Nancy Ellis voting "no" Motion Carried

2. Motion by Paul Pivovarnik and seconded by Jerry Jericho to authorize the Borough Manager to prepare and advertise an RFP for the municipal building roof repairs, Charge 01/405.34  
Roll Call Vote Was Unanimous  
Motion Carried
3. Motion by Jerry Jericho and seconded by Paul Pivovarnik to authorize the Borough Manager to install security cameras in the Code Enforcement/Front Office and Council Chambers by Crystalline Technology, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$2,600, Charge 01/407.49  
Roll Call Vote Was Unanimous  
Motion Carried
4. Motion by Larry Celaschi and seconded by Joseph Smith to authorize the Borough Manager and Part Time Code Officer to attend the 25 May 2023 PSAB/PA Continuing Legal Education Course on Zoning and the Zoning Hearing Board in Monroeville, and make registration payment in the amount of \$300 to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, Charge 01/401.33  
Roll Call Vote Was Unanimous  
Motion Carried
5. Motion by Larry Celaschi and seconded by Joseph Smith to authorize the Borough Manager to readvertise for the positions of Full-time Public Works Working Foreman and Code Enforcement Officer, Charge 01/405.34  
Roll Call Vote showed Larry Celaschi Paul Pivovarnik and Joseph Smith voting "yes" and Nancy Ellis, Jerry Jericho and Frank Pattera voting "no" The Mayor had to break the tie with a "yes" vote  
Motion Carried
6. Motion by Larry Celaschi and seconded by Joseph Smith to authorize payment in the amount of \$3,500 to the Charleoi Regional Police Department for software, maintenance, support and user access to the Informant RMS System, Charge 01/410.32  
Roll Call Vote Was Unanimous  
Motion Carried
7. Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Larry Celaschi to authorize RVE to perform MS4 Project Engineering to complete a source inventory inspection, annual report and final report, in the amount of \$19,695 as indicated in the engineer's April 12, 2023 report, Charge 01/413.40  
Roll Call Vote showed Larry Celaschi, Jerry Jericho, Frank Pattera, Paul Pivovarnik and Joseph Smith voting "yes" and Nancy Ellis voting "no"  
Motion Carried
8. Motion by Paul Pivovarnik and seconded by Joseph Smith to authorize the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor to review the Char House PLOT agreement and explore updated options with the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington  
Roll Call Vote Was Unanimous  
Motion Carried
9. Motion by Nancy Ellis and seconded by Larry Celaschi to approve the Residential New Construction project at 222 Crest Avenue by Black Lotus Group, LLC as recommended by the Charleoi Planning Commission  
Roll Call Vote Was Unanimous  
Motion Carried

10. Motion by Paul Pivovarnik and seconded by Nancy Ellis authorize the Borough Manager to install a reserved parking sign for Prima Diva Boutique on Fallowfield Avenue and invoice the same in the amount of \$177 pro-rated amount for the rest of 2023 for said parking.

Roll Call Vote Was Unanimous

Motion Carried

11. Motion by Larry Celaschi and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve Ordinance #1047, an ordinance of the Borough of Charleroi, Washington County, Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 20, creating article IV, committees and assignments, of the Borough Code of Ordinances, Council

Roll Call Vote showed Larry Celaschi, Joseph Smith and Frank Paterra voting "yes" and Nancy Ellis, Jerry Jericho and Paul Pivovarnik voting "no" The Mayor had to break the tie with a "yes" vote

Motion Carried

12. At this time Council selected representatives from council for negotiations with the Authority of the Borough of Charleroi. Joe Smith and Paul Pivovarnik

13. Motion by Larry Celaschi and seconded by Joseph Smith to recess the meeting to May 22, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. to take action on items discussed in executive session

Roll Call Vote showed Larry Celaschi, Nancy Ellis, Paul Pivovarnik, Joseph Smith and Frank Paterra voting "yes" and Jerry Jericho voting "no"

Motion Carried

**Wednesday, 24 May 2023, 3PM reconvened for general purposes.**

**Council held an executive session at the start of this meeting for potential litigation.**

**Public Meeting re-convened at approximately 4:15PM**

**Those in attendance and roll call:**

Mayor Gregg Doerfler (present via conference call)

Nancy Ellis (present)

Jerry Jericho (present)

Frank Paterra (present)

Joe Smith (present via conference call)

Paul Pivovarnik (present)

Larry Celaschi (present)

Randy DiPiazza (present)

Matthew Staniszewski (present)

Roberta Doerfler (not present)

Mark Stopperich (solicitor, present)

**Public Presentation:**

Mr. Thomas Wyatt, of Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, hired as special legal counsel on behalf of the borough in ABC related matters, made the following statement after an executive session:

**Statement of Borough of Charleroi Regarding Ordinance to  
Assume Assets and Liabilities of Authority of the Borough of Charleroi**

May 24, 2023

After many months of public discussion, and several months of diligent and quiet efforts to reach a resolution that would result in a long-term partnership with the Authority of the Borough of Charleroi ("ABC") and resolve our MS4 and collection system issues, the members of Charleroi Borough Council (the "Borough") have concluded that there is no option other than to begin the process of taking over ABC.

At an upcoming June meeting, Borough Council anticipates having its first reading of the ordinance which will dissolve ABC and transfer its assets and liabilities to the Borough. The Borough is not contemplating an eventual sale of the ABC assets. Thus, this potential action will not result in any change to customer rates or any change in the dedicated employees currently working for ABC.

We do not make this decision lightly and realize it is a momentous action. However, the Charteroi mandated obligations relating to the water and sewer system—as well as to stabilize the finances of the Borough without having to continually raise taxes on its citizens and businesses. The elected officials of the Borough have worked tirelessly to get the cooperation of the appointed board of ABC. We are left with no choice, but to take this step.

Make no mistake--ABC is an asset of the Borough. The law makes that clear. The Borough created ABC in 1937, and has appointed its board members to this day. And ABC has significant funds beyond the money it needs to maintain its systems. The Borough will utilize some of those funds for the betterment of our community, and we will also analyze all of ABC's existing contracts and relationships to ensure the public is getting the best value for its dollars.

We hope ABC will return to the discussions with the Borough, but if it fails to do so in the next few days, the Borough will act accordingly.

**Public Comment**

Kristin Hopkins – expressed concern regarding ABC, asked questions in which the solicitor, Mr. Stopperich, reminded those in attendance that this is for public comment, not cross examination. Adele Hopkins – expressed concern regarding ABC. Mr. Stopperich, reminded those in attendance that this is for public comment, not cross examination.

President Paterra attempted to continue public comment. The public and council became hostile at which Mr. Stopperich ceased the meeting.

The public and members of council proceeded to engage despite the solicitor and manager advising against it.

During the chaos, a motion was made by Mr. Jericho and seconded by Mr. Pivovarnik to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote:

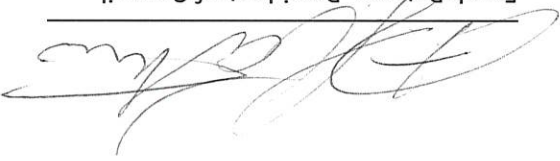
Majority approved. Frank Paterra the dissenting vote.

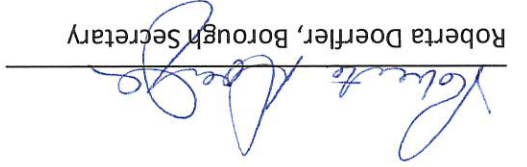
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next Charteroi Borough Council Agenda meeting is June 7, 2023 at 6PM.
- The next Charteroi Borough Council Business meeting is June 14, 2023 at 6PM.

Motion by Larry Celaschi and seconded by Randy DiPiazza to adjourn the meeting.

All in Favor  
Motion Carried

  
Frank Paterra, President of Council

  
Roberta Doerfler, Borough Secretary