

**Taylor Borough
Regular Monthly Meeting
September 13, 2023**

The Taylor Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. at the Taylor Municipal Building, 122 Union Street, Taylor, Pennsylvania.

President Mickavicz chaired the meeting.

On Roll Call: Councilman Nezlo, Yes; Councilman Maldonato, Yes; Councilman McKeel, Yes; Councilman Tigue, **No; Councilman Digwood, Yes; Councilman DeAngelo, Yes; President Mickavicz, Yes; Mayor Kavulich Loiselle, Yes.

**Councilman Tigue arrived at 7:09 P.M.

Next, President Mickavicz asked the public if they had any comment or input regarding the agenda items. There were none.

Next, President Mickavicz stated that everyone had the opportunity to read and review the August 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes held at the Taylor Municipal Building at 122 Union Street, Taylor, Pa. President Mickavicz asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions. None noted. A motion to approve by Councilman Digwood and seconded by Councilman DeAngelo. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The motion passed. The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

The Chairman stated that Council held three executive sessions – Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 6:30 PM, Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM and on Monday, September 11, 2023 immediately following the 7:00 PM Work Session, regarding personnel and contractual matters.

Next, President Mickavicz entertained a motion to adopt Resolution #8 of 2023, authorizing the Board of Commissioners of Lackawanna County to submit an application for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant Program Funds in the amount of \$84,210.00 on behalf of the Borough of Taylor and to authorize the President and any other Borough Officials to execute related documents. A motion to adopt was made by Councilman McKeel and seconded by

Councilman Maldonato. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The Resolution was adopted.

Next, President Mickavicz entertained a motion to adopt Resolution # 9 of 2023, authorizing the submission of a Grant under the Monroe County local share assessment program in the amount of \$250,000.00 and to authorize the President and any other Borough Officials to execute all related documents. A motion to adopt was made by Councilman DeAngelo and seconded by Councilman McKeel. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The Resolution was adopted.

Next, President Mickavicz entertained a motion to approve the 2024 Uniform Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) in the amount of \$269,012.00. A motion was made by Councilman Maldonato and seconded by Councilman Digwood. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The motion passed.

Next, President Mickavicz entertained a motion to approve the 2024 Non-Uniform Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) in the amount of \$42,992.66. A motion was made by Councilman McKeel and seconded by Councilman Nezlo. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The motion was passed.

Next, President Mickavicz entertained a motion to approve North End Electric to repair the Rinaldi and Prince Street Pump Station for \$10,950.00. A motion was made by Councilman McKeel and seconded by Councilman Maldonato. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The motion passed.

Next, President Mickavicz entertained a motion to approve North End Electric to repair the Noakes Park Lighting for \$2,600.00. A motion was made by Councilman Nezlo and seconded by Councilman DeAngelo. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The motion passed.

Next, President Mickavicz entertained a motion to approve Five Star Equipment to repair the Backhoe for \$8,455.40. A motion was made by Councilman Digwood and seconded by Councilman McKeel. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor, with the exception of President Mickavicz who abstained. The motion passed.

Next, President Mickavicz entertained a motion to approve North End Electric to repair the Oak and Rinaldi Pump Station for \$11,970.00. A motion was made by

Councilman Maldonato and seconded by Councilman McKeel. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The motion passed.

Next, President Mickavicz entertained a motion to adopt Resolution # 10 of 2023, authorizing the submission of a Community Re-invest grant for additional Holiday lighting and decorations in the amount of \$5,000.00. The additional Holiday Lighting will be placed at the Community Center. A motion to adopt was made by Councilman DeAngelo and seconded by Councilman McKeel. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The Resolution was adopted.

Next, President Mickavicz asked Council to reconvene this meeting until tomorrow, Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM in order to allow 24 hours after amending the Agenda (which was amended at 10:35 AM on 9/13/2023) to entertain a motion to award the Derenick Park Phase 1 Project Bid to Multiscape, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$211,821.19. President Mickavicz then entertained a motion to table item J until the reconvened meeting tomorrow night. A motion to table Item J was made by Councilman Digwood and seconded by Councilman McKeel. The Chairman asked the public if anyone had any comment because the item was being tabled. Peg Derenick asked the Council why the Splash Park Committee, who raised all the money, were not informed on how this money going to be spent. The Chairman asked that the motion to table was done before discussing Mrs. Derenicks concerns. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The Item was tabled until 6:00 PM tomorrow.

The Chairman then continued the discussion with Mrs. Derenick. He stated that the committee raised a lot of money and as it got closer prices were rising. He stated that the Borough sent letters to the Borough of Moosic and Old Forge asking them to participate in this effort to make the Splash Park a “triboro Splash Park” for the down valley. There was no response and a second request was sent and both Municipalities declined the request. The Chairman stated that the Resolution that was adopted pertaining to the Splash Park Account, stated that if the Splash Park was not built, any monies collected could be used for recreational purposes. Mrs. Derenick stated that Mr. Derenick had all funds in place with the grants he had received. She also stated that Mr. Derenick had many in kind services that were being donated to this project. Mrs. Derenick stated that the Committee wanted a say as to how the Splash Park money was going to be spent and that they wanted recognition on raising said money. The Chairman stated the funds were going to be used for upgrades to Derenick Park, including fencing, redoing parking lot including grading to make it handicap accessible, plant grass, etc. The Chairman stated that

the Council would not be opposed to acknowledging the Committee by having a plaque made and installed at Derenick Park. Mrs. Derenick stated that she feels the Splash Park Story needs to be told publicly in the newspaper and she would like to be the writer. The Chairman stated that she has the right to do that. Jackie Oustrich then spoke. She stated that the entire town was aware of the Splash Park so why didn't the committee hear of the objections until after the money was raised. William Englehardt then spoke regarding the in kind service that Mr. Derenick approached him on many years ago for the Splash Park. The Chairman responded that he had never heard about that conversation. Mr. Englehardt also stated that the company he was employed by also offered to replace poles and lights at Derenick Park and that there was a proposal sent. The Chairman responded that he does not recall that. Lengthy discussions on these topics were held.

Next, President Mickavicz entertained a motion to pay the August 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$148,086.64, the August 2023 General Fund Open Invoices in the amount of \$459,921.90, the August 2023 Paid Invoices in the amount of \$436,634.16 and the August 2023 Liquid Fuels Open Invoices in the amount of \$6,772.76 – Total Expenditures in the amount of \$1,051,415.46. A motion was made by Councilman Tigie and seconded by Councilman Digwood. A voice vote was called and all Council Members were in favor. The motion passed.

August Payroll	\$148,086.64
August General Fund Open Invoices	\$459,921.90
August Paid Invoices	\$436,634.16
August Liquid Fuels Open Invoices	\$6,772.76
Total Expenditures	\$1,051,415.46

Next, Jeanie Sluck read the Treasurer's Report for August 2023. The Treasurer's Report was placed on file.

**Treasurer's Report
August 2023**

Local Services Tax	\$29,778.10
RE Transfer Tax Feb	\$6,374.45
Tax Duplicates	\$890.00
Earned Income Tax	\$157,726.45

Court Fees/Police Fines	\$3,085.09
TCC/Parks & Recreation	\$120.00
Real Estate Tax Delinquent 2015	\$227.08
RE Tax Delinquent 2017	\$245.84
RE Tax Delinquent 2018	\$255.17
RE Tax Delinquent 2019	\$239.90
RE Tax Delinquent 2020	\$318.00
RE Tax Delinquent 2021	\$897.10
RE Tax Delinquent 2022	\$1,302.07
Zoning	\$45.00
Civil Service	\$300.00
UCC Permits	\$1,160.51
Other Income	\$3,479.43
Comcast	\$24,131.34
Interest	\$1,533.73
Total Revenue	\$232,109.26

Next, Mr. Tigie read the Financial Report for August 2023. The Financial Report was placed on file.

**Financial Report
August 31, 2023**

General Account Balance	\$2,671,306.76
Real Estate Tax Account	\$10,568.77
Liquid Fuels Account Balance	\$204,999.75
Splash Park Account	\$30,771.31
Veteran's Memorial Account	\$1,306.55
Hero's Banner Account	\$7,745.84

ARPA Fund	\$216,468.56
ESL, Inc. Escrow Account	\$506,981.33
Fire Insurance Escrow	\$10.00
Escrow Account (General)	\$18,156.90
Escrow Funds (Taylor Commons)	\$60,290.73
Police Pension Fund	\$3,312,862.81
Open Purchase Orders (PO's)	\$(16,547.62)
10 Year General Obligation Note	\$(126,736.50)
Lease Obligations	\$(250,967.03)
2023 Police Comp/OT Obligations	\$(15,625.02)
Other Police Comp/OT Obligations	\$(30,513.20)
Taylor Police K-9 Fund	\$13,417.71

Next, President Mickavicz asked that the Recycling Report for August 2023 be placed on file.

**Recycling Report
August 2023**

	Pounds	Tons
Comingle	35,020	17.51
Cardboard/Paper	27,400	13.70
Grass/Brush	83,265	41.63
Totaling	145,685	72.84

Next, President Mickavicz asked that the Mayor's Report for the month of August 2023 be placed on file.

During the month of August 2023, the Police Department responded to 623 incidents. There were 27 traffic crashes investigated; 93 Traffic Stops were made; 45 Traffic Citations issued and 2 non-traffic citations were also issued. Officers made 14 criminal arrests. Arrest Report – Officer Palonis -2 arrests; Officer Izak 2 arrests; Officer Kerrigan – 1 arrest; Sergeant Snyder – 2 arrests; Officer McDonald

– 3 arrests; Officer Graham –2 arrests; Officer Surridge – 1 arrest; Officer Boback 1 arrest. Total 14 arrests.

Revenues received for the month of August 2023: Police Reports \$180.00, Magistrate Fines \$2,214.02, Judicial Fines \$661.07, Parking Tickets \$30.00 - Total \$3,085.09.

Next, President Mickavicz asked the Public if they had any comments or questions. William Englehardt asked, regarding the Police Applications for Full Time Police, are the members of the administration or the Borough Officials permitted to instruct the applicants as to how to fill the applications out. The Chairman responded that if an applicant has a question, they can call the Borough Building for further clarification. Mr. Englehardt asked if one on one personal on how to fill them out was against the law. The Chairman stated that it is unethical but unsure if it is a crime. The Chairman asked Mr. Englehardt if he had a specific one that he knew about. Mr. Englehardt said he does. The Chairman asked if he would like to talk about it. Mr. Englehardt said no that's all he has. The Chairman stated he wanted on record that this Council has never received or was never aware that the company Mr. Englehardt worked for offered to pay the full bill for labor and parts to construct the Splash Park and that this is the first time he is ever hearing it at this meeting. The Chairman asked Council if anyone was aware of this offer. Mr. Tigue said that they may have not been aware but they don't know what Mr. Derenick had lined up. The Chairman stated that this is the first time he was hearing of this. Mr. Englehardt stated that there was never a proposal for this, just a conversation with himself and Mr. Derenick. The Chairman then stated for the record regarding someone coaching applicants one on one with a Police Officer, he takes that seriously and unless Mr. Englehardt is willing to say who it is or what he heard, then that did not happen. The Chairman stated to just remember that when you are in minutes and on a tape in these chambers, someone is going to hold people accountable, so unless you have something to offer, he suggests that it should have been brought to the proper channels, authorities, whether it be the Pennsylvania or the Taylor Borough Civil Service Commission.

Lastly, the Chairman asked for a motion to recess and reconvene this meeting until tomorrow at 6:00 PM. A motion to recess was made by Councilman Maldonato and seconded by Councilman DeAngelo. All Council Members were in favor. The meeting was recessed.

The Mayor asked Council to utilize her National Night Out Budget in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Trunk or Treat and National Night Out. The council approved.

Kenneth F. Mickavicz, President

Kristi A. Englehardt, Borough Secretary