

August 2, 2022 Agenda

August Council Meeting

Call To Order

Roll Call

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for the Council Prayer.

Copies of the minutes of the previous council meetings have been given to borough council members and Mayor Tomko, are there any errors or corrections? If not, they stand approved.

Open bids for sale of vacant lot at 431 South Nichols Street.

Public Comment

Letter from Joseph and Alison Farrell dated July 22, 2022:

Dear Saint Clair Borough Council:

We are writing this letter as a formal complaint to the loitering, littering, obnoxious behavior/language and destruction of property at the Saint Clair Little League Field and John Siney Park and pavilion. It seems at all hours of the day and into the early/late evening there are pre-teens/teenagers hanging out and exhibiting the above behaviors. We have been in contact with the Saint Clair police department when we noticed a picnic table had been broken and more recently, we have contacted them to report the above behaviors. They insured us they would continue to patrol the area, which they do, but it is understood they can't patrol at all hours. We have also observed on many occasions these individuals crawling on the dug outs and little league buildings and we have been in touch with little league officials about this.

Some possible suggestions to the continuing problem and why we are reaching out would be to put signs up stating no loitering and/or possibly having a rental fee for the use of the pavilion. Taking the pavilion down completely would also be a way to alleviate an area these individuals can hang out in as the pavilion is currently not serving its intended purpose and hasn't for several years. We understand this may not keep everyone out, but with some help from the police department to enforce this, it hopefully will.

We would also like to add that we understand kids need a place to go, and it is not all of them with this behavior that do hang out here. However, they need to understand that there should be consequences to destructive behavior. These issues seem to be at their worst this summer, as our family has occupied this home for 30+ years and have tolerated occasional unruly behaviors. However, since we have observed it getting worse in the past few months, we felt it was time to reach out and see if anything can be done.

On a final note, we would like to especially thank Officer Wiest with the borough police department. His professionalism and consideration with this matter was much appreciated. Thank you for your time and anticipated attention to this matter. We sincerely appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Joseph and Alison Farrell
419 East Hancock Street
Saint Clair, PA 17970
(Cell phone numbers provided)

Email from Rick McShaw: (This issue has been forwarded to the Borough Code Officer)

Hi Roland.

I would like to have several items brought up in the borough meeting. I will be out of state and can not attend.

1. First off I want to report a public nuisance. Everyday starting at 4:30 or 5:00 my neighbor has at least 2 roosters that crow constantly every 8-10 seconds for hours and All Day Long. I have audio recordings of the noise that I can send or bring to a meeting. This is in violation of the ordinance.
2. How many cows, pigs, goats, sheep, ducks, chickens and geese can be allowed on a R-2 Residential zoned property? This is not a farm! These animals are banned in Pottsville. They also have Guinea Hens which are banned in most towns due to their constant loud noises. Just recently there were over 50 ducks in their backyard. I invite anyone up to my property after 5a.m. to listen to the obvious constant excessive noise. I want these animals gone as there is a health hazard along with the smell and noise concerns.
3. They also have 2 cats that are constantly on my patio and property. Every time I put my dogs on the leash outside, we have to deal with chasing their cats. My dog was recently attacked by Tobin's dog and almost killed her. I am waiting for them to pay hospital bills from the attack. There is a police report and the dog warden is taking care of it.

Please address and follow the ordinances in place to eliminate the nuisance. I have sent photos to Michelle showing all the above-mentioned animals on my property. Just recently ducks, geese and a goat. I am allowed by law to enjoy my property without dealing with these constant issues.

Thank You
Rick McShaw
406 Fairview St.

Letter received from Robert F. Pomian (for safety of pedestrians and neighboring property):

The property at 146 N. Nichols Street, previously owned by Richard Covach, is at the first stage of collapsing.

You cannot see anything from the street side, but the main roof in the rear of the building has already caved into the attic.

My concern is it decides to collapse towards Nichols Street and pedestrians (Children going to school) are passing by. Now we injuries along with property damage.

QUESTION: What can be done about this situation?

Thank you for your time and service.

Robert F. Pomian
150 North Nichols Street

Mayor's Report

1. Schools will reopen this month and drivers are reminded to drive with extra care and to follow all vehicle code laws pertaining to areas around school buildings and school bus stops as it is imperative to protect school children on their ways to and from school.
2. With the increase of covid 19 infections, residents are urged to check with their doctors about the advisability of being vaccinated or boosted, if vaccinated. Scientific data indicates that vaccination helps a great deal to avoid serious illness or hospitalization from the virus.

3. Residents are asked to contact the St. Clair Police Dept. at 570-429-2240 or 570-429-3050 if they see any suspicious activity at vacant properties.

Historical Note – August 2022

The land that comprises what is now the Borough of St. Clair was referred to as the St. Clair tract and the earliest known owners of this land were Arthur St. Clair Nichols and Francis B. Nichols. Early settlers, such as Michael Bechtell, leased land from the owners. In 1831, the Nichols family sold the St. Clair tract to land developers Lea, Carey and Hart who in turn began to sell parcels of land to the early settlers. Prior to selling the St. Clair tract, the Nichols family set apart a parcel of land for a community graveyard, now known as the Borough Cemetery. This parcel was later deeded by Carey, Lea, and Hart to the Borough of St. Clair after the Borough's founding.

Solicitor's Report

We have the following conservatorship hearings scheduled:

438-440 S. Front St. (Conservator's Final Plan) – August 9, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
212 N. 2nd St. (Petition for Sale of Property) – August 17, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

The Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board Hearing concerning charge of unfair labor practice scheduled for August 15 will be continued at the request of the Fraternal Order of Police.

We are waiting for Ms. Hinchey to be located to serve papers on her.

Solicitor Brennan and the representative for Comcast have been playing phone tag.

We are waiting dates from Atty. Bill Burke to schedule police personnel hearings.

Engineer's Report

Discuss potential grant applications.

Departmental Reports

Street Department Report

Discuss using the second round of American Recovery Act funds, when received, for installing a cement floor in the borough garage, upgrading the borough garage lighting system, and the possible purchase of AED(s).

Electric Light Department

Treasurer's Report

Tax Collector's Report – Taxes collected up to July 13, 2022.

Real Estate - \$1,950.44

Per Capita - \$135.00

Occupational - \$29.40

TOTAL - \$2,114.84

Submitted by William Umbenhaur, Tax Collector

Police Department

Zoning Officer's Report

Fire Chief's Report

Code Official Report

COMMUNICATIONS

Old Business

Discuss the communication that was tabled from July's council meeting concerning the UTV bought by Rescue Hook and Ladder.

Letter received from Rescue Hook and Ladder:

To the St. Clair Borough Council,

Rescue Hook and Ladder bought a UTV. We are asking the borough if they will pay for the gas and upkeep because this machine will be great for the borough and can be used anywhere it's needed. At any given time any council member wants to come take a look at it they can.

Thank you,
Captain Dave Linkchorst

New Business

Accept a motion to conditionally offer employment to Samuel Gregory Stednitz for the position of a school crossing guard pending his passing of a physical examination and all the necessary clearances.

Accept a motion to accept Rick Rodrian's retirement from the St. Clair Borough work force effective August 2, 2022.

Executive Session.

Accept a motion to pay all Bills and Claims properly approved by council.

Accept a motion to adjourn.

