

Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting
113 South Main Street, Mercersburg, PA 17236
Monday, July 10, 2023

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Stoner at 7 p.m.

Present were Mayor Pedersen, President Stoner, Vice President Heefner, council members Burkot, Frisby, Minton, Morgan, and Sipes. Also present were Borough Manager Price and Solicitor Steve Coccoresse.

Judy Bonciu led the Pledge of Allegiance at the request of President Stoner.

Guests/Press: See attached sign-in sheet.

Public Comment/Guests

Shelly Flickinger, 135 Loudon Road, asked about rezoning her property and Coccoresse gave a brief overview of various zoning options available to Council. Flickinger thought the property was grandfathered in and Price said she would obtain more information.

Joseph Creighton, 163 Johnston's Lane, gave his concerns about the intersection of Veteran's Way and Route 16 due to Columbia Gas work and he was directed to reach out directly to them.

Helen Bryan, 144 Loudon Road, asked when her husband would receive his Buchanan Award. Price said invitations were extended and the award announced at the 2022 Halloween Parade. Stoner said the award would be presented at the August 14 meeting.

Minutes

On a Heefner/Burkot motion, Council unanimously approved the Meeting Minutes from June 26, 2023, as presented.

Treasurer Report/Bills Payable

On a Heefner/Frisby motion, Council unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report/Bills Payable for June 30, 2023.

Morgan asked Price about the costs listed for streetlights and traffic signal repairs. A discussion followed on traffic control options.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Pedersen had no report and said he continues to work with Zechman on parking concerns.

Police Report

Chief Zechman submitted his report to Council and there were no comments.

Solicitor

Coccoresse had no comments for Council.

Engineer Report

Not in attendance: no report submitted.

Borough Manager's Report

Price said the Seminary Street closure has extended through July per the project engineer and that she notified the fire department and Park's Garbage Service. She said Trinity United Methodist Church requested Church Street close from 4-8 p.m. for an event on July 15.

President Stoner asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include a street closure on church street which was unanimously passed by Council.

On a Sipes/Frisby motion, Council voted unanimously to close the east side of Church Street adjacent to the church on Saturday, July 15, from 4-8 p.m. so that there may be events in that area safely conducted.

Price continued her report to include swimming pool permitting, weed violations and utility billing. She notified Council and residents that Swift Reach 911 was being migrated to Rave Mobile Safety and encouraged residents to make sure their contact information was current. Price informed Council of a truck incident on West California Street and a discussion followed regarding truck traffic. She expressed gratitude to residents for their patience.

Stoner asked about the status of the repaving project and Price said it would be advertised within the week.

Coccorese asked about the status of the trash contract due for renewal.

Department of Public Works Report

A report was provided to Council in their meeting packet.

Committee Reports

Act 537: None.

Finance:

Fire Board: Stoner said overtime was going down and Heefner said things well.

HARB: Meeting July 11.

Nominating: None.

Personnel: None.

Planning: None.

Property/Technology: None.

Police/Safety Committee: None.

Streets: Community State Bank is interested in managing the sidewalk loan program.

Zoning Hearing Board: None.

Old Business

- A. Ongoing: solicit area banks regarding sidewalk loan program.
- B. Ongoing: recommend to Council the creation and approval of a Commercial Parking Permit, purchase price of \$150 per quarter, two-hour limit, per business.
- C. Existing Zoning Ordinance Fee Schedule: Coccorese prepared an agreement requiring the property owner to provide a deposit for zoning hearing board requests. He has drafted an ordinance and advertising and is awaiting further direction from council.
- D. Zoning Hearing Board Appointment Resolutions: Coccorese drafted a resolution with creating a five-member board with staggered terms as follows:
 1. Joe Creighton term expires December 31, 2023.
 2. Tom Ralston term expires December 31, 2024.
 3. Catalin Bonciu term expires December 31, 2025.
 4. Thomas Suddeth term expires December 31, 2026.
 5. Tom Riford term expires December 31, 2027.

On a Minton/Heefner motion, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 06-23 which deals with the appointment of members of the Zoning Hearing Board and its vacancies.

Creighton asked if he could reapply at the end of his term and Coccorese said he could, for a five-year term.

Morgan asked how applicants were solicited, and if qualifications were required.

New Business

Recommendation: Council to authorize the Personnel Committee to extend an offer of employment to an applicant for the billing clerk position. Price said she was setting up interviews with three applicants on July 17.

On a Minton/Sipes motion, Council unanimously authorized the Personnel Committee to extend an offer to an applicant for Billing Clerk.

Mark Sanders/Fire Chief: Could not attend due to a work conflict; he will try to attend the August 14 meeting.

Correspondence

On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council unanimously voted to allocate \$753.62 to the Franklin County Drug Task Force.

Confirm Meetings

- Council: August 14, 2023
- Finance: TBA
- HARB: July 11, 2023, and August 1, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Nominating: TBA
- Personnel: July 17, 2023, 6 p.m.
- Planning: TBA
- Property: August 2, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Sewer: July 13, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Water: July 20, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Streets: July 26, 2023, 7 p.m.
- ZHB: TBA

On a Heefner/Sipes motion, the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Irons-Zimmerman
Borough Secretary

**ALL GUEST/CORRESPONDENCE IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER PER REQUEST/RECEIPT*