

Mercersburg Borough Council
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
November 10, 2014
MINUTES

Attending: President Tom Suddeth, Mayor Jim Zeger, Vice-President Jeff Main, Treasurer Catalin Bonciu, Jon Kittredge, Donald Stoner, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Assistant Borough Manager Derek Stoy, and Solicitor Sam Wiser

Absent: Lisa McCoy, Newly appointed member Amy Burkot, and Engineer Lance Kegerreis

Guests/Press: See Sign-In sheet

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

The meeting followed the Vacancy Board Meeting where Amy Burkot, Linden Avenue, was appointed to Borough Council to fill the vacancy of Jeremy Jones.

President Suddeth asked for Public Comment.

Mr. Rockwell spoke and asked if Council has made any movement to create a priority list with the new direction. He asked if Council had prepared a statement of goals.

President Suddeth spoke about the membership of Council is now filled and Council will work on formulating that should Council wish. He also spoke about the direction of Council is reflected in the Budget as Council is not raising taxes. Other Council member's expressed interest of developing the statement as a Council.

Members from the Mercersburg Park Association were present. They asked for Borough Council's consideration with interest of entering into a long-term lease agreement with the Borough for the use of property at the Tannery Site.

Sam Wiser spoke about the Lease prior to knowing what DEP would require for the remediation of the property. Sam spoke about DEP's concerns with the trail and DEP has been significantly limited, and it took quite a bit of communication for the trail to be permitted and DEP was concerned with anyone leaving the elevated trail. Sam Wiser spoke that there has not been significant testing done at the site and that is probably what DEP would like to see. Sam Wiser spoke that it would be beneficial to talk to DEP first to see if the park would be allowed to use the ground first.

Mercersburg Park Association requested that the Borough support their efforts and request that the Borough work together with them to try to begin communication with DEP.

Sam Wiser reviewed that Dawn could forward the letter that the Park Association has submitted to Borough Council to DEP and ask for their comments on the matter if it would be possible.

MOTION: to authorize the Borough Office to submit a letter of support to DEP, stating that the majority of Council sees it as a worthy project providing the environmental hurdles can be overcome, and attaching a copy of the letter from the Park Association, requesting DEP's comments regarding this matter and what the next steps to take are was made by Jeff Main, second by Jon Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

Mercersburg Park Association asked if the property would be placed up for sale in the future. President Suddeth said there is a good possibility that the property would be put up for sale in the future.

MOTION: to approve the October 6, 2014 Minutes as presented was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Bills Payable and Invoice List as presented was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jon Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

The Borough Council moved to the HARB Packets as there were guests present to discuss/disagree with HARB's Denial of the Applications. Council Members agreed to discuss these matters early in the meeting. President Suddeth invited Mr. Steiger to speak about the first application. Tom Steiger reviewed the history of the Property. He reviewed the current condition of the home and the proposed improvements. Mr. Steiger reviewed that there is very little historical value to the property, very little architectural merit, and that he doesn't feel that the proposed improvements would make the property worse. He reviewed the original building was torn down and this building was constructed in its place around 1927. He said that it was a wood frame structure with siding placed on it at a later date. Mr. Steiger stated that he doesn't think anyone will be able to tell the old windows from the new windows. Council Members discussed the matter further and made the following Motion.

MOTION: to approve and accept application COA: 14-10-01- 37 E. Seminary Street, noting that it does not meet the Secretary of Interior Standards and in anyway and should in no way set a precedent for future work in the Historic District, was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jeff Main, they noted that they were approving the work as proposed based on some of the factors from Mr. Steiger : recent age, of less historical significance to the community , a vote was taken, all ayes, motion was carried.

Ed Twine spoke about the proposed roof work on application COA: 14-10-02 – 28 E. Seminary Street. Ed Twine stated that they are asking for what is on 9 other homes seen from the front porch. After discussion, Council made the following motion.

MOTION: to approve and accept application COA: 14-10-02 – 28 E. Seminary Street as written, noting that it does not meet the Secretary of Interior Standards and in anyway should in no way set a precedent for future work in the Historic District, was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Zeger presented the Mayor's Report that included information about Veteran's Day. He thanked all the Veterans for what they do for the Country. He spoke about the funeral of Mr. Burrows and his participation in Co-Chairing the largest community celebration the Borough has had. Mayor Zeger spoke about Officer McCorriston and his outstanding efforts. Mayor reviewed that they will be having a Parade wrap up meeting.

Police Chief John Zechman presented his Police Report for the October activity; 82 Complaints and Service Calls, 0 Ordinance Violations, 3 Criminal Investigations, 0 Criminal Arrests, 5 Accident Investigations, 21 Citations, 72 Parking Tickets and 0 Right to know requests.

Dawn Scheller provided the Manager's Report. She informed Council that the Borough received one application for the Part-Time Temporary on Call PWD Employee. She asked Council to approve the hiring of the person contingent upon the Personnel Committees approval of the individual. Dawn Scheller also asked for Council's direction on the Appreciation Luncheon. Dawn asked that Council authorize it to occur in January as employees are taking time off during the remaining of the year. Dawn Scheller also reviewed that the Personnel Committee asked that they would review and complete the annual evaluation for the Borough Manager's Position as opposed to have each Authority and Council Member complete a separate eval. Dawn Scheller reviewed the information about the FCATB and the proposed Budget and a notice for a tax appeal.

MOTION: to approve the hiring of the Temporary Part-time On Call Personnel for the PWD contingent upon the Personnel's Committee Approval was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve holding the Appreciation Luncheon in January was made by Jeff Main, second by Jon Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to not authorize solicitor involvement with the tax appeal was made by Jeff Main, second by Jon Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To authorize the Personnel Committee to evaluate the Borough Manager on an annual basis was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

Derek Stoy reviewed the Assistant Manager's Report. He reviewed that he was in contact with the Township and is hopeful to have it completed after the leaves are picked up. He spoke about the winterizing of the Mayo Building and what is going to be done. Derek reviewed the CCIS Contract and asked Council for a motion to approve it.

MOTION: to approve the CCIS Contract for 2015 was made by Jeff Main, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

The Finance Committee reviewed the proposed Budget. Catalin thanked all for those who assisted with the Budget. They prepared the Budget with a 0% tax increase. It was reviewed that the budget would need to be advertised along with the Tax Ordinance. Sam Wiser reviewed that any changes greater than 10% for a line item would require them to re-advertisement.

MOTION: to authorize the cancelation of the Cash Management Services and make the recommended transfers from the Borough accountants was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

The Streets Committee reviewed the information about having good curbs along the Roads that are being rehabilitated.

MOTION: to approve that good curbs which meet the standards in the ordinance be enforced along streets that will be rehabilitated with the Streets Project was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jon Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

Borough Council reviewed the New Business.

MOTION: to approve the FCATB Budget as presented was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, Tom Suddeth Opposed, other discussion was Manager and Assistant would remain the representative and alternate, remaining ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Holiday Wreath thru the Chamber at the cost of \$25 was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to enter into executive session for Personnel and Financial Matters at 8:50 pm was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

Regular session resumed at 8:55 pm.

MOTION: to authorize the Advertisement of the Proposed 2015 Budget and corresponding Tax Ordinance was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

Borough Council members reviewed the upcoming meetings and decided that Property Committee would meet on December 8, 2014 at 5:00 pm. They reviewed the correspondence.

MOTION: to adjourn at 9:03 pm was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed with the use of Dawn Scheller's notes and audio recording of the meeting and have been respectfully submitted for approval.

Date Approved: _____ Motion carried: _____ Second By: _____