

**Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting
and
Public Hearing for the Zoning Map Amendment & Zoning Ordinance Change
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
March 7, 2016
MINUTES**

Attending: President Tom Suddeth, Mayor James Zeger, Vice-President Jeff Main, Treasurer Catalin Bonciu, Jonathan Kittredge, Donald Stoner, Amy Burkot, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Assistant Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Solicitor Steve Coccoresse, and Engineer Lance Kegerreis

Absent: Member Lisa McCoy

Press: Rachel Nichols, Mercersburg Journal

Guests: Joel Bradnick, 211 South Main Street, Mercersburg; Ed Royer, 13 North Main Street, Mercersburg; Daria Royer, 13 North Main Street, Mercersburg

President Suddeth called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with Mayor Zeger leading the Pledge of Allegiance and asked if there were any public comments at this time, no public comments were made at this time.

MOTION: to approve the February 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Month ending February 29, 2016 Treasurer's Report, Bills Payable, and Updated Bills Payable was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

Borough Council asked if they could change the name of the Christmas Décor Fund to the Christmas Décor and Beautification Fund and also asked if Finance could review options of consolidating some of the Borough's bank accounts. Dawn Scheller reviewed that she would inquire at the bank and Catalin spoke that Finance would review account consolidation with the auditors.

Mayor Zeger implored Borough Council Members to increase the Police Department Salary Wages using the remaining unappropriated 2015 Surplus Funds. Mayor Zeger announced that he and his wife had just purchased a new home outside of the Borough. He noted that he was in the process of moving, but would resign as Mayor on April 3, 2016 which would end his 13 years of service as Mayor of Mercersburg. He spoke fondly about the many events he participated in. Council asked if he would present the James Buchanan Award, he accepted and said he would be honored to. Catalin Bonciu thanked Mayor Zeger and responded that Council did appropriate \$1400 to the Police Wages and would do what he could to answer Mayor's request. President Suddeth thanked Mayor for the work he had done. Vice-President Main also thanked Jim for all he has given to the community.

Daria and Ed Royer entered the meeting, President Suddeth asked if they had any Public Comments to make.

Ed Royer introduced himself to Borough Council and noted that he came to the meeting to address some of the comments that he has read in the Journal regarding parking. Mr. Royer reminded the Borough Council Members of the Oath they took when they entered office, he noted that the Mission Statement from the Borough is "Preserve the fiscal security of the Borough, and set long-term objectives, goals for staff, and also engage in all matters of community planning". He added that nowhere does it say the Borough is not doing enough for your business and your parking. Mr. Royer recited the definition of public parking and asked if the parking space in-front of Treasurer's Bonciu's business was a public parking spot. Treasurer Bonciu confirmed that it was. Mr. Royer informed Treasurer Bonciu that he has seven

private parking spots behind his property. Treasurer Bonciu noted that it is Hotel Parking. Mr. Royer referred to the comment in the Journal where Bonciu said that Council hasn't done enough for his business, and noted that Council Members have a duty to the residents and not their own agendas. Catalin Bonciu stated that he would not comment at this time. Jeff Main asked where he parked. Mr. Royer answered that they park out front and pay the meter. Amy Burkot asked if this would be better discussed at the Streets Committee Meeting as the discussion was becoming personal. President Suddeth gaveled when multiple people began to speak at the same. After more discussion many Council Members felt the remarks were becoming more personal and then they moved on to other Agenda items.

President Suddeth moved on to the Police Chief's Report. Council Members asked the Mayor if he knew why there was nothing listed under the Parking Meter Receipts for 2014, 2015, and 2016. Mayor said that he would speak with the Chief.

Steve Coccorese spoke about the Act 537 Plan and noted that he would speak to Sam about the status of the Townships adopting the plan by Resolution. Steve reviewed that he would follow-up with the Townships and draft a letter for Dawn to send replying to their request.

Lance Kegerreis spoke about the HOP for the Rutter's Store. He passed around a copy of the plan for Council Persons to review and noted that the changes were due to the comments received from Penn DOT. Lance reviewed that authorizing Derek Stoy to sign the HOP #263.038.15 would continue to move the process forward. Lance Kegerreis reviewed that this should be added to the Developer's Agreement as Rutter's will be responsible for the cost of the work and maintenance. Steve Coccorese agreed and noted that this would be added to the Developer's Agreement.

MOTION: to approve DEREK STOY to sign the M950 AA Applicants Authorization for Agent to apply for HOP and Steve Coccorese to add this and draft the Developer's Agreement with Rutter's or future owner of the property was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

Dawn Scheller reviewed the Manager's Report which included a reminder to submit the Financial Interests Statements to the Borough Office, the total cost of the contractors called in for the emergency snow removal of \$20,952.50, and that the Audit Report once finalized would be shared with the Finance Committee. She informed Council that she was still waiting on the Trail Grant documents and would forward them to the Solicitor for review and then Council would formally have to accept the grant at the next meeting. Dawn Scheller noted that she had been in contact with the Electric Company regarding the Right-of-Way for the trail to access their property. She noted that in the process of doing so she discovered that the previous person MPMC had been in contact with was no longer with the Power Company and a Right-of-Way had not yet been authorized. Dawn Scheller asked that Council authorize the Solicitor to draft the Right-of-Ways if the Electric Company was willing to permit the trail to cross their property as Water and Sewer had already met to discuss the matter and was in favor of authorizing the ROWs.

MOTION: to authorize the Solicitor to draft the ROWs for the Trail was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

Derek Stoy presented his report which included a request to authorize Shelly and Witter to stake out the start of the trail to the salt shed and gather elevation data for areas that were changed with the spreading of the dirt which was estimated at a cost of \$2,000. Derek Stoy noted that this cost would be part of the "in kind" donation.

MOTION: to authorize the not to exceed amount of \$2000.00 for the new topo work and stake out the start of the trail to the salt shed was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

President Suddeth moved on to the Committee Reports.

Amy Burkot provided a review of the Beautification Committee first meeting. She noted that the meeting was somewhat productive and pretty entertaining. She said that the Committee discussed a lot of possibilities for the square and noted that they also discussed a big "Swing into Spring" event on May 1st where the Chamber would work with the Committee and get volunteers from both JB High School and the Mercersburg Academy to spruce up and paint the parking meter posts, and paint the garbage cans. She wanted to work with the churches to create a list of Senior Citizens who may need help with cleaning up front porches, possibly painting front porches/doors, and or possibly cleaning out front flower beds. Amy Burkot reviewed that she also wanted to have benches added to the square and wanted to begin fundraising for those. She reviewed that MACWell had obtained a grant which included funding for bike racks and those too could be added on the square. Amy reviewed that she had contacted a local contractor to develop plans for both benches and bike racks. She reviewed that the initial bench design was a seven-foot bench that was much more ornate and intricate (than ones included in Council Packet), but after the Beautification Committee Members met and reviewed the design they discussed that cost was too high. Amy reviewed that the first design was \$250 more than the one presented to Council (design included in meeting packet). Amy said that she forwarded the Committees recommendations to Burdette Ironworks to create a less ornate style bench, not using reclaimed wood, but rather a concrete top or stone seat. She noted that the alterations reduced the cost to \$675 each. Amy added that it takes approximately six weeks to make the benches and if Council wanted the benches to be ready for Spring Fest Council would need to approve a check to Burdette Ironworks for ½ the cost of the benches. Amy added that she really would like to use local business whenever possible, and working with the Burdette's has been a great experience so far. Amy added that the Committee was considering flags and much more information would be brought forward to future Council Meetings as this was only the first meeting. Jeff Main asked if Amy had this money. Amy said that Council has given the Committee \$8,000, but it was her hope that the money would be raised for the benches and have plaques on them which was also recommended by the Committee, as Amy was hopeful that local business owners would want to donate funds to the Committee for the proposed benches.

MOTION: to approve a check for \$1350.00 payable to Burdette Ironworks for the proposed benches was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

Jeff Main reviewed the recommendations from the Personnel Committee which included a quarterly incentive for the Borough Employee Safety Committee and to reimburse Derek Stoy the cost of \$150.00 for his CDL Test.

MOTION: to set the amount of not to exceed \$40 per employee per quarter to be rewarded to participants of the Employee Safety Committee only if there are no injuries claimed against the policy with the rewards to be the discretion of the Borough Manager was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to reimburse Derek Stoy for the cost of \$150.00 for his CDL Test only if he passed the test was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

Borough Council discussed the other two items of Direct Deposit and Police Scheduling questions, both would be discussed further at the next Personnel Committee Meeting.

MOTION: to approve the Planning Commission Recommendation of approving the Zoning Map Amendment changing Franklin County Tax Parcel # 14-3A01.-002.-000000 located on Fox Drive from a Planned Commercial District to an Industrial District and approve Ordinance No. 6-20 was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve Ordinance 1-44 establishing a Parking Permit System was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, Catalin Bonciu and Tom Suddeth opposed, remaining ayes, motion carried.

Council President reviewed the letter included from Jonathan Kittredge and his request to consider building a PWD Garage on the Tannery Property. Jonathan Kittredge asked Borough Council Members for funds to develop plans for this project. He asked that he be allowed to work with Derek and the Engineer. After much discussion, the following motion was made.

MOTION: to authorize the not to exceed amount of \$10,000 for Jonathan Kittredge, Derek Stoy, and Engineer to develop plans for a new public works garage was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to accept Karen Ramsburg's Resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

President Suddeth opened nominations for the James Buchanan Award. The Buchanan Lioness was previously nominated, however Catalin Bonciu nominated James Zeger, Mayor Zeger thanked Catalin for the nomination, but asked Council to consider the Lioness as they are an outstanding group that has done a lot of good for the community. A vote was taken; Jeff Main and Catalin Bonciu voted for Jim Zeger; then Jonathan Kittredge, Donald Stoner, Tom Suddeth, and Amy Burkot voted for the Buchanan Lioness.

The 2016 James Buchanan Award Winner was the Buchanan Lioness.

Borough Council discussed the upcoming Chamber Dinner and would like one person to attend to represent Council.

MOTION: to approve one dinner ticket at a cost of \$35 for the Council Representative to attend the Chamber Annual Business Awards Dinner was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:25 pm was made by Amy Burkot, second by Jonathan Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes have been transcribed and respectfully submitted for approval by Dawn L. Scheller using her notes and audio recording.

Date approved: _____ Motion made by: _____ Second by: _____