

**Mercersburg Borough Council**  
**Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA**  
**March 11, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

**Attending:** President Donald (Dusty) Stoner Jr., Vice-President Jeff Main, Dr. Michael Pedersen, Paul Sipes, Sean Grove, Amy Burkot, Mayor Roger Defibaugh, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Borough Secretary Stacey Golden and Solicitor Steve Coccorese

**Absent:** Tom Heefner

**Guests/Press:** Rachel Nichols

President Donald Stoner Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked Mayor Roger Defibaugh to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

No public comments.

**MOTION: To approve the February 25, 2019 minutes with the correction of adding Mayor Roger Defibaugh as being absent and with the addition of the letter from the Mercersburg Journal was made by Jeff Main, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable for the month ending February 28, 2019 was made by Jeff Main, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.**

Council Member Amy Burkot inquired about the financial status of the UDAG Account and asked if she could look into using the funds for community projects. Borough Manager Derek Stoy explained the procedures for using the account. Mayor Defibaugh commented that years ago the account was used to help the community and would like to see the historic area benefit from the funds. Member Sean Grove added that the Lion's Club Park does alot for the community and playground equipment will be needed. President Donald Stoner Jr. stated that the money could be used to do community projects and suggested that member Amy Burkot bring ideas to the next Council meeting.

President Donald Stoner Jr. moved into the Mayor's Report. Mayor Roger Defibaugh recognized a thank you card that was given to the Police Department from the Conococheague FFA. Defibaugh gave an update on the part time officer position saying that the approved candidate just needs to complete a written test which will take place on April 4<sup>th</sup> and hopes to have the officer sworn in by the end of April or beginning of May. Defibaugh also mentioned that the Police Department has another candidate who is currently a full time Deputy Sheriff with Franklin County and has permission to work part time for the Mercersburg Police Department. Defibaugh stated that the Mercersburg Police Officers are now certified on the Enradd System and inquired to the Council about insuring the equipment. Defibaugh discussed the estimate for an alarm system for the upstairs of the Town Hall building. Mayor Defibaugh asked Council about the Borough offering residents the ability to pay their water and sewer bill online. Borough Manager Derek Stoy explained that the inquiry would need to be taken to the Water and Sewer Authorities and continued explaining that paying online was not feasible due to the Borough having three separate entities. Defibaugh expressed his concern for possible asbestos in the Police Department and asked if testing would be possible. President Donald Stoner Jr. addressed several issues to

Mayor Defibaugh concerning the Police Department. President Stoner asked the Mayor to have Chief Zechmann report at the next meeting on the status of the old cruiser. Council discussed having the Police Department attend Council meetings.

President Donald Stoner Jr. moved into the Solicitor's Report. Solicitor Steve Coccoresse responded to the letter that was given to Council from the Mercersburg Journal as well as the article written in the Mercersburg Journal protesting the Executive Session that occurred on February 14, 2019 suggesting that there was a violation to the Sunshine Act. Coccoresse stated that there was not an announcement for the February 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting beforehand however, it was mentioned immediately following the Executive Session at the next public meeting on February 25, 2019. Coccoresse said members were notified at least 24 hours in advance before the meeting which coincides with the Sunshine Act.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported that the Public Work truck was completed and repairs were under \$2000.00. A prebid meeting for the Johnston's Run Trail was held on March 6, 2019 at 9 AM at Borough Hall with six companies that attended. Stoy noted that there was a walk on the project site. Opening of bids will occur on March 20, 2019 at 1 PM. Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner will take place at Whitetail Ski Resort on April 4, 2019. Manager Stoy said there was one nomination for the James Buchanan Award. Stoy reported that a snow emergency plan was put into effect, doors were posted for no parking. Stoy said he felt everything went smoothly. The John Deere backhoe purchased in 2014 will need rear tires, Stoy provided three quotes saying that both the Water and Sewer Authorities were also given the quotes for their meeting since it was purchased through the Joint Equipment Fund. Senator Ward's Representative Kathleen Gunnell will be working at the Mercersburg Borough Town Hall building the second Tuesday of each month from 10-3 PM. Borough Manager Derek Stoy stated "It is a really good thing for this town".

There were no Committee Reports.

President Donald Stoner Jr. moved into Old Business. Manager Derek Stoy reported that the Police Pension Proposal was still under the review process.

President Donald Stoner Jr. moved into New Business.

**MOTION: To purchase rear tires from Byers for the John Deere backhoe contingent upon Water/Sewer Authority approval in the amount of \$1153.72 was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

There were three nominees for the James Buchanan Award; Michael Pedersen, Tom Heefner and Jeff Main. Michael Pedersen abstained from voting. Michael Pedersen won unanimously with four votes.

**MOTION: To approve paying for a table of eight to attend the Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner on April 4, 2019 was made by Jeff Main, second by Amy Burkot. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To accept the resignation of Joe Burkot from all committees he currently serves on to include the Streets Committee and General Purpose Committee was made by Sean Grove, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.**

President Stoner confirmed committee meeting dates.

**MOTION: To move into Executive Session for personnel matters at 8:03 PM was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

Council resumed regular meeting session at 8:17 PM.

**MOTION: To terminate a Public Works employee was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: For the Solicitor to review the employee handbook for any discrepancies to make improvements was made by Jeff Main, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To adjourn was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

*These meeting minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted for approval by Stacey M. Golden with the use of her meeting notes and audio recording.*

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Second by: \_\_\_\_\_