

Mercersburg Borough Council
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
October 6, 2014
MINUTES

Attending: Council President Tom Suddeth, Mayor Jim Zeger, Council Vice-President Jeff Main, Jon Kittredge, Donald Stoner, Catalin Bonciu, Liza McCoy, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Police Chief John Zechman, Solicitor Sam Wisner, and Borough Engineer Lance Kegerreis

Absent: Jeremy Jones

Guests/Press: Sign-In Sheet

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and President Suddeth asked for Public Comment.

Dr. Elizabeth George spoke about the Landis Drive regarding a sidewalk that Council did not enforce the installation of along the roadway. She spoke about the rising costs of health care procedures and asked Council to reconsider their decision of not enforcing the sidewalk installation. She asked them to think of the benefit to the entire community and not the benefit to the owner.

Council members thanked her for her comments.

MOTION: to accept the September 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes as presented was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to accept the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable for September 2014 was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Zeger reported that Townfest was a wonderful day and commented on the success of the events. He said all should be commended who organized and participated during the day. Mayor announced the Trick-or-Treat and Parade date and times. He reviewed that bleacher seats tickets were available for purchase for \$3 per ticket.

Police Chief John Zechman provided his report for Council which included the following; 88 Complaints & service calls, 0 Borough Ordinance Violations, 17 Criminal Investigations, 8 Criminal Arrests, 4 Misdemeanor Offenses, 0 Felony Offenses, 3 Accident Investigations, 35 Citations, and 56 parking Tickets. He provided Borough Council Members with a report of the money turned over to the Borough.

Council Members asked that Chief relay a message of congratulations to Officer Soffe pertaining to the article that Chief included in his report. Police Chief Zechman left the meeting at 7:13.

Solicitor Sam Wisner did not have anything to report to Council at this time.

Engineer Lance Kegerreis stated that he would provide his report during the Streets Committee discussion.

Dawn Scheller provided the Borough Manager's Report. Dawn reviewed the number of Land Use Permits issued, the tree in front of Borough Hall being sick and needing to be removed, along with Pension Plan information needing to be completed and updated. Dawn Scheller asked that Council consider the appointments to the FCATB and forward any changes to her. Dawn Scheller reviewed information about a health insurance conference on November 20th and 21st. She asked council to approve her attendance and cost for her to attend the seminar. She also asked that Council approve the expense of \$250.00 for the Assistant Manager to use to purchase safety and uniform items for the position.

MOTION: to authorize the expenses for Dawn Scheller to attend the Benecon Health Insurance Conference on November 20th and 21st was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jon Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the expense of \$250.00 for the new Assistant Borough Manager to purchase safety and uniform items for the position was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

Catalin Bonciu, Chairman of the Finance Committee applauded the Police Department for the proposed savings. The Finance Committee shared their thoughts on not increasing taxes and seeing if any tax relief could occur for the community. They provided a prepared a tentative budget for Council to review and submit questions and concerns to the office before the next Council Meeting.

Jeff Main, Personnel Committee Chair reviewed that the majority of their meeting was in executive session for personnel matters and the recommendations would be later in the meeting.

Catalin Bonciu, Property Committee Chairman reviewed that their meeting was short due to the scheduled Personnel Committee Meeting. He shared that the members from the Mercersburg Park Association attended the meeting to discuss the desire to lease/acquire the Oregon Lot for a Public Park/Skate Park. Catalin reviewed that at this time the Committee did not have any recommendations to Council about the matter. He reviewed that the Committee did recommend upgrading the Copy Machine.

MOTION: to upgrade the Copy Machine entering into a lease agreement for Option 2, that would provide a savings to the Borough was made by Jeff Main, second by Jon Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

Jeff Main reviewed the Streets Committee information about tar and chipping Landis Drive as proposed by the Director of Public Works. Members of the Audience were not in favor of the proposal with concerns for pedestrians and bikers who travel the road way. Members of the audience recommended that Council could consider adding shoulder stripes to allow for bikes and walkers a safe space to travel on some borough roads. Council began discussion on the current condition and expected time gained if the surface was tar and chipped. It was discussed that the Borough received a cost estimate of \$6,000 to tar and chip Landis Drive as the contractor was in the area. After much discussion Council made the following motion.

MOTION: to authorize the Engineer to evaluate Landis Drive to determine if shoulder lines can be added to accommodate bike riders was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to authorize the Engineer to evaluate the current condition of Landis Drive to determine if tar and chip would be an appropriate method to restore the roadway at a cost of \$6,000 was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jon Kittredge, council members spoke regarding the funds and where they would be paid from, Dr. George spoke about Council needing to take a much longer view of spending money, Council discussed that the street improvement fund would be used for this project, a vote was taken, Jeff Main and Catalin Bonciu opposed, Liza McCoy abstained, remaining ayes, motion carried.

More discussion occurred regarding the topic if tar and chipping was the correct method as members of the audience spoke about safety concerns that they had. The following motion was made.

MOTION: to rescind the prior motion was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Lisa McCoy, more discussion occurred whether or not the roadway was wide enough for shoulder stripes for bikers and walkers to use the road and if tar and chip was a safe method of paving for bikers and pedestrians, after more discussion a vote was taken, Jon Kittredge, Donald Stoner, and Tom Suddeth opposed the motion, and Catlin Bonciu, Jeff Main, and Liza McCoy approved the motion, which then the Mayor broke the tie and voted against rescinding the previous motion and allowed the Engineer to evaluate the roadway/method.

Jeff Main reviewed that the Streets Committee discussed items of drainage boxes on E. Seminary Street and coordinating the curb work with the Academy. It was also discussed that the committee was reviewing possible solutions for the drainage issues on W. Seminary Street Ext. Jeff Main spoke that the Committee briefly discussed the conversation about possibly of abandoning the alley way next to the old Tuscarora Building. The Committee reviewed that they asked the office to reach out to them by letter to see if the Academy would be interested in the Borough abandoning partial or all part of the alley next to the old Tuscarora Building. Streets reviewed they would discuss it further at the committee level and bring any recommendations back to Council. Sam Wiser spoke about the process of abandoning an alley and reviewed it would take a couple of months to complete.

President Suddeth moved on to New Business Items.

MOTION: to accept the resignation with regret of Jeremy Jones from Borough Council was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

Borough Council Members spoke about the procedure of replacing a vacant seat. Borough Council asked the office to place an ad for interested residents to submit letters of interest to serve on council.

MOTION: to advertise a Vacancy Board Committee on November 10th at 7:00 pm was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve legal to complete the necessary documents and advertise for the required Pension Ordinance as recommended in the R. J. Hall Letter and that the Chief Administrator and Act 44 Disclosure Document be updated was made by Donald Stoner, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to authorize the Mercersburg Fire Police for the Fulton Fall Folk Festival assistance was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jeff, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to authorize the Mercersburg Fire Police for the Greencastle Events was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to authorize the Treasurer to sign 706B prepared by Cohick and Associates was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to enter into executive session at 8:16 pm to discuss personnel matters with possible action to be taken was made by Jeff Main, second by Jon Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

Resumed regular session at 9:00 pm.

MOTION: to hire Derek Stoy to fill the Assistant Borough Manager Position at an annual salary of \$40,500, no overtime or comp hours, with three weeks of vacation was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to pay for 100% of health insurance premium for 2015 with the understanding that the Personnel Committee will look into the employees paying a portion of the coverage was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, Jon Kittredge opposed, remaining ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to authorize the advertisement of a Temporary Part-time on call Public Works at a rate of \$12.00 per hour was made by Jeff Main, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

Borough Council discussed upcoming Committee Meetings and Property scheduled a meeting on November 10th. There was some discussion as to who is on the Committees. Tom Suddeth asked that Amy Burket be added to the

Beautification Committee. Council asked that Sam Wiser contact Mary-Anne regarding a piece of land near the Tannery Property that was going to be given to the Borough. No additional business was discussed.

MOTION to adjourn at 9:16 pm was made by Donald Stoner, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

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

Date Approved: _____ Motion Made by: _____ Second by: _____