

Mercersburg Borough Council
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
February 2, 2015
MINUTES

Attending: President Tom Suddeth, Mayor Jim Zeger, Treasurer Catalin Bonciu, Donald (Dusty) Stoner, Jonathan (Jon) Kittredge, Lisa McCoy, Amy Burkot, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Assistant Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Solicitor Jason Kelso, Engineer Lance Kegerreis and Police Chief John Zechman

Absent: Council Vice-President Jeff Main

Guests/Press: See Sign-in Sheet

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with the Mayor leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Stieger spoke about Council looking for volunteers to fill vacancies only to have removed a willing member of the Sewer Authority. He spoke that Mr. Hoffman had been a member on the Sewer Authority for more than 7 years, and they couldn't have had a more successful business man to participate on the Authority.

President Suddeth stated that Doug Hoffman served a long time and did a great job; he then read the other vacancies available to be filled.

Tim Rockwell reviewed that it may not be illegal to have two out of five members of the Authority also as Council members; however he feels there could be some problems to function in legal session.

Larry Nair spoke about the amount of volunteers that have served on the Authority during his time on the Authority. He spoke that it takes between 3-5 years to become familiar with the business and he was totally caught off guard when Doug was not reappointed to the Authority. Larry stated that it was not a good situation.

Brian Nordyke from the Mercersburg Academy was present and relayed the counter offer of the Borough abandoning the bootleg portion of Constitution and in return the Academy would authorize the widening of McConnell Alley so that would become the main route of travel. Brian asked the Borough Council members if they would be open to the concept provided the Academy completing a traffic study and preparing the plans for Council to consider.

Concerns of truck traffic, the expense of the study, fire police / emergency vehicle / equipment access, were all brought to the forefront. The discussion of widening the alley way to at least the width of Constitution is now along with the possibility of adding more turn radius for truck traffic as there were members who felt it needed to be widened further.

Borough Council Members discussed the possibility of the counter offer and determined that they would need to review the plans and traffic study before coming to a final decision. Brian Nordyke said he would take the information back to the Academy and would stay in contact with the Borough Office as to their progress.

MOTION: to approve the January 5, 2015 meeting minutes as presented was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Bills Payable / Invoice List as presented was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jon Kittredge all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report for the year ending 2014 was made by Lisa McCoy, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

Borough Council decided to table the Treasurer's Report for the month ending January 2015 until the February Meeting where a revised version would be presented for approval.

Mayor Zeger presented his report with information regarding parking meters. Mayor Zeger spoke about the non-meter parking available to its residents and encouraged people who parked at a meter pay the meter. The discussion of the parking permits took place with members of the Audience interested in both contractor parking meter permits along with resident permits. Mayor also spoke about slipping on a sidewalk and reminded residents to shovel their sidewalks after a storm.

Council Members invited the Public to attend the next streets meeting where this topic would be discussed.

Police Chief John Zechman presented his report for the month of January; 94 complaints and service calls, 1 Borough Ordinance Violation, 5 criminal investigations, 2 criminal arrests, 2 Accident Investigations, 22 Traffic Citations, 79 Parking Tickets, along with the money turned over to the Borough. He also reported that the two vehicles were removed from the Hitching Post Parking Lot and the Police Department would contact the salvers to remove the remaining vehicle.

There was nothing from the Solicitor at this time.

Dawn Scheller presented her report which included a contact sheet with all newly appointed Board/Committee/Authority contact information, the confirmation that the Committee Meetings were properly advertised along with the annual Ethics Forms which need to be completed.

Dawn Scheller also provided information regarding the 2014 Pension Contribution which needed to be paid plus the corresponding penalty amount totaling \$59,486.74. She also touched on the remaining 2014 transfers that needed to be completed including; \$7510 from UDAG to General, \$88,286 from General to Street Improvement Account, \$12,000 to the Joint Equipment Fund, along with the Police fund transfers per the 2014 budget.

MOTION: to authorize all the 2014 remaining budget transfers was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jonathan Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

The Finance Committee spoke of the need to meet before August and determine where the funds were going to come from to cover the funds overspent in 2014.

Dawn Scheller also touched on the Summer Playground and reviewed that the past few years have been low attendance. It was reviewed that the office distributed flyers to all of the K-5 Students along with scheduling fun activities visit from the Fire Company, Library Time, Magicians, Zumba and other fund events. Council Members suggested additional community outreach and adding an advertisement in the Merchant. Dawn also reminded Council that they would need to choose a James Buchanan Award Winner at the March 2nd Borough Council Meeting.

Derek Stoy presented his report which included pricing for needed signs, vehicle work needed on the F-350 Pick-up, the completion of the Flagger Course, a Harb Training Reminder and cost information on Parking Meters.

MOTION: to approve the purchase of the necessary signs and cones from Directional Traffic was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the purchase of tires and alignment repair costs as presented for the F-350 was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jon Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the B&M repairs as needed, since the vehicle needs to run for snow related activity, was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jonathan Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to authorize the purchase of used parking meters as presented not to exceed \$500 was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Amy Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

The Public Works Department was included in the packets for review.

The Streets Committee presented their meeting information that included that Columbia Gas was going to have two crews working in town shortly. One Crew would be working on W. Seminary Ext. and the second along Linden Ave. It was reviewed that the Drainage on W. Seminary Ext. was still being discussed and that it was possible however the committee was awaiting information from the property owner. Borough Council discussed that Curb Notices would need to be mailed out shortly, that the final decision on sidewalks would need to be made, and finalizing the list of streets for Lance to prepare the bid docs would need to be decided upon.

Mr. Rockwell spoke about the history of Mill Race Alley and information regarding possible drainage options for W. Seminary Ext.

Larry Nair spoke about the past practices regarding parking permits issued and that the Borough made money from contractors paying for the bags and very rarely using them. It was encouraged that people interested in the discussion should attend the next Streets Committee Meeting.

Borough Council moved on to the items listed under OLD BUSINESS.

The discussion on revising the Zoning Ordinance was tabled and would be discussed at a future meeting.

Borough Council moved on to the items listed under NEW BUSINESS.

MOTION: to approve Resolution 07-15: Mercersburg Fee Scheduled was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the 2015 Franklin County Task Force in the amount of \$753.62 was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the 2015 Per Capita Funding request for Franklin County \$234.15 was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to authorize the James Buchanan and Harriet Lane Award Advertisements was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to enter into executive session for possible litigation and personnel matters at 8:48 pm was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jonathan Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

Resumed regular session at 9:18 pm

Borough Council reviewed the meeting calendar and upcoming schedule.

MOTION: to adjourn at 9:22 pm was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jonathan Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dawn Scheller with the use of her notes for Council approval.

Date Approved: _____ Motion made by: _____ Second by: _____