

Mercersburg Borough Council
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
May 18, 2020
MINUTES

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

Absent: None

Guests/Press: N/A

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a roll call and read virtual meeting instructions. President Stoner also read an email from resident Tim Stanton requesting that more information be placed on the website.

President Stoner opened up the floor for public comments.

Preston Spahr gave an updated report on the Vibrancy Committee. Spahr thanked individuals for contributions made to the committee. Liz George spoke to council about the MacWell trail saying it is being used and said it is “well appreciated”. George also spoke to council about a picture she submitted asking to have the grass cleared that has creped out onto Oregon Street. President Stoner said the area was a PennDOT road.

Amy Burkot spoke to council about the letter of intent for Orrstown Bank asking if the letter has been sent and if there has been a response. Borough Manager Derek Stoy responded that the letter has been sent and would be discussed later in the meeting under New Business. Burkot also asked whose job it was to maintain the borough website. Manager Stoy replied that it is a collaborated effort between himself, the secretary and the host of the website.

A resident asked how the public could see the council packet. Solicitor Steve Coccorese replied saying that in general most of the council packet is public record before the meeting but a request can be made before the meeting to obtain a copy noting that some things have to be kept out depending on the document and when that can become public. Coccorese said a request can also be made after the meeting for public availability.

Tanya Nicole asked the council to look at the borough website and expressed her concern about it being user friendly.

Judy Bonciu talked to council about the asking price of the Orrstown Bank in Mercersburg and asked if there was a comparison made with the one that sold in Greencastle, Pa. Manager Stoy said there was not a comparison done. Bonciu also made a comment about taxes paid on the building. Solicitor Steve Coccorese said the borough’s taxes on the building would be smaller than the county and school district but has not looked into taxes on the parcel. Bonciu concluded her comment saying she got her information on the taxes from an attorney.

Tim Stanton stated he was disappointed with council about their consideration in purchasing Orrstown Bank and expressed his concern about maintaining two municipal buildings. Stanton also said the audit and budget should be placed on the website for the residents of the borough.

President Donald Stoner commented that there would be a public meeting before any decisions would be made.

Lena Eckstine also commented on the potential purchase of the Orrstown Bank building as a concerned business owner and thanked council for their transparency.

President Stoner made a correction to the April 27, 2020 minutes. The minutes read: "President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM with a roll call and announced that council met on March 16, 2020 to discuss real estate matters". The corrections should read "President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM with a roll call and announced that council met on March 16, 2020 in Executive Session to discuss real estate matters, also council also met on April 13, 2020 in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters".

MOTION: To accept the April 27, 2020 minutes with corrections was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report A & B for months ending April 30, 2020 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved onto the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Defibaugh said he would like to see the complete council packet put on the website with the agenda. Defibaugh also noted that Officer Kissoon has resigned due to finding another position. Also, Officer Hudson's hours have been significantly reduced due to finding another position as well. Defibaugh asked permission to advertise for a part time position. Mayor Defibaugh spoke about the COVID 19 pandemic and the phases as it relates to Franklin County. Solicitor Steve Coccorese followed up with the Mayor's comments saying that it is true that some state representatives have sent letters to Governor Wolf and said that the borough council could come up with a statement if they chose.

Council moved onto the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on COVID 19 update saying office employees are continuing to work on reduced hours but has adjusted the schedule. Stoy said the Public Works Department will be soon working a full time schedule since the weather is starting to stabilize and there is more weather dependent work to be done. Manager Stoy noted that the Summer Playground Program will remain under Old Business until council decides which directions to go. MMP&W has requested PPE (personal protection equipment) funding, Stoy said he would let Jeff Main speak on the matter. Manager Stoy concluded his report with stating that Orrstown Bank has requested that the letter of intent be amended saying the purchase price be added to the letter along with a clause stating the borough will not resell the building within three years of purchase.

President Donald Stoner moved into Committee Reports.

Vice President Jeff Main reported on the HARB Committee meeting.

MOTION: To approve HARB application COA 2020-05-01 to replace the siding on the rear ell with cement hardy plank and re-siding would include eliminating two windows and one door on the first floor and two windows on the second floor with the understanding that those window and door openings be infilled so that they still have the shadow appearance of the previous openings and that the trim would remain but the infill could be of hardy plank as well as the siding was made by Tom Heefner, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve HARB application COA 2020-05-02 to replace the current wooden fence and gate with a cast iron fence and gate at 49 South Main Street was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into Old Business.

MOTION: To table the Summer Playground Program until the June 8, 2020 council meeting was made by Paul Sipes, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To hold off on the Letter of Intent to Orrstown Bank until more investigation with the value of the property compared to Greencastle is completed was made by Tom Heefner, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into New Business.

Vice-President Jeff Main reported on PPE funding request. Main said relief was provided by the county in the past and recently received news that the county will not be providing this anymore. Main said \$3800 has been spent in the month of April. Main noted that Montgomery Township gave funding and submitted receipts to get reimbursed. Council discussed which direction to go and reimbursement options.

MOTION: To table the request for PPE funding to MMP&W Fire Department until the June 8, 2020 council meeting was made by Tom Heefner, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To contact PennDOT to see what can be done regarding Liz George's request for grass to be trimmed on Oregon Street was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept officer Kissoon's resignation with regret was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept Resolution 20-20, establishing rules and regulations regarding the conduct of public meetings via telemeeting, was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Council stated a motion was not needed to advertise for a part time position for a police officer since there was already an open ended motion.

Donald Stoner reviewed meeting dates.

MOTION: To adjourn to executive session at 8:16 PM for personnel and collective bargaining matters with the intent to not reconvene was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

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

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