

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
August 10, 2020
MINUTES

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

Absent : Anthony Frisby & Jeff Main

Guests/Press : Andrea Frey

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

President Stoner opened up the floor for public comments.

Preston Spahr spoke to council about the Vibrancy Steering Committee. Spahr said the committee attended some training for community revitalization which was effective and worth the cost to participate.

Mr. Catalin Bonciu spoke regarding the Herbruck's truck route, Bonciu said he did not vote for the trucks to travel on Main Street but rather turn right towards Peter's Township. Borough Manager Derek Stoy would have completed the meeting minutes during the time the vote would have happened in December of 2017 and said he had the packet with all of the information which included a map of the truck route. Solicitor Steve Coccorese said he would be willing to go back and look at all of the documents with Borough Manager Derek Stoy. Amy Burkot spoke and said she concurred with Mr. Bonciu.

Amy Burkot also mentioned taking a poll on Facebook asking Mercersburg residents how they would like money spent in the borough and replies included "safety" such as crosswalks, other replies included a better website to make utility payments online. Mrs. Burkot had Andrea Frey, IT Business Analyst specializing in system requirements employed with Citibank to present information for updating the borough's website. Ms. Frey presented a vendor called "Town Web" that only does municipality websites. Town Web has been in service for thirteen years. Council President Stoner and Borough Manager Stoy both spoke about taking the information into consideration.

MOTION: To accept the July 13, 2020 minutes was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report A & B for month ending July 31, 2020 was made by Sean Grove, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved onto the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Defibaugh recognized the passing of Ben Martin saying he was a "gentle and kind man". Defibaugh reported that the parking meters are up and running and that 21 tickets have been distributed. Defibaugh said there were some ENRADD speed enforcements done with some citations being issued. Mayor Defibaugh said because of the COVID pandemic the police department was unable to get Franklin County prisoners to help with the move upstairs while renovations are being done so they have inquired with a moving company. Sgt. Wertz submitted a memo about computers for the police department in the packet. Defibaugh spoke about getting grants for crosswalks through PennDot next year.

Council moved onto the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy gave an update on COVID 19 saying that he is waiting for the earned income tax & LST deposits. Stoy noted to plan a 10-25% reduction in liquid fuel tax payments according to the state. Stoy gave the county the COVID 19 expenditures to date which include \$3500 donation to the fire department for PPE and also \$2,345 for Serv Pro for a deep clean of Borough Hall during the pandemic. Stoy continued in his report saying council would need to review the crossing guard information that was presented at the previous meeting by the police department and decide how to proceed. Rev. Berry was scheduled to speak regarding a unity march but called to cancel and hopes to present at September's council meeting. Resolutions 21-20, 22-20 and 23-20 pertaining to the uniformed police pension plan will need reviewed for approval under New Business. Manager Stoy concluded his report by saying there have been 7 Right-to-Know requests submitted to the borough office for the month of July. Bids will be opened at the September 9, 2020 Finance Committee meeting for the Trash Collection RFP.

Council moved into Committee Reports.

President Stoner went over the details for the Streets Committee meeting reading motions to be discussed in new business.

Council moved onto Old Business.

Mayor Defibaugh reported on the crossing guards. The borough has been charging for services but the school district has not. Solicitor Steve Coccorese advised council on the borough code which states if the school desires to have crossing guards they can choose to have in house crossing guards or hired by the borough and serve at the pleasure of council and are compensated in accordance to council decisions. If the borough and school district cannot agree on some sort of equitable split on that compensation, then each would pay one half. Coccorese suggested having a written agreement with the school district regarding the payment. President Stoner suggested if the school district doesn't have any crossing guards the police department should do it without charging the school.

MOTION: To share the cost of policing the crosswalks at \$16 with the school district if needed and pen a letter to place that in writing to them was made by Sean Grove, second by Tom Heefner. Motion carried on a four to one vote. Sean Grove-Yay, Michael Pedersen-Yay; Tom Heefner-Yay, Dusty Stoner-Yay, Paul Sipes-Nay.

Council moved into New Business.

MOTION: To approve Resolutions 21-20, 22-20 and 23-20 eliminating employee contributions to the police pension plan was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the TrafficLogix quote purchasing a Safeplace Evolution 12 FM sign with 4 brackets for a total cost of \$3,284, said purchase will be made using previously donated funds submitted by the police department was made by Sean Grove, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To get several more quotes for an upgrade to the IT system at the police department and then be sent to property committee to review the quotes and make a recommendation to send back to council was made by Tom Heefner, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To enlist Mayor Defibaugh and Sgt. Wertz to provide a letter of support for pending legislation to allow municipal police departments to use radar to local legislators was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To request a speed study be done by PennDOT with regard to Park Avenue and Oregon Street with the speed limits requested by the Streets Committee to be considered by PennDot was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. Motion carried on a three to two vote. Sean Grove-Yay; Donald Stoner-Yay; Paul Sipes-Yay; Michael Pedersen-Nay; Tom Heefner-Nay.

Council reviewed meeting dates.

Sean Grove asked about revising the skateboarding Ordinance, 10-10-2001, which prohibits skateboarding on public property. Donald Stoner said it needed to be reviewed at the streets committee meeting and brought back to council with a recommendation. Grove also mentioned creating a Parks and Recs Committee stating he would be willing to chair it and organize with the Vibrancy Steering Committee, Paul Sipes also said he would join. President Stoner said he would check into it further to come up with a name since there are no parks.

MOTION: To adjourn regular session at 8:45 PM and enter into executive session for personnel reasons with the intent to not reconvene was made by Paul Sipes, 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: _____