

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
January 11, 2021
MINUTES

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

Absent: Paul Sipes

Guests/Press: Dr. Elizabeth George, Tom Suddeth, Andy Abel-Mercersburg Journal, Tyler Beaston- Salzman Hughes, Clinton Webb- Salzman Hughes, Melissa Stuff

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and read over virtual meeting public comment instructions.

President Stoner opened up the floor for public comments.

Dr. Elizabeth George spoke to council about a feasibility study as suggested by the Streets Committee. Everyone was provided with a handout explaining potential walking and cycling routes. George's handout stated that members of the committee suggested to "work to create safe walking and biking throughout the tri-municipality area so that people can walk or cycle safely on errands, to work, to school and for recreation throughout the community". Dr. George thanked Borough Manger Derek Stoy for his involvement with the Johnston's Run Trail regarding the grants.

MOTION: To accept the December 14, 2020 minutes was made by Sean Grove, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report not available due to the year ending January 15, 2021.

Council moved onto the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Roger Defibaugh reported on the updated police department encouraging everyone to stop by. Defibaugh noted that the wokers did a "fantastic job". Council President Dusty Stoner also commented saying it is "bright & modernized". The Chief is expected to return sometime in February once something in writing is received.

The police report was included in the council packet.

No report from the Solicitor.

No Engineer's Report.

Council moved onto the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on Resolution 02-21, Schedule of Fees. Stoy elaborated on the Land Use Permit fee saying he called around to other municipalities to see what they charge and the price is all over the place. Stoy suggested raising the Land Use Permit Fee from \$25 plus \$1.00 per each additional \$1000 to \$2.00 per each additional

\$1000 for 2022. Resolution 01-21 appointing Fire Board members will need approved as well as Resolution 03-21 appointing HARB members. Manager Stoy spoke to council about the handicap parking application for 105 ½ South Main Street (Gordon’s Barber Shop) noting that anyone could park there, not just barber shop customers. Anthony Frisby said he spoke with Mr. Gordon and his elderly customers are many times parking far away making it inconvenient. Council President Donald Stoner asked Mayor Defibaugh his opinion. Mayor Defibaugh said he would talk to Sgt. Wertz and Chief Zechman to get their opinions. Stoy asked council to appoint a representative and alternate for the Franklin County Emergency Services Alliance, currently it is Borough Manager Derek Stoy and Secretary Stacey Golden respectively. Stoy talked to council about the tax exoneration for parcel #14-3A00B-042, the property owner changed the land use from residential to agriculture causing the assessed value to be lowered by the county and also creating a change for the tax revenue for the borough of \$929.42 at the current mill rate. Stoy noted there wasn’t much the borough can do at this point and would need to approve. Manager Stoy reminded council there would not be financial reports due to the accountants closing out the year January 15th.

Council President Dusty Stoner moved into Committee Reports.

Dr. Michael Pedersen reported for the Fire Board. Dr. Pedersen mentioned that a new security system is being installed.

President Stoner went over the new committee members list for 2021.

- **Finance Committee**- Dusty Stoner-Chairman, Paul Sipes, Sean Grove
- **Nominating Committee**- Anthony Frisby-Chairman, Tom Heefner, Michael Pedersen
- **Property Committee**- Raymond Minton-Chairman, Tom Heefner, Anthony Frisby
- **Personnel Committee**- Tom Heefner-Chairman, Dusty Stoner, Michael Pedersen, Larry Nair, Ed Twine, Jim Malone, Dan Chayes
- **Streets Committee**- Paul Sipes-Chairman, Raymond Minton, Sean Grove, Dan Chayes, Jason Frey
- **Safety Committee**- Tom Heefner-Chairman, Anthony Frisby, Dusty Stoner

No Old Business.

Council moved into New Business.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 01-21, reappointing Michael Pedersen and appointing Tom Heefner to Fire Board was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 02-21, Schedule of Fees, was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 03-21, reappointing HARB members Jennifer Greenlee and Clem Malot was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To table the handicap parking application for 105 ½ South Main Street until further discussion next month was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. Motion carried on a 5 to 1 vote. Dusty Stoner, Yay; Michael Pedersen, Yay; Tom Heefner, Yay; Anthony Frisby, Yay; Raymond Minton, Yay; Sean Grove, Nay.

MOTION: To reappoint Borough Manager Derek Stoy as Representative and reappoint Borough Secretary Stacey Golden as Alternate for the Franklin County Emergency Services Alliance was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Tax Exoneration for Parcel #14-3A00B-042 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

Manager Derek Stoy said PennDOT sent a letter stating that they will be conducting traffic studies in Franklin County on municipality owned roads from January 2021 through April 2021. PennDOT will be contracting with Drive Engineering, Inc., French Engineering, LLC and Tri-State Traffic Data, Inc., vendors of the Department of Transportation's Highway Safety and Traffic Operations Division. PennDOT's letter stated "The data collected will be used to complete a statewide network screening and prioritize locations for potential safety improvements".

Council reviewed upcoming meeting dates. Manager Stoy said the Personnel meeting can be cancelled and the Finance Committee will meet later in the Spring.

Council President Dusty Stoner commented on 2020's challenges thanking everyone on council for serving and noted "It takes everybody to make this work".

MOTION: To adjourn regular session at 7:46 PM was made by Tom Heefner, 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: _____