

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

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

Absent: Paul Sipes, Sean Grove

Guests/Press: Lisa Minton, Tim Stanton, Andy Abel

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the floor for public comments.

Lisa Minton expressed concern to council about vehicles squealing their tires late at night and said it is causing her neighbors to be scared. Councilman Dr. Michael Pedersen commented that it is bad right now and seems to be happening at all hours. Tim Stanton publicly thanked public works employees Ray Mowen and Donald Keefer who attended to his sewer issues saying they were kind and he appreciated their maintenance skills. Councilman Anthony Frisby asked Tom Suddeth if he would like to address the council on some street concerns they spoke about earlier in the day, Suddeth declined saying council was already aware.

MOTION: To approve the September 13, 2021 meeting minutes as written was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report A & B for month ending September 30, 2021 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into the Mayor's Report

Mayor Roger Defibaugh spoke to council about "coffee with a cop" on October, 26th from 6-7 PM at Rutter's. Mayor Defibaugh said there is something planned for November/December at a different location. Vice-President Tom Heefner asked Mayor Defibaugh about the parking meters and the frequency of emptying them. Defibaugh said the police department hasn't had time to empty them due to other priorities and asked "Is collecting money a police issue?". Council President Donald Stoner said years ago the police department took the task over. Borough Manager Derek Stoy commented that "we are all in this together". After discussion council decided to address the issue under New Business.

Police report in packet

Council moved into the Borough Manager's Report

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on the MMO's saying they need to be officially approved. The 2020 audit also needs approved. Resolution 09-21 to increase the small purchase from \$500 to \$1000 will need approved. Manager Stoy also spoke about the PennDOT resolution for advertising the engineering RFP for proposed intersection realignment at South Main and Fort Loudon Rd. on PennDOT's ECMS portal. Stoy said

the borough is required to be a business partner to advertise. Stoy asked council's approval to get pricing for new flooring for the administrative offices commenting that he would like to also paint before the carpet gets put down. The work is expected to be completed during the Martin Luther King Jr. and President's Day holidays. Manager Stoy spoke to council about the "Green Light Go Grant" saying it will be open again in late October through mid-January. Stoy said he would like to use the grant to pay for traffic studies at both red lights which in turn would recommend timing changes to both. Stoy said both lights are currently operating with equipment that is no longer supported and needs upgraded and he has PERCS submitting proposals for hardware updates for both. The grant would be an 80/20 grant, Stoy proposed using the street repair line item in the budget to pay for council's part of the grant if awarded. Manager Stoy concluded his report by saying that the conservation district reopened the grant application since the Borough of Mercersburg was the only applicant.

Council moved into the Committee Reports. The Finance Committee recommendations will be addressed under New Business

No Old Business

Council moved onto New Business

MOTION: To officially approve the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO's) for both the uniformed and non-uniformed pension plans was made by Anthony Frisby, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 09-21 authorizing the Borough Manager to make small purchases in an amount up to but not to exceed \$1000 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To allow Borough Manager Derek Stoy to get pricing for the administrative offices of Borough Hall for carpeting was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Michael Pedersen commented that he was glad to see the improvement.

MOTION: To approve Borough Manager Derek Stoy to complete and file the potential "Green Light Go" grant application was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the 2020 audit was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the PennDOT business partner resolution was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To deny the Mercersburg Police Department's request for health insurance expense reduction due to not reopening the contract for negotiations was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Police Department's quote for Ryan's Computer Consulting Services not to exceed \$4,500 and to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Council President Donald Stoner reviewed the 2022 budgets with council, one showing a 3 mill increase and one without an increase. Borough Manager Derek Stoy stated that the MMP&W requested roughly \$38k for the fire side staffing for a 24/7 schedule. Stoy said some interest earnings were lost which was one of the biggest revenues losses. Stoy said he increased the earned income tax on both budgets. The health insurance cost went up due to the new public works employee taking the insurance. \$3,000 was put back in the budget for the police cruiser. Stoy said the only question on the police department's side was the request for \$1,600 for vests. Mayor Defibaugh commented that the request was due to the fact that the vests are a certain size that they have now and if they get new part time employees they may need a different size.

MOTION: To approve the 2022 budget with the 3 mill increase for advertising for review and approval at the next council meeting with increasing line item 410.14 from zero to \$1,600 for police vest after part time employees are hired and the projected surplus \$11,400 will be put into line item 430.20 for street repairs was made by Anthony Frisby, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Borough Manager said just for clarification the mill increase was for the general fund millage and not for the fire millage which is currently at 2.4. Stoy said in December the budget will be officially approved to meet the 30 day requirement.

Council reviewed committee meeting dates

MOTION: To adjourn the regular session meeting at 7:43 PM and enter into Executive Session for personnel matters, not to reconvene, 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: _____