

**Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting**  
**113 South Main Street, Mercersburg, PA 17236**  
**Monday, September 11, 2023**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Donald “Dusty” Stoner.

Present were Mayor Pedersen, President Stoner, Councilmen Joe Burkot, Anthony Frisby, Vice President Tom Heefner, Raymond Minton, Jacob Morgan, Paul Sipes, Borough Manager Melissa Price, Solicitor Steve Coccoresse, and Borough Secretary Donna Irons-Zimmerman.

Lincoln Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance at the request of Stoner.

**Public Comment/Guest**

Preston Spahr, Mercersburg Vibrancy Steering Committee gave an update on the development of a Comprehensive Plan with Peters and Montgomery Townships. He asked Council to provide their three top priorities by the January 2024 meeting to be included in the planned RFP.

**Minutes**

On a Frisby/Burkot motion, Council unanimously approved the meeting minutes from September 28, 2023.

**Treasurer Report/Bills Payable**

Morgan asked for clarification on Grant Income in the amount of \$49,750 for capital improvements. Price said she would provide that after reviewing.

On a Frisby/Burkot motion, Council unanimously approved the Treasurer Report/Bills Payable report for August 31, 2023.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Pedersen updated Council on his activities including meetings with service organizations and an interview with WRGG, and a reminder to support Town Fest 2023, September 30.

**Police Report**

Chief Zechman updated Council on issues relating to abandoned vehicles in the borough suggesting that language be included in the Parking Ordinance revisions. Stoner suggested revising the language to include flat tires.

**Solicitor**

No report given at this portion of the meeting.

**Engineer Report**

No report provided.

**Borough Managers Report**

Price updated Council stating the agreement for the alley and parking lot paving was signed and the project moving forward, and RFP for trash and recycling was out for bid, and that she was working on drought-related water issues and code enforcement.

**Department of Public Works Report**

The sewer authority requested public works move a 255-gallon fuel tank from the sewer plant to the borough garage with additional purchase of spill containment items there.

**Committee Reports**

**Act 537:** No report provided.

**Finance:** Meeting September 19 at 1 p.m.

On a Heefner/Sipes motion, Council unanimously voted to accept the Borough of Mercersburg Financial Report, December 31, 2022, as prepared by Boyer and Ritter LLC.

**Fire Board:** Stoner said that there continues to be no issues.

**HARB:** No report provided.

**Nominating:** No report provided.

**Personnel:** No report provided.

**Planning:** No report provided.

**Property/Technology:** Price stated the steps to the hall roof needed replaced which was given to Property.

**Police/Safety Committee:** No report provided.

**Streets:** Sipes said that until it could be clarified what Ordinance would address the meter concerns, he could not move forward with that project.

**Zoning Hearing Board:** No report provided.

### **Old Business**

Ongoing: solicit area banks regarding sidewalk loan program.

### **New Business**

- A. Salzman-Hughes rate increase.
- B. Herbruck's letter regarding Church Street: Price told Council that Herbruck's wanted an Invoice for monies collected through their fine program for not using the approved truck route. Coccores said he would research how this can be addressed.
- C. Trick-or-Treat will be held October 28, from 6-8pm with a rain date of October 29 from 4-6 p.m.
- D. The 2023 Mercersburg Halloween Parade (78<sup>th</sup>) will be held October 30 from 6-10 p.m.
- E. The 2023 Color Fun, scheduled for September 9, was cancelled due to no liability insurance.
- F. Council did not need a motion to pay the Mercersburg Library Association, Inc. "Library Tax" for 2023 in the amount of \$16,939.99 based on a 1.30 millage rate.
- G. Budget Planning was given to the Finance Committee.
- H. Approve Jim Malone to the Mercersburg Sewer Authority: After discussion, it was decided that the Sewer Authority term for Jim Malone could be back-dated for a term ending December 31, 2023 or issue a Resolution for a new term from 2024 to 2028.
- I. On a Minton/Frisby motion, Council unanimously approved the purchase of a 4-drawer lateral fire/water resistant file cabinet.
- J. Replacement of Borough Hall metal steps referred to Property Committee.
- K. A Minton/Heefner motion was put forth to approve Herbruck's request for a Heavy Haul Truck Route and then rescinded without a vote.

On a Minton/Heefner amended motion, Council unanimously voted to approve Herbruck's request for a Heavy Haul Truck Route for one (1) year from September 11, 2023, to September 11, 2024.

- L. On a Heefner/Sipes motion, Council unanimously approved participation in the LSA Grant.
- M. On a Heefner/Frisby motion, Council unanimously approved support of fire department box cards.
- N. On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council agreed to sign the MMO Agreement with Dunbar, Bender & Zapf.
- O. The Sewer Authority discussion was tabled for Executive Session.

### **Correspondence**

None.

On a Sipes/Minton motion, at 8:07 p.m. Council unanimously voted to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

On a Sipes/Burkot motion, at 9:07 p.m. Council unanimously voted to come out of Executive Session and resume the council meeting.

On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council unanimously voted to amend the agenda to add Item P/Hometown Banners under New Business.

On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council unanimously approved amending the agenda to include Item P regarding *Hometown Banners*.

Council decided that the program was the responsibility of the Tuscarora Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC), and the Borough would not be involved in the project as originally agreed.

Ed Twine, Chairman, Mercersburg Water Authority, suggested the TACC solicit members to maintain the banner program.

On a Minton/Sipes motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

**Confirm Meetings**

**Council:** October 7 at 7 p.m.

**Finance:** September 19 at 1 p.m.

**HARB:** October 3 at 7 p.m.

**Nominating:** TBA

**Personnel:** September 18 at 7 p.m.

**Planning:** TBA

**Property:** October 4 at 7 p.m.

**Sewer:** September 14 at 7 p.m.

**Water:** September 21 at 7 p.m.

**Streets:** September 27 at 7 p.m.

**ZHB:** TBA

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Irons-Zimmerman  
Borough Secretary

*\*ALL GUEST/CORRESPONDENCE IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER PER REQUEST/RECEIPT*