

Borough of Mercersburg
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA, 17236
May 8, 2023
MINUTES

Attending:

Absent: Borough Manager Melissa Price and Engineer Lance Kegerreis

Guests/Press: See attached sign-in sheet.

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and asked Ben Thomas to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Stoner then requested a motion to amend the agenda, by adding the items below to the agenda, to be included in Council's meeting packets prepared on May 1st prior to the Borough Manager going on vacation.

- A. To approve HARB Application COA: 2023-05-02 as presented with the additional notation that the suitable paint type be used on the façade for this type of brick and mortar.
- B. To approve the amendment presented on 5/2/2023 to COA: 2021-11-01 application for the property of 13 East Seminary Street with the notation that the owner/contractor understands that it does not meet the standards but HARB is willing to allow the change because of the circumstances, low visibility, in this situation only with the structural challenges, and this approval does not change the standard review of future work on this building or other work within the HARB district.
- C. To accept Cindy Piper's Notice of Retirement by correspondence thanking her for her years of service with her last day to be confirmed by the Solicitor's Office.
- D. To authorize the Borough Manager to begin the process of hiring a Billing Clerk and Borough Secretary to create an eligibility list.
- E. To accept Ryan Riley's Notice of Resignation with his last day to be on 4/28/2023 and to authorize the Borough Manager to begin the hiring process to fill the Public Works Department Vacancy.

MOTION: to amend tonight's meeting agenda adding the above listed items to the Agenda was made by Raymond Minton, seconded by Tom Heffner a question if this was permissible, President Stoner said that he spoke with Attorney Coccoresse prior to the meeting and he confirmed that it was acceptable as long as the amended agenda is posted to the website within 24 hours, he noted that Dawn Scheller would ensure that it was posted tonight after the meeting, a vote was taken "one nay Jacob Morgan" remaining ayes, motion carried.

President Stoner then opened the floor for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Frisby, 117 S. Fayette Street, noted that he would like to see Borough Council hire two new police officers. He suggested that each resident should pay \$15.00 per person and that should cover more than the amount needed to hire two officers and maintain the vehicles. President Stoner noted that this is something the Borough Council is in the process of evaluating and discussing the matter.

Preston Spahr was present to provide an update on the Comprehensive Planning. He thanked Borough Council for approving the resolution at the last Council Meeting. He took that to the meeting of Montgomery Township Supervisors where they had a good conversation on the Comprehensive plan but did not approve a Resolution. Preston was told that it could take a few months. He provided a draft Resolution for them to consider. Preston is scheduled to meet with Peters Township tomorrow night at their meeting.

Erin Martin, 13167 Karper Road, from the Mercersburg Lions Park Association. They are very thankful that Anthony, Paul, and Jacob were able to join them at their last Park Association Meeting. Erin, along with other members were present tonight to find out what the next steps are regarding the funding requests that they had submitted to Borough Council. She was looking for guidance and future collaboration. Councilman Jacob Morgan reviewed that members of the Council had received their requests and he believed that they would need to meet to determine what is feasible. Councilman Anthony Frisby noted that Council President Donald Stoner was looking into what grants might be available for the Park Association to apply for. President Stoner noted that after he has had time to look into it, they would need to schedule a meeting inviting Erin and other members to discuss the next steps to apply for funding.

President Stoner noted that there was one item listed on the agenda that he wished to address. This item was listed under Public Comment, which was a request for funding to assist with paving of the basketball courts. The Borough had received a request with an estimate from Ganoe Paving. President Stoner noted that he spoke with the Tuscarora Superintendent this week, he agreed and confirmed that this is not the Borough's responsibility, and the Borough would not discuss it at tonight's meeting.

MINUTES

MOTION: to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2023, was made by Tom Heefner, seconded by Raymond Mitton, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT/BILLS PAYABLE

MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable for the Month ending April 30, 2023 was made by Raymond Mitton, seconded by Tom Heefner, Council Member Jacob Morgan asked if there was any details on the traffic signal expense in the amount of \$6700, Police Chief Zechman noted that he believed that it was covered by the insurance company of the truck that hit it, all ayes, motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dr. Michael Pedersen recognized and welcomed Mayor Ben Thomas who was in the audience this evening. He reviewed that they had a pretty successful food truck festival a few weeks ago. He noted that Springfest is coming up this Saturday and the Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 29th. Mayor noted that he and the Chief are still working on Job Descriptions.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Zechman provided a copy of the Police Report to Council Members, hearing no questions, Council President thanked him for being in attendance and Chief Zechman left the meeting at 7:20 pm.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Hepp had nothing to report at this time.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer was not present and no report was provided.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Borough Manager was not present and no report was provided.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS'S REPORT

A copy of the Public Works Department report was included in the Council's Meeting Packets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIRE BOARD: Vice-President Heefner noted that they had a change of Fire Chief, and the meeting went quite well. He said that the Board is trying to ensure that things move along. He reviewed that they are hoping to get to a better place with the fire department.

HARB: Meeting notes were provided to Borough Council Members for their review and requested items for approval were amended to be included under New Business.

PERSONNEL: Meeting notes were provided to Borough Council Members for their review and requested items for approval were amended to be included under New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

No items to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: to recommend approving HARB Application COA: 2023-05-02 as presented with the additional notation that the suitable paint type be used on the façade for this type of brick and mortar was made by Anthony Frisby, seconded by Tom Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the amendment presented on 5/2/2023 to COA: 2021-11-01 application for the property of 13 East Seminary Street with the notation that the owner/contractor understand that it does not meet the standards but HARB is willing to allow the change because of the circumstances, low visibility, in this situation only with the structural challenges, and this approval does not change the standard review of future work on this building or other work within the HARB district, this motion was made by Raymond Mitton, and seconded by Anthony Frisby, discussion occurred and it was agreed that the motion would also include an additional note that should stress the reversibility of any treatments dealing with a temporary fix that future phases of work might change, along with the requirement that mortar samples to match the various areas be done in low visibility locations and that the Borough/HARB Consultant/HARB members should approve them before the work proceeds. Council understands that the proposed does not meet the standards, but they are willing to

allow the change because of the circumstances and low visibility location, no other discussion occurred, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept Cindy Piper's Notice of Retirement by correspondence thanking her for her years of service with her last day to be confirmed by the Solicitors Office was made by Tom Heefner, second by Joe Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To authorize the Borough Manager to begin the process for the hiring of a Billing Clerk and Borough Secretary to create an eligibility list was made by Raymond Mitton, second by Jacob Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept Ryan Riley's Notice of Resignation with his last day to be on 4/28/2023 and to authorize the Borough Manager to begin the hiring process to fill the Public Works Department Vacancy was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Mitton, all ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

President Stoner reviewed the items listed under correspondence and noted the letter included from the Mayors Association.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Council President reviewed the list of upcoming meetings. President Stoner requested that the Borough Secretary/Borough Manager add a Parks and Recreation Meeting on the next Agenda listed under Committee Meetings and properly advertise those meetings as required.

Council President then asked for a motion to enter into an executive session.

MOTION: to enter into executive session for personnel matters at 7:45 pm with action to be taken afterward, was made by Tom Heefner, seconded by Raymond Minton, all ayes, motion carried.

Borough Council resumed regular session at 8:50 pm.

MOTION: to amend the agenda, adding letter F. to approve a salary increase to Glen Wingert from his current salary of \$20.60 to \$22.00 per hour effective the first pay period after it's approved was made by Tom Heefner, seconded by Raymond Minton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve a salary increase to Glen Wingert from his current salary of \$20.60 to \$22.00 per hour effective the first pay period after it's approved was made by Tom Heefner, seconded by Raymond Minton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to amend the agenda, adding letter G. to approve the Municipal Express proposal for Municipal Manager Coaching Service as presented noting Council will pay the entire cost should the Authorities not wish to contribute was made by Tom Heefner, seconded by Raymond Minton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Municipal Express proposal for Municipal Manager Coaching Service as presented noting Council will pay the entire cost should the Authorities not wish to contribute was made by Raymond Minton, seconded by Tom Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

Council President asked if there was any additional business to be brought before the board, hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:54 pm was made by Raymond Minton, second by Anthony Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed by Borough Manager Melissa Price with the use of the audio recording and respectfully submitted for review and approval.

Date: 4/26/2023 Motion made by: Heefner Second by: Minton


Seal