

**Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting**  
**Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236**  
**March 11, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

**Attending:** Council President Donald E. Stoner, Mayor Dr. Michael Pedersen, Vice President Anthony Frisby, Paul Sipes, Kelani Monismith-Craig, Jacob Morgan, Joe Burkot, Police Chief John Zechman, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller and Solicitor Steve Coccoresse

**Absent:** Tom Heefner and Borough Secretary Matilda Gorman

**Public/Press:** See sign in sheet.

President Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, he then opened the floor for Public Comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rick Frisby, 127 South Fayette Street, spoke regarding concerns that he has with local homes that are deteriorating rapidly and require attention. He noted that alleyways should be looked at and encouraged the community to come together to help keep the community safe and report things if they see it.

Preston Spahr, 101 South Main Street, noted that the Steering Committee's first meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am and will be held at Lane House. He reviewed that representatives from all three communities would be present discussing the Comprehensive Plan and asked that the Council send a representative to participate. Preston reviewed that they will hold five additional meetings over the next 13 months. He also asked which of three time periods would be best for the Borough's tour with the Comprehensive Planning Manager. After discussion, the best date/time was April 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

Hearing no additional Public Comment, President Stoner moved to the Meeting Minutes.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION: to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2024, as presented, was made by Frisby, second by Sipes, all ayes, motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT / BILLS PAYABLE:**

Council President moved to the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable List for the month ending February 29, 2024.

**MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable for the month ending February 29, 2024, was made by Frisby, second by Burkot, a brief discussion regarding the payroll account occurred regarding transfers from the Water Authority and Sewer Authority Accounts, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Council President asked for the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Pedersen thanked Council Members for the time they spent with the Police Candidate. He reviewed that he had the opportunity to meet with Heather and Holly Zeger who were the daughters of former Mayor Jim Zeger. They shared binders of keepsakes that he had gathered during his time as Mayor. Mayor Pedersen noted that he was very inspired by it. He noted that there seemed to be a community spirit that we have lost, and he would love to do what he can to bring that back.

**POLICE REPORT:**

Council President moved to the Police Report.

No additional questions were asked of the Chief and he left the meeting at 7:12 pm.

**SOLICITOR's REPORT:**

Council President moved to the Solicitor's Report.

Solicitor Coccorese had nothing to report on at this time.

**BOROUGH MANAGER's REPORT:**

Council President moved on to the Borough Manager's report.

Manager Scheller reminded Council Members to complete and return their Financial Interest Statements to the office by April 15<sup>th</sup>. She reviewed that the KLS Text Amendment was listed under New Business. She requested that the Council approve the necessary representatives to sign a letter for the extension regarding Herbruck's roadway project. She requested that a Finance Committee Meeting be scheduled prior to the next Council Meeting and reminded that the Auditors are scheduled to be onsite the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

A report was included in the packet for review.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FIRE BOARD:** Council President reviewed that things are going well it was noted that they are doing fundraisers again and have two upcoming Meat Raffles coming up. He reviewed that he has had conversations regarding the LSA Grant Application which have been positive. They are hopeful to receive a response by September.

**PERSONNEL:** Council President noted that they held an Executive Session prior to the Council Meeting tonight for Personnel Matters.

**PROPERTY/TECHNOLOGY:** Council Member Sipes reviewed the notes from the meeting and noted the recommended items listed under New Business on tonight's agenda.

**STREETS:** Council Member Sipes reviewed the notes from the meeting and noted the recommended items listed under New Business on tonight's agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** To approve Ordinance 3-15 Amending the Borough Manager Ordinance was made by Sipes, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To approve and authorize Council President to sign the KLS Developer's Agreement and the Professional Consultant Services Agreement as presented was made by Sipes, and Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION: To approve authorize the Borough Manager to open an escrow account with the funds received from KLS at Orrstown Bank was made by Sipes, and seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes, motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION: To authorize the advertisement of the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment amending the table set forth in section 306 to permit Restaurant, Retail Store, and Tavern as permitted uses within the Industrial District was made by Sipes, and seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To authorize submitting the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments to the Borough's Planning Commission and the County for review and approval was made by Sipes, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To award the James Buchanan Award for 2024 to Karl Reisner was made by Sipes, and seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to extend a conditional offer of employment for a Part-Time Police Officer contingent upon successful completion of the required evaluations was made by Sipes, second by Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to accept the resignation of Matilda Gorman effective today, March 11, 2024, was made by Sipes, second by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve quote by Glessner Technologies (Quote #24592) in the amount of \$1,755.00 repairing the damaged line and submit all costs to the at-fault driver's insurance company for reimbursement was made by Sipes, second by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve adjusting the Borough Office hours to Monday-Thursday from 8:00 am-4:00 pm closing the office to foot traffic on Fridays until May 20<sup>th</sup> was made by Sipes, second by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

Council President moved on to the next item on the agenda which was regarding the Band Building. A member of the public wished to speak on the subject.

Sahand Miraminy, 14 N. Main Street, spoke regarding the importance of preserving the historic features of homes and the need for the Council to inspire residents to improve their properties. He noted that the Band Building is in bad shape because nothing has been done to it over a long period of time. Mr. Miraminy believes that the Borough should take care of their buildings, including Borough Hall, the same way that they take care of their homes. He requests that Council Members share his passion and take pride in the history of this town. He also said that he has expressed interest in serving on the HARB Board.

After much discussion, the Council acknowledged that the Property Committee would need to discuss this matter further.

Council President moved on to the other items listed on the agenda.

Council President noted that he and the Fire Chief would schedule a time to evaluate the fire safety systems in the Borough Buildings/Properties.

**MOTION: To authorize the office staff to contact the Borough Engineer seeking assistance with a curb sidewalk evaluations/inspection project was made by Sipes, second by Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To authorize the Borough Engineer to inspect the drainage along West Seminary St. Extended and the area of West Fairview/Grandview with providing recommendations to the Streets Committee was made by Sipes, second by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To authorize the office staff to forward information to the Authorities/Utilities regarding the proposed curb/sidewalk project along Linden Avenue, Park Avenue, Oregon Street, and West Seminary Ext. as utility curb box work may require attention in advance of the curb/sidewalk repairs was made by Sipes, second by Burkot, a note as to if this needed to be a motion since no financial obligation was being made, a vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve the Solicitors Office to review the various Streets and Parking Ordinances identifying which Ordinances would need to be amended for the removal of selected parking meters was made by Sipes, seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To authorize Council Vice-President to send out letters seeking donations for the 2024 Summer Playground Program and authorize the Borough Office to secure an insurance policy for the program was made by Sipes, Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To Authorize the Borough Office to update the Award Name Plates in Borough Council Chambers for the Harriet Lane and James Buchanan Award Winners and order name plates for the benches on the square was made by Sipes, second by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.**

Council Member Sipes volunteered to be the Borough's Steering Committee representative.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Council Meeting scheduled on 3/25/2024 was cancelled.

A Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled to occur on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

There are currently no applications for HARB to consider at this time, but Borough Manager would reach out to the HARB Board cancelling the meeting if necessary.

No other items were brought before Council.

**MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm was made by Burkot, second by Sipes, all ayes, motion carried.**

*These meeting minutes were transcribed by Dawn Scheller, Borough Manager, with the use of her meeting notes and meeting recording and have been respectfully submitted for approval.*

Date approved: 4/08/2024 Motion by: Sipes Second by: Morgan

  
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Signature

SEAL