

**Mercersburg Borough Public Hearing & Council Meeting**  
**Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236**  
**May 13, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

**Attending:** Council President Donald E. Stoner, Mayor Dr. Michael Pedersen, Council Vice President Anthony Frisby, Member Kelani Monismith-Craig, Member Jacob Morgan, Member Tom Heefner, Police Chief John Zechman, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, and Solicitor Rachel Hepp

**Absent:** Council Members Joe Burkot and Paul Sipes and Engineer Lance Kegerreis

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

Council President called the Public Hearing and Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Stoner reviewed that the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment was duly advertised in the Mercersburg Journal and was submitted to the Franklin County Planning Commission and the Mercersburg Planning Commission for review and Comment. Donald Stoner noted that the proposed Ordinance 6-22 is a text amendment amending the Zoning Ordinance permitting Restaurants, Retail Stores, and Taverns as permitted uses in the Industrial District.

**HEARING PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Council President Stoner opened the floor for public comment concerning the proposed Ordinance, hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 6-22.

**MOTION: to approve Ordinance 6-22 Amending the Zoning Ordinance permitting Restaurants, Retail Stores, and Taverns as permitted uses in the Industrial District was made by Frisby, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.**

Council President Stoner opened the floor for general Public Comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rick Frisby, 127 South Fayette Street, spoke regarding neighboring properties with tall grass concerns. This information was provided to the office and Manager Scheller noted that she would see that it is addressed.

Preston Spahr, 101 South Main Street, provided an update regarding the Steering Committee and grant funds awarded. He provided an update on the surveys and noted that they were available on the website. He also noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

No other Public Comments were made, President Stoner moved on to the other items listed on the agenda,

**MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION: to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2024, as presented, was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION:** to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2024, as presented, was made by Heefner, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

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

**MOTION:** to approve the Treasurer's Reports for the months ending March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as presented was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to approve the Bills Payable Lists for the months ending March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, was made by Heefner, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

**MAYOR's REPORT:**

Council President asked for the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Dr. Michael Pedersen reviewed that Springfest was well attended and a good day. He noted that Officer Matthews started working and the Police Department is still looking for additional Act 120 Certified Officers.

**POLICE REPORT:**

Council President moved to the Police Report. Chief Zechman was present to answer any questions on the report provided to Council. Mayor Pedersen thanked Chief for his efforts and Chief left the meeting at 7:15 pm.

**SOLICITOR's REPORT:**

Council President moved to the Solicitor's Report.

Solicitor Hepp had nothing to report on at this time.

**BOROUGH MANAGER's REPORT:**

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

Manager Scheller provided information on the Borough Grants and Liquid Fuels monies received. She reviewed that two parade and three land-use permits were issued during the month of April. Manager Scheller provided an updated Non-Uniformed Overtime Report and internal Borough Contact List.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

A report was included in the packet for review.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FIRE BOARD:** President Stoner provided an update on the M.M.P. & W. Fire Company and would provide the office with an additional requested for the additional budgeted payment amount.

**PROPERTY:** Manager Scheller provided a brief review of the items discussed at the meeting and noted any recommendations were listed under New Business for further consideration and action.

**STREETS:** Manager Scheller provided a brief review of the items discussed at the meeting and noted any recommendations were listed under New Business for further consideration and action.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

President Stoner noted that the item listed under Old Business was approved earlier in the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Stoner moved on to the items listed under New Business. Manager Scheller noted that at the previous Council Meeting they requested that she add to consider the previous Lions Club request. Attorney Hepp was present to provide guidance on the matter.

**MOTION:** to approve the Solicitor's Office to research and draft a lease agreement between the Borough and the Lions Club Park for a onetime payment of \$30,000 paid from UDAG was made by Stoner, seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to approve Resolution 19-24 appointing a Borough Secretary, Treasurer, Zoning Officer, and Open Records Officer was made by Heefner, seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to approve Resolution 20-24 appointment of a representative to the Chambersburg Area Wage Tax Board Member was made by Heefner, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to approve Resolution 21-24 appointment of a representative to the Franklin County Council of Government was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to approve Resolution 22-24 appointing Sahand Miraminy to HARB was made by Heefner, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to approve the purchase of the insurance and all operating expenses for the 2024 Summer Playground Program to be paid from the Summer Playground Account was made by Heefner, seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to approve the Cumberland Franklin County Borough's Association Membership was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to authorize the sale of the 2007 Ford Ranger to the highest bidder, Nelson Meyers, for \$6,160 was made by Heefner, seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to authorize the Borough to move forward with establishing a curb/sidewalk loan program through Orrstown Bank was made by Heefner, seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to authorize the consultant project manager to move forward with completing the necessary ground penetrating radar study was made by Heefner, seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Council President reviewed the meeting schedule for the next few weeks.

**MOTION: to adjourn into executive session at 7:57 pm for personnel and litigation matters with no action to be taken after was made by Heefner, seconded by Monismith-Craig, all ayes motion carried.**

Regular session resumed at 8:40 pm.

No other items were brought before Council.

**MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. was made by Member Monismith-Craig, seconded by Member Heefner, 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: 6/10/2024 Motion by: Heefner Seconded by: Frisby

  
Signature

SEAL