

**Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting**  
**Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236**  
**July 8, 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, Member Joe Burkot, Member Paul Sipes, Police Chief John Zechman, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, and Solicitor Steve Coccorese

**Absent:** Engineer Lance Kegerreis

**Public/Press:** Rick Frisby, 127 South Fayette Street; Preston Spahr, 101 South Main Street; and Vincent McCulloh, 112 South Fayette Street.

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

Council President Stoner opened the floor for general Public Comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Preston Spahr, 101 South Main Street, provided an update regarding the Steering Committee and noted that we are on track and on budget. He reviewed that they had added a QR Code that linked individuals to the survey which he invited everyone to complete.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION: to approve the Meeting Minutes from June 10, 2024, as presented, was made by Heefner, seconded by Sipes, all ayes, motion carried.**

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

**MOTION: to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Bills Payable list for the month ending June 30, 2024, as presented was made by Craig, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

Council President asked for the Mayor’s Report.

Mayor Pedersen spoke regarding the Shade Tree Ordinance and noted that he would like to see more trees planted along Main Street. He relayed that they were still seeking applicants to fill the vacant positions at the Police Department.

**POLICE REPORT:**

Council President moved to the Police Report. Chief Zechman was present and relayed that the speed radar signage was repaired by APX. APX did not charge for this repair and noted that it was a donation to the Police Department. It has been installed by the Public Works Department. Chief Zechman provided his paper report to the Council Members which included quite a few traffic citations. Some Council Members noted that there has been continued rise in truck traffic on local streets which did not allow for this. Chief suggested additional signage be added to those streets.

This item was referred to the Streets Committee. President Stoner thanked Chief for his efforts and Chief left the meeting at 7:23 pm.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:**

Council President moved to the Solicitor’s Report.

Solicitor Coccorese had nothing to report at this time.

**BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT:**

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

Manager Scheller noted that two land-use permits were issued in June. The audit was still in progress as there were outstanding items that the accountant’s office needed to assist with obtaining copies of. Mrs. Scheller reviewed that she would keep Council informed of the progress. She reviewed that the revised Employee Manual was listed under New Business for review/approval and asked that a future Finance Committee Meeting be scheduled.

**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 noted that they had recently worked with Montgomery Township paying off one of the loans creating a financial savings.

**SUMMER PLAYGROUND:** Vice-President Frisby reviewed that the Summer Playground Program was in operation and the children were enjoying the various activities that were scheduled. He added that the program was operating within the budget provided and he would keep Council informed as the summer progressed.

**HARB:** The July 2, 2024, HARB Meeting notes were included in the Council Member’s packets. There were no recommendations presented at this time.

**PERSONNEL:** A copy of the meeting notes from the June 17<sup>th</sup> Personnel Committee Meeting was included in the meeting packet and the recommendation was listed under New Business for action.

**STEERING COMMITTEE:** A copy of the 6/20/2024 drafted minutes was included in the meeting packet.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

NONE.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Stoner moved on to the items listed under New Business.

**MOTION:** To authorize and endorse the joint municipal research project for the Franklin County Assessment Database project for an estimated expense of \$270.00 was made by Sipes, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To authorize the payment of \$38,000 to the M.M.P. & W. for the remaining budgeted amount for 2024 was made by Heefner, seconded by Sipes, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To hire a PT Public Works Department Employee at an hourly rate of \$20.00 per hour contingent upon a successful background check was made by Sipes, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To accept the changes to the Employee Manual and approve Resolution 24-24 Amending the policies was made by Sipes, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** to table any action on the Tax Appeal Hearing on 6/26/2024 was made by Sipes, seconded by Burkot, discussion occurred with regards to if there was any additional information provided to the municipality, Manager Scheller relayed that was all the office received and in the past the Borough would not actively participate in these matters, Attorney Coccoresse added that typically if an entity attended the hearing that it usually is the School District representative as the impact to their budget is much more significant, a vote was taken, Morgan voted against, remaining ayes, motion carried.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Council President Stoner asked that the Finance Committee Representatives let the office know when they would be available to meet. He then reviewed the upcoming meeting scheduled.

**MOTION:** to adjourn into executive session at 8:02 PM for personnel matters with no action to be taken, was made by Sipes, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

Regular session resumed at 8:15 PM.

**MOTION:** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM was made by Sipes, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

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

**Date approved:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Motion by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Seconded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**SEAL**