

Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting
Borough Hall, 113 S. Main St., Mercersburg, PA
August 26, 2024
MINUTES

Attending: Council President Dusty Stoner, Vice-President Anthony Frisby, Mayor Dr. Michael Pedersen, Member Tom Heefner, Member Joe Burkot, Member Kelani Craig, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Police Chief John Zechman, and Solicitor Steve Coccorese

Absent: Members Paul Sipes and Jacob Morgan, and Engineer Lance Kegerreis

Guest(s)/Press: See sign-in sheet.

Council President called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Jason Cotton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Mizerak, Brightspeed Representative, provided information on a project that was scheduled to occur in the upcoming months. He reviewed the project and provided his contact information to the office should there be any questions or concerns.

Jason Cotton, 232 Linden Ave., Mercersburg spoke about concerns of parking on Linden Avenue. He suggested that the Borough consider limiting parking on one side of the street. Council President referred this matter to the Streets Committee for further investigation and discussion.

Myras Kimmer, 107 S. Park Ave., Mercersburg, also spoke in support of the parking suggestion by Cotton and reported that a streetlight was out.

Don Palesky, 20 Oregon Street, Mercersburg, was present and spoke in favor of Borough Council allowing daycares as an approved use in the General Residential District.

Hearing no additional public comment, Council President moved on with the agenda items.

MINUTES

MOTION: to approve the November 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes was made by Heefner, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the July 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT/BILLS PAYABLE

MOTION: to approve the month ending July 31, 2024, Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable List was made by Frisby, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor thanked everyone for their support and assistance with regards to the fair. He reported that the week was extraordinarily successful, and they had great weather. He asked everyone to be cautious when driving now that school was back in session. Mayor noted that Christmas Banners were in the works along with a search for this year's Christmas Tree. He asked if anyone who had tree suggestions reach out to him.

POLICE REPORT

President Stoner noted that the Police Report was included in the meeting packets.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Coccoresse provided a copy of the draft lease for Council Members to review. He noted that a copy would be forward to the Lions Club for consideration. A final copy would then be brought back to Council at a future meeting for approval.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Scheller reported three new land-use permits were issued in July with one renewal and two new land-use permits were issued in August. She noted that they were still gathering information for the 2023 audit. Scheller reviewed that the person interested in the PT PWD Laborer position did not work out. She noted that it was now budget season and requested that the Finance Committee schedule meetings to begin the process.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

The PWD Report was included in the meeting packets for the Council Members records.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIRE BOARD: Dusty Stoner noted that a copy of the MMP&W Financial Report was available at the office if anyone wished to review.

HARB: Mr. Heefner reviewed the meeting notes from the August 6th meeting and noted that the recommendations were listed under New Business.

STEERING COMMITTEE: A copy of the most recent survey results and additional information was provided to the board. It was reviewed that a draft Comprehensive Plan would be forwarded to the Council Members for their review and feedback at an upcoming meeting.

STREETS COMMITTEE: Member Sipes reviewed the notes from the Streets Committee Meeting. He noted that they had received reimbursement of funds totaling \$44,618.89 from the Franklin County Dirt Roads Grant. He reviewed that Council President would be requested to sign a letter to continue with the Ground Penetrating Radar Study for the cemetery property along Rte. 16/Rte. 75. He also reviewed that the office was reviewing the GLG Grant information and noted that the Committee had one recommendation which was listed under New Business for action.

SUMMER PLAYGROUND: Vice-President Frisby reviewed that this years Summer Playground Program was successful, and the children had a wonderful time. He presented Council with Thank you notes written by the children and looks forward to next year's program.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION: To authorize Council President to execute PA 16 and PA 75 Intersection Improvements letter dated 8/26/2024 was made by Frisby, seconded by Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To authorize Borough Office to reopen Mon-Fri 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, excluding holidays. Starting Tuesday 9/3/2024 was made by Frisby, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To not act on the tax appeal for the property of noted in the 8/7/2024 Franklin County Tax Services letter was made by Frisby, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To authorize the Solicitor's office to draft the necessary agreement for Council to consider the request for a Text Amendment to the General Residential (GR) Zone permitting daycares as an approved use was made by Heefner, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the MOU with the Tuscarora School District for Police Services pending the Solicitor's review and final approval was made by Frisby, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the purchase of street signs indicated on the Directional Traffic estimate #24- 0168 was made by Frisby, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Cumberland Valley Breast Care Alliance request for their Pink Ribbon project dated 7/25/2024 was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, carried.

MOTION: To accept William LaFond's email of resignation from the Planning Commission with regret, dated 8/19/2024 & authorize Borough Office to run advertisements to fill vacancies on the Planning Commission was made by Burkot, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve HARB Application COA: 2024-07-01 with the amended proposed changes deleting the south facing solar arrays along the street for the property of 201 South Main Street, Mercersburg, updated plans to be provided to the Borough Office with the array location changes installing to the rear of the home was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve HARB Application COA: 2024-08-01 for the property of 22 North Main Street, Mercersburg, noting that the work does not meet the standards however the windows are on the rear of the building and this approval would not set a precedent for the future window replacement approvals was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To enter executive session at 8:07 pm for personnel matters with action to be taken was made by Heefner, seconded by Frisby, all ayes carried.

Resumed regular session at 8:20 pm.

MOTION: To authorize Council President to move forward with the agreed upon discipline plan of a non-uniformed employee was made by Frisby, seconded by Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To authorize Borough Manager to hire up to three Public Works Department employees pending resume reviews and successful background checks was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes motion carried.

Council President reviewed the meeting schedule. No other business was brought before board.

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:27 pm was made by Frisby, seconded by Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes have been transcribed with the use of her meeting notes and have been respectfully submitted for review and approval.

Date: _____ Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

Dawn L. Scheller, Borough Manager / Secretary / Treasurer

SEAL