

**Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting**  
**Borough Hall, 113 S. Main St., Mercersburg, PA**  
**December 9, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

**Attending:** Council President Dusty Stoner, Mayor Pedersen, Member Tom Heefner, Member Jacob Morgan, Member Kelani Craig, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Solicitor Rachel Hepp, and Pete Stotelmyer

**Absent:** Vice-President Anthony Frisby, Member Paul Sipes, Member Joe Burkot, Chief John Zechman

**Guest(s)/Press:** Don Palesky 20 Oregon St Mercersburg, PA 17236, Andy Abel 100 Academy St. Mercersburg, PA 17236, Preston Spahr 101 S Main St Mercersburg, PA 17236

Council President called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Preston Spahr the Planning Commission has recommended the Comprehensive Plan to the Borough and will be open for public comment later this month and ready for adoption in February 2025 by the Borough Council. He also mentioned the idea and benefits of a Regional Sewer Authority. He said that he will gather more information on the subject. Preston also discussed project 10 by 28 which is a proposal to have 10 properties in Mercersburg that need to undergo renovation or need to be rebuilt by 2028. He stated that this would provide the Borough with more quality housing. He also mentioned a Main Street program which would provide recommendations for improvements to properties along Main Street.

**MINUTES**

**MOTION: to approve the November 4, 2024, meeting minutes as presented was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve the November 25, 2024, meeting minutes as presented was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending November 30, 2024 was made by Morgan, seconded by Heefner all ayes, motion carried.**

**BILLS PAYABLE**

**MOTION: to approve the Bills Payable for the month ending November 30, 2024 was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Pedersen mentioned the language of the signs for trucks needs to be changed. Manager Scheller said that the borough has new signs, and Chief Zechman is to provide a list of locations to place the new signs. The mayor also mentioned that he was extremely pleased with the Christmas decorations that were placed by PWD.

## **POLICE REPORT**

A copy of the Police Report is available upon request.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

New business items A-J need to be tabled until the next meeting as the terms of those members won't expire until December 31, 2024.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Not present.

## **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Scheller spoke with Sam Wiser and Auditor Tina Gipe regarding the ARPA Funds the borough received. Half the funds in the amount of \$80,176.62 were used for revenue replacement expenditures. None of the funds have been moved from the ARPA account to the Borough. The funds can be used to repay for Borough for salaries during 2022, 2023 and 2024. The entire amount of \$165,187.80 in the ARPA account can be used to offset salaries used during these years, and the transfer should be made by the end of the year. Once the money is transferred from the ARPA account to the General Fund account, the ARPA account will be closed. The council can then decide how the money should be used. If the money is not transferred by the end of the year, the funds will need to be paid back.

PWD is scheduled to have leaf pick up on Friday December 13, 2024 and Friday December 20, 2024. Christmas tree pick up dates are January 6, 7, 13 & 14 2025. Borough residents are required to have their sidewalks clear of snow within 24 hours after the snow stops. Letters will be sent to residents living on streets affected by the Snow Emergency Plan that they made need to alter where they park when the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect. The car wash will be discussed at the January meeting.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

The report was sent electronically.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The Comprehensive Plan is tabled until February.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION: to approve the 2025 Borough Municipal Budget as presented was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve resolution 27-24, to approve the tax rate for 2025 was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.**

The council agreed to keep the start time for meetings at 7:00PM.

**MOTION: to approve the 2025 Borough meeting schedule was made by was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve the Water Authority Park Avenue Treatment Plant Project was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to conditionally approve the Austin Rosenbam Subdivision and Land Development Plan electronically submitted for review by Jeremy Fletcher per completion of engineer's stipulations and solicitor's review was made by Morgan, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve the 2025 proposal from Cohick Associates for payroll and consulting services was made by Morgan, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve Ordinance 6-23 which is a text amendment amending the Zoning Ordinance permitting to allow for daycares to operate in the GR District was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve the Solicitor to draft a camera policy and update the RFP with the proposed schedule was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve any and all reporting necessary for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund prior to the obligation deadline of December 31, 2024 was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDANCE & CALENDAR**

Council President reviewed the correspondence in the meeting packet and reviewed the next meetings. Council members agreed to cancel the next meeting scheduled for December 23, 2024. Mayor Pedersen asked for an update on the band building. Manager Scheller stated that the solicitor's office needs to update the RFP with the proposed timeline, and they also need to send a letter to the band organization informing them of the project and the items that need to be removed from the band building. The timeline details are in the Property Committee meeting notes.

No other business was brought before the Board.

**MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn L. Scheller, Borough Manager / Secretary / Treasurer

**SEAL**