

Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting
Borough Hall, 113 S. Main St., Mercersburg, PA
March 10, 2025
MINUTES

Attending: Council President Dusty Stoner, Mayor Michael Pedersen, Member Jacob Morgan, Member Joe Burkot, Member Kelani Craig, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Solicitor Rachel Hepp, and Administrative Professional Pete Stotelmyer

Absent: Member Tom Heefner, Member Paul Sipes

Guest(s)/Press: Lisa McCulloh representing The Journal, Nancy Robinson 203 S Main St. Mercersburg, PA 17236

Council President started the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence to honor the passing of former council member John Kittredge.

MINUTES

MOTION: to approve the February 10, 2025, meeting minutes as presented was made by Frisby, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the February 24, 2025, meeting minutes as presented was made by Frisby, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pedersen said that the job listing for 2 - 3 part-time or 1 full-time and 1 part-time position with the police department have been posted on required employment sites.

The first meeting for Mercersburg 275th birthday celebration will be held by the Mercersburg Historical Society on Thursday March 27, 2025, at 6:00pm at the Trinity Church if anyone is interested in attending.

Beautification will be requesting 12-15 new banners to be approved by Council next month.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Rachel Hepp said that she didn't have anything to report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Scheller stated that she gained login access to the Orrstown Bank accounts on Thursday, and the PLIGT statements arrived on Friday, so she was gathering everything needed to complete the Treasurer's Report. A revised complete Treasurer's Report for January and February should be available by the end of the week, and they will be added to the agenda for next month's meeting. The general fund account balanced.

Three of the public works employees are taking CDL classes to prepare for the written permit test. Behind the wheel training can begin once the employees pass the written permit test.

OLD BUSINESS

Council reviewed the request from Police Chief John Zechman for an extension until December 31, 2025 to use vacation time not used in 2024. He currently has a balance of 252 hours of unused vacation time, and he will also accrue additional vacation time this year. The policy of the Borough allows for 40 hours of vacation time to be carried over to the next year. Last year an exception was made to allow for 80 hours of vacation time to be carried over.

MOTION: to authorize Chief Zechman to roll over 80 hours into 2025 to use and payout the remaining balance of his carried over time with the ability to earn vacation time in 2025 subject to solicitor review was made by Frisby, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: to approve the Billing Clerk and the Administrative Professional to attend the 2025 Pennsylvania Association of Borough's Conference was made by Frisby, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

Council reviewed the 3 submissions for the 2025 Harriet Lane Award, and they selected Joan McCulloh as this year's recipient. The submission for Doug Rice should be kept for consideration for next year's James Buchanan Award. Member Craig asked if the Borough could use several different forms of communication to reach out to the community in the future to gather more submissions for the awards. Manager Scheller stated that the Borough has advertised for submissions on the website and in the Mercersburg Journal, and another possibility could be to advertise in The Merchant.

MOTION: to acknowledge receipt of a check for \$250,000 for the LSA grant and authorize Borough to forward the funds to MMP&W was made by Frisby, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve recommendation to purchase 2 60" televisions with mirroring capabilities not to exceed \$400 each, mounting brackets not to exceed \$200 each, and an owl or similar device not to exceed \$1,200 in the conference room was made by Frisby, seconded by Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the estimate from Semple Electric LLC in the amount of \$3,400 to complete the improvements to the conference room prior to installation of the televisions and to complete the wiring necessary to move the server from the Borough Office to upstairs was made by Craig, seconded by Frisby, Morgan voted nay because only one estimate was received for the work. Manager Scheller stated that 2 other contractors were contacted but were not available to complete the work at the moment, remaining ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the resolution supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semi Quincentennial was made by Frisby, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve recommendation of HARB application 2025-03-02 to demo the Band Building at 113 South Main Street provided that the amount is less than the amount to repair the building estimated and any salvageable items will be preserved during the process was rejected. A motion to demo the Band Building according to all local, state and federal guidelines and not preserving any salvageable items was made by Frisby, seconded by Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve recommendations for sections of HARB application 2025-03-02 for 203 South Main Street including replacement of the wooden picket fence with vinyl fencing, replacement of the aluminum front storm door with a vinyl storm door, replacement of the aluminum rear storm door with an aluminum storm door, replacement of the wooden floor of the front deck with PVC tongue and groove provided the boards are 3.5” and there is a trim board placed on the edge of the deck and for the railing and balusters on the front porch to be replaced with in-kind materials and style was rejected and altered to allow for vinyl to for used the railing and balusters on the front porch was made by Frisby, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve recommendation of HARB application for roof replacement at 22 & 24 West Seminary Street on the condition that a letter is drafted and sent to the contractor informing him that any future work performed in the Borough needs approval and all necessary permits before the project can begin was made by Craig, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Stoner mentioned the correspondence items that were included and covered the meeting calendar.

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm made by Morgan, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

Date: _____ Motion: _____ Seconded: _____

SEAL

Dawn L. Scheller, Borough Manager / Secretary / Treasurer