

Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting

Borough Hall, 113 S. Main St., Mercersburg, PA

August 25, 2025

MINUTES

Attending: Council President Dusty Stoner, Council Vice-President Anthony Frisby, Member Kelani Craig, Member Jacob Morgan, Member Joe Burkot, Member Tom Heefner, Solicitor Steve Coccoresse, Borough Manager Connie Creighton, and Administrative Professional Angela Alleman

Absent: Mayor Michael Pedersen and Member Paul Sipes

Guest(s)/Press:

Lisa McCulloh, The Mercersburg Journal

Vincent McCullough, 112 South Fayette St. Mercersburg, PA 17236

Rick Frisby, 127 South Fayette St. Mercersburg, PA 17236

Council President started the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment Hearing Called to Order

The Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment was duly advertised in the Mercersburg Journal on July 23, 2025 & July 30, 2025.

The Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment was submitted to the Franklin County Planning Commission and the Mercersburg Borough Planning Commission for review and comment.

Ordinance 6-24 is a text amendment amending the Zoning Ordinance by adding uses, definitions, and provisions related to solar energy systems.

The Mercersburg Borough Planning Commission has submitted proposed amendments and editorial changes to Ordinance 6-24 – Solar Energy Systems for approval. The proposed amendments are included in the meeting packet.

MOTION: To approve Ordinance 6-24 Solar Energy Systems with Planning Commission's editorial changes was made by Heefner, seconded by Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rick Frisby - Rick expressed concerns regarding several properties where wood from fallen trees and branches is being stockpiled. He noted that these piles attract unwanted wildlife. He emphasized that property owners should be held accountable for properly maintaining their lots to avoid such issues. Additionally, he raised concern about overgrown tree limbs extending onto sidewalks and streets in certain areas, creating obstructions that force pedestrians and vehicles to detour around them.

In response, Connie Creighton shared that the Borough is aware of the situation and is actively gathering data on affected properties. Steve Coccoresse suggested the option of utilizing the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) as a foundation for establishing ordinances. Ordinances will be reviewed as part of ongoing efforts to address the issues as effectively as possible, despite current limitations in staffing and resources. Related Ordinance(s) will be provided for review at the next Council Meeting.

MINUTES

None to review.

TREASURER'S/BILLS PAYABLE REPORT

Reviewed at August 11, 2025 meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Not present.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Steve Coccoresse was present and provided updates on Ordinance 6-24 as well as items listed under Old and New Business.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Items will be covered in Old Business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Act 537 - No Meeting

Finance – Meeting scheduled for August 27, 2025

Fire Board - No Meeting

HARB - No Meeting

Nominating Committee - No Meeting

Personnel - No Meeting

Planning - No Meeting

Property/Technology - No Meeting

Steering Committee - No Meeting

Streets - No Meeting

Summer Playground - No Meeting

Zoning Hearing Board - No Meeting

OLD BUSINESS

Band Building Demo Project Update

The building has been successfully demolished, the site has been cleared, and grass has been planted. The project is now complete.

Oregon Street Project Update

PennDOT's work has been completed. An initial walkthrough was conducted to verify which properties have complied. A list was compiled identifying those that remain non-compliant. Staff will conduct a second walkthrough to confirm the accuracy of this list. Once verified, the list will be forwarded to Salzmänn - Hughes so that notification letters can be sent to the non-compliant property owners. Following that, we can proceed with the next steps for repairing the sidewalks and curbs that have not been addressed.

General Purpose Authority – Articles of Incorporation

Retroactively Approve Ordinance 3-16 General Purpose Authority – Articles of Incorporation authorizing and adopting an amendment to extend the term of its existence (duly advertised as required) as of 8/11/2025 and to amend the Resolution number to 2025-16 for the previously approved resolution declaring that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people of the borough of Mercersburg for the Mercersburg borough general purpose authority to finance a project for the benefit of the regents of the Mercersburg college by the issuance of the authority's revenue bonds; approving such issuance under section 147(f) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended; and repealing all prior inconsistent ordinances and resolutions.

MOTION: To approve Ordinance 3-16 was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Light Up the Night Proposal – Recovery Month 2025. Request by Franklin/Fulton Drug and Alcohol Program. Display purple string lights in the square in Mercersburg from September 1st, 2025 – September 30th, 2025.

MOTION: To approve Light Up the Night Proposal – Recovery Month 2025 was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

Approve Resolution 18-25 – Appointing Borough Manager

MOTION: To approve Resolution 18-25 - Appointing Borough Manager was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

Approve Resolution 19-25 - Mercersburg - Appointing Chief Admin Officer of Non-Uniform Pension Plan

MOTION: To approve Resolution 19-25 - Mercersburg - Appointing Chief Admin Officer of Non-Uniform Pension Plan was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

Approve Resolution 20-25 - Mercersburg - Appointing Chief Admin Officer of Police Pension Plan

MOTION: To approve Resolution 20-25 - Mercersburg - Appointing Chief Admin Officer of Police Pension Plan was made by Heefner, seconded by Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

Approve Resolution 21-25 - FCTCC- Representatives to Franklin County Tax Collection Committee

MOTION: To approve Resolution 21-25 - FCTCC- Representatives to Franklin County Tax Collection Committee was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

Approve Resolution 22-25 – FCATB – Representatives to Franklin County Area Tax Bureau

MOTION: To approve Resolution 22-25 – FCATB – Representatives to Franklin County Area Tax Bureau was made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

Review Resolution 2025-06-GPA Articles of Amendment – General Purpose Authority - This is for reference only and does not require any action.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm made by Heefner, seconded by Craig, all ayes, motion carried.

Date: 9-8-25 Motion: Heefner Seconded: Craig

CFM CONSTANCE M. CREIGHTON

Borough Manager / Secretary / Treasurer

SEAL

