

Mercersburg Borough Council

Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA

November 12, 2012

MINUTES

Attending: President McClintick, Vice-President John Freeland, Mayor Jim Zeger, Betty Stenger, Chris Frisby, Tom Suddeth, Jeff Main, Borough Manager Tammy Oberholzer, Assistant Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Solicitor Sam Wisner, Engineer Lance Kegerreis, and Police Chief John Zechman

Absent: Donald Stoner

Press: Gina Hall, Mercersburg Journal

Guests: None

Meeting was called to order by Council President Elizabeth McClintick and she asked the Mayor to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President asked for any Public Comments, there were none at this time.

President McClintick asked for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from October 22, 2012.

MOTION: to approve the meeting minutes from October 22, 2012 meeting as presented was made by John Freeland, second by Betty Stenger, all ayes, motion carried.

President McClintick asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2012.

MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2012 was made Jeff Main, second by John Freeland, all ayes, motion carried.

President McClintick asked for a motion to approve the Bills Payable list for October 2012.

MOTION: to approve the Bills Payable list for October 2012 was made by Chris Frisby, second by John Freeland, all ayes, motion carried.

President McClintick asked for the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Zeger recognized and thanked John Freeland and Chief Zechman for their service in the military. Mayor reviewed stories of neighborly acts during Hurricane Sandy. He stated that one neighbor shared a generator with a young family and many others offered hot meals to people who were without power. Mayor Zeger asked that after the Holidays, Council consider forming a committee to review the Emergency Response Plan.

Tammy Oberholzer reviewed that she sent in all of the required reports pertaining to the storm and the Borough's PWD started preparing for the storm in advance by filling generators and clearing storm drains or debris.

Mayor reviewed the upcoming Holiday events including a Tree Lighting which is scheduled to occur on November 30, 2012 from 6:30-7:30, a dedication of the Council Room to James Winston Smith II on December 3rd time to be determined, and some of the other holiday activities within Borough limits.

President McClintick asked for the Chief's Report.

Chief Zechman presented the Mercersburg Police Report for October 2012 which included; 107 Complaints and Service Calls, 2 Borough Ordinance Violations, 10 Criminal Investigations, 9 Criminal Arrests, 11 Truck Inspections, 6 Accident Investigations, 46 Citations, and 13 Parking Tickets. Chief Zechman reported that the 70th Annual Mercersburg Halloween Parade was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy; Free Holiday Parking is scheduled for December 17-January 2. Chief Zechman reviewed Hurricane Sandy Power Outage information and also asked that a committee be formed to review the emergency plan. Chief Zechman stated that Officer

Soffe was recognized and awarded an award. Chief showed Council Members the award and Borough Council asked the Chief to pass along their congratulations to Officer Soffe. Chief reviewed the financial information of money turned over to the Borough.

President McClintick asked for the Solicitor Report.

Sam Wiser stated that he did not have anything for Council at this time.

President McClintick asked for the Engineer's Report.

Lance Kegerreis provided Council with information regarding different methods of paving. Lance stated that he had someone in mind to present some alternative paving options to the Streets Committee as they look to begin the Streets project. Council thanked him for the information and asked that Lance see if his contact would be able to attend the next Streets Committee Meeting in December.

President McClintick asked for the Manager's Report.

Tammy Oberholzer reviewed that during Hurricane Sandy there was damage to the Clock Tower of the Borough Building. The Borough Office received two estimates to have the damage repaired; the first from Twine Construction in the amount of \$1585.00 and the second from Welsh Run Builders in the amount of \$974.95. Tammy Oberholzer reviewed that the deductible amount for the insurance was \$1,000.00.

MOTION: to award the Borough Clock Tower Repair to Welsh Run Builders for the amount of \$974.95 was made by John Freeland, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

Tammy Oberholzer reviewed the Holiday Luncheon information and Council authorized the same budget as in 2011 which was \$300.00. The luncheon would be held on December 19, 2012. Borough Council discussed the fire hydrants needing paint and that the Fire Company Volunteers may be able to assist with this project.

President McClintick asked for the Borough Secretary's Report.

Dawn Scheller provided Council Members with an updated report at their seats. Dawn Scheller reviewed that there were 3 Land Use Permits issued in October. Dawn reviewed the 2013 meeting calendar and asked that they forward any corrections or adjustments to the office before the December Council Meeting. The Calendar will need to be advertised and a motion to authorize the advertisement is scheduled for December's meeting. Dawn Scheller reviewed that the Term Ending Letters were sent out and a copy was provided in the Council Member's packets. Dawn reviewed that in years past the Nominating Committee would make a request to Council as to which positions they would like to advertise (typically being the vacant positions and the Fire Board Positions). This would be something for the Nominating Committee to review before the next Council Meeting and recommend in December. Dawn Scheller reviewed that the leaf pick up was scheduled for November 14th-16th.

President McClintick reviewed that the Public Works Department Report was included in Council's packets for review. President McClintick thanked the PWD for all of the prep work which occurred in Mercersburg preparing for the storm.

President McClintick asked the Committee Chairs to present the Committee Meeting Information.

John Freeland reviewed the Streets Committee Meeting information which was provided in the packets. He reviewed the timeline and thanked Lance for providing Council with the paving information. John was also please that they would have someone to present this process information at the next Streets Committee Meeting which would be scheduled at the end of the meeting. John spoke about raising the taxes 1 mill for 2013 to enable the Borough to begin the Street Improvement Project.

Mayor Zeger suggested that the Street Committee Chair, Council President, and Mayor sign a letter to the Editor describing the much needed project and the reason for the tax increase. Council Members continued discussion on the proposed tax increase.

Chris Frisby relayed a concern regarding an alley off of Fayette Street. Tammy Oberholzer stated that she would research it and provide Council with an update at the next meeting.

Gina Hall, Mercersburg Journal entered at 8:10 p.m.

President McClintick asked to move on to the New Business.

Borough Council reviewed the Draft Tax Levy Ordinance and the Proposed 2013 General Budget.

MOTION: to Authorize Ordinance 2-25: An Ordinance of the Borough of Mercersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, Fixing the Tax Rate for the year 2013 and the 2013 Proposed Budget with the proposed increase of 1.5 mills to be advertised was made by Jeff Main, second by John Freeland, Sam Wiser reviewed the Borough Code and stated that Council can define the 1 mills increase in the Ordinance under a Special Road Fund Tax if desired and the other .5 mills for General Purposes to cover the insurance premium increases, Borough Council then reviewed the insurance premium increases and Sam Wiser provided opinion on the Insurance Benefits thru Benecon, a vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

President McClintick asked if there was any additional business.

Tammy Oberholzer provided Council with a memo and the budget information for the FCATB and asked for a motion to vote to approve the proposed 2013 Tax Bureau Operating Budget.

MOTION: to approve the 2013 Tax Bureau Operating Budget was made by John Freeland, second by Chris Frisby, Tom Suddeth opposed, remaining ayes, motion carried.

President McClintick reviewed the meeting calendar.

President McClintick asked that the Manager Evaluations should be turned in prior to the 19th of November as the Personnel Committee will be meeting on the 19th.

Tom Suddeth stated that he would contact the members of the Technology Committee to discuss the recording equipment.

President McClintick reviewed the Planning Commission and HARB meeting dates.

John Freeland asked Lance to see when his contact could attend a Streets Committee Meeting which would be either December 5th or 12th either at 10:30 or 1:00. Lance Kegerreis stated that he would check and contact the Borough Office with the date and time.

The next Borough Council Meeting is scheduled for December 10th.

President McClintick asked if there were any additional items. Tom Suddeth asked that as Council plans Committees for 2013 that they possibly add a Safety Committee of sorts as the Mayor had recommended.

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:28 pm was made by Tom Suddeth, second by John Freeland, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed by the use of Assistant Borough Manager, Dawn L. Scheller, meeting notes. Respectfully submitted by Assistant Borough Manager, Dawn L. Scheller.

Date Approved: _____

Motion Made By: _____

Second By: _____