

Mercersburg Borough Council

Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA

December 20, 2012

MINUTES

Attending: Mayor Jim Zeger, President McClintick, Vice-President John Freeland, Chris Frisby, Donald Stoner, Tom Suddeth, Jeff Main, Borough Manager Tammy Oberholzer, Solicitor Brad Betack,

Absent: Assistant Borough Manager, Dawn Scheller, Betty Stenger, Engineer Lance Kegerreis

Press: Gina Hall, Mercersburg Journal

Guests: Ronald Snyder

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Council President Elizabeth McClintick.

Mayor Jim Zeger led the Pledge of Allegiance

Council President Elizabeth McClintick announced that the purpose of this meeting was to adopt the Tax Levy Ordinance for 2013 and to adopt the 2013 General Fund Budget.

The Tax Levy Ordinance included a 1.25 tax mill increase from 2012 and was advertised as required.

President McClintick announced an item on the Manager's report that the Water and Sewer Authorities approved a cost of living pay increase to their employees for all payroll Water and Sewer authorities are responsible for paying.

There was a brief discussion on this action by the Authorities including questioning if this was "legal" and how could the Authorities give pay increases that were more than Borough Council gave. Borough Manager Tammy Oberholzer assured Council members that this action was permissible. The Manager also reported that she and the Bookkeeper contacted Solicitor Wisner on the action of the Authorities and he confirmed the Manager's position that it was acceptable. President McClintick also reminded Council members that the Authorities each controlled their budgets and their funds and certainly had the right to pay the employees what they wanted to pay them. Member Jeff Main commented that he was not in favor of the cost of living pay raise as he felt it would be a burden on the taxpayers.

MOTION: to adopt the 2013 Tax Levy Ordinance No. 2-25 as advertised with a 1.25 mill increase over the 2012 Tax Levy Ordinance was made by Chris Frisby and seconded by John Freeland; Discussion following the motion included Council Member Dusty Stoner questioning other Council members as to why the recommendations of the Personnel committee were not approved. Mr. Stoner commented that the Personnel Committee met for two (2) hours or more discussing every detail of their recommendations and the effects on the budget. Mr. Stoner remarked, why we have committees that do the groundwork and then their recommendations are not followed. Member Dusty Stoner also spoke in favor of the cost of living increase and the committee's thought that it is not a waste of tax payers' money and insisted that all Borough Council members should be in favor of the cost of living increase. Mayor Zeger commented he did not feel we (Council) should get in the habit of giving 3% raises annually and that he was confused as to why merit increases were approved instead of longevity increases. President McClintick asked for any further comments there were none, she then asked for a vote. **Council members John Freeland, Tom Suddeth, Jeff Main and Chris Frisby voted aye, Council President Elizabeth McClintick and Council member Dusty Stoner voted nay, motion carried.**

Council members discussed the 2013 proposed Budget.

Guest Mr. Ronald Snyder spoke to Council to clear up what he thought to be a misunderstanding from the last Council meeting regarding the County Library Tax. Council assured Mr. Snyder that had clarified that Borough residents only pay the Borough Library tax and not the County Library Tax. As a comment to the 2013 Budget discussion, Mr. Snyder commended he did not understand why with no comments on the budget and on the previously advertised Tax Ordinance with a 1.50 mill increase, did Council feel they needed to change to 1.25 mill increase? Mr. Snyder further stated why did Council not give cost of living increase to the employees or even increase the library tax ordinance with the 1.50 tax mill increase.

President McClintick thanked Mr. Snyder for his comments.

MOTION: to adopt the 2013 Budget reflecting the 1.25 mill tax increase was made by John Freeland and seconded by Jeff Main, Council members John Freeland, Tom Suddeth, Chris Frisby and Jeff Main voted aye, Council President Elizabeth McClintick and Council member Dusty Stoner voted nay, motion carried.

MOTION: to adjourn at 4:05 pm was made by John Freeland, second by Chris Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed by the use of Borough Manager, Tammy M. Oberholzer's, meeting notes.

Respectfully submitted by Borough Manager, *Tammy M. Oberholzer*

Date Approved: _____ Motion Made By: _____ Second By: _____