

**Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
January 5, 2015
MINUTES**

Attending: President Tom Suddeth, Mayor Jim Zeger, Vice-President Jeff Main, Jon Kittredge, Catalin Bonciu, Liza McCoy, Amy Burkot, Donald Stoner, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Assistant Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Police Chief John Zechman, Solicitor Jason Kelso, and Engineer Lance Kegerreis

Absent: None

Press: Rachel Nichols Mercersburg Journal

Guests: Kelly and Joe Renner: 24 Main Street, Mercersburg; Larry Nair: 6278 Hillcrest, Mercersburg; Judy Bonciu, 15 N. Main Street, Mercersburg

President Suddeth called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and Mayor Zeger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Renner brought forward concerns with the Carol & Company sign which was hung in front of his business. He reported that he had received a phone call from the Zoning Officer that the sign was approved and he could hang it. Mr. Renner said that he had a sign guy come out, hang the sign, and two days later he was informed that the sign could not hang where it was hung. He reviewed that the building has two addresses and also brought other sign concerns forward to the office. He asked if there was anything Borough Council could do.

Solicitor Jason Kelso spoke and reviewed that Mr. Renner would have to hang the sign in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance. He reviewed that this was not a matter for Borough Council, but rather an item for the Zoning Hearing Board. Jason reviewed the process of the application, fee, and hearing and the Zoning Hearing Board would render a decision.

Mrs. Renner stated that she was only asked to complete a HARB Application, and stated that if it was going to be of concern than someone from the Zoning should have come down prior to the sign going up. She reviewed concerns that the sign was hung after she received the approval and the information regarding one sign per building should have been reviewed at that time. She stated that she is very upset by this.

Mr. Renner stated that whoever was in charge of Zoning should have been more specific when communicating the approval from the beginning.

Council Members opened discussion as to if they could waive the fee for the Zoning Hearing Board for Mr. Renner's application. There was also discussion about a report of a pet wolf in the Borough, other signage in the Borough, along with questions regarding Occupancy Permits issued within the Borough. Jason Kelso reviewed that the ZHB could refund the application fee if they desired to do so. Lance Kegerreis suggested that Council could authorize to do a text change to the Ordinance.

MOTION: to recommend to the ZHB to waive the application fee for Mr. Renner was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Lisa McCoy, with the discussion that the sign would remain hung until the ZHB meets to review the application, Catalin Bonciu abstained as it is his building, remaining ayes, motion carried.

Members of the Audience felt that other issues in the Borough are of more importance it was asked that the Finance Committee add in the budget for 2016 Ordinance review and needed updates. Borough Council moved on to the other Agenda items.

MOTION: to approve the minutes from December 8, 2014 was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, Lisa McCoy opposed, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Bills Payable/Invoices was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Zeger welcomed the New Year and was optimistic that it would be a good year for the Borough.

Chief of Police John Zechman reviewed the police report for the month of December 2014; 86 Complaints and Service Calls, 0 borough Ordinance Violations, 5 Criminal Investigations, 5 Criminal Arrests, 1 Accident Investigation, 41 Citations, 2 parking Tickets, and 0 Right To Know requests along with the financial information to the Borough.

Borough Council Members brought forward concerns with parking meters and vehicles in the Hitching Post Lot.

Solicitor Jason Kelso had nothing to report at this time.

Engineer Lance Kegerreis spoke that the Streets Committee would be meeting on January 7, 2015.

Dawn Scheller reviewed her report which included the Borough needing to complete the Annual Appointments. Two appointments not listed on the agenda were the FCCG and CAWTB appointments.

MOTION: to approve Resolution 01-15 appointing Dawn Scheller as the 2015 representative and Derek Stoy as the Alternate on the Chambersburg Area Wage Tax Board for Mercersburg was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve Resolution 02-15 appointing Dawn Scheller as the 2015 Representative and Derek Stoy as the Alternate on the Franklin County Council of Government for Mercersburg was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

Dawn Scheller also provided a meeting schedule and contact information for the Boards and Committees as requested/instructed.

Derek Stoy presented his Assistant Manager's report which included information about the Linden Avenue Flushing, the Mayo Building gas being shut off, the tree and the chimney removed. He provided information about a Chainsaw that the PWD could use for future projects and would be more time efficient and safer. After discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: to approve the purchase of the Ductile Chainsaw with the additional concrete chain to be paid from the Joint Equipment Fund contingent upon Water Authority and Sewer Authority's approval was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

Derek Stoy reported that he would be working with Chambersburg Borough to look into used parking meters and would bring back the information to Streets.

President Suddeth noted that the PWD Report was included in the packet for review and moved on to Committee Reports.

MOTION: to authorize the salary increase for Officer McCorriston adjusting it to the maximum salary rate for part-time officers and authorizing the increase to be retroactive for 2014 was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jon Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.

The Streets Committee notes were reviewed and after discussion it was noted that the McConnell Alley would be tabled at this time. Borough Council Members also discussed that PSAB had received concerns regarding rain water issues on State Roads. Derek Stoy reviewed that PSAB was trying to bring municipalities concerns forward. He reviewed that he would keep the Borough updated on the progress.

President Suddeth moved on to Old Business.

President Suddeth opened the floor for nominations for the Water Authority, Donald Stoner nominated Ed Twine, no other nominations were made, *a vote was taken, all ayes*, Ed Twine was appointed to the Water Authority per Resolution 03-15.

President Suddeth opened the floor for nominations for the Sewer Authority, Catalin Bonciu nominated Jon Kittredge, Donald Stoner nominated Doug Hoffman, no other nominations were made, *a vote was taken to appoint Jon Kittredge to the Sewer Authority – Tom Suddeth, Catalin Bonciu, Amy Burkot, Lisa McCoy voted to appoint Jon Kittredge; Donald Stoner and Jeff Main voted against, and Jon Kittredge abstained from the vote.* Jon Kittredge received a majority vote and was appointed to the Sewer Authority per Resolution 04-15.

There were no nominations to fill General Purpose, Zoning Hearing Board, or Planning Commission Vacancies.

President Suddeth opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy on HARB; Donald Stoner nominated Mark Gibson to fill the vacancy on HARB, a vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried per Resolution 05-15.

President Suddeth opened the floor for nominations to fill the Vacancy Board, Josh Meyers was nominated, *a vote was taken, all ayes*, Josh Meyers was appointed to the Vacancy Board per Resolution 06-15.

MOTION: to approve the advertisements as presented was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to authorize the publishing of the letter from Borough Council, contingent upon Solicitor review/revisions, was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jeff Main, discussion occurred and Council Members wished to review the letter prior to it being advertised, the motion was then rescinded.

MOTION: to enter into executive session for potential litigation matters with possible action to be taken at 8:30 pm was made by Jon Kittredge, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

Resumed regular session at 8:40 pm.

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:45 pm was made by Jeff Main, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted for approval by Dawn Scheller, using her meeting notes and audio recording.

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