

Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
March 13, 2017
MINUTES

Attending: President Tom Suddeth, Vice-President Jeff Main, Mayor Roger Defibaugh, Treasurer Catalin Bonciu, Donald Stoner, Lisa McCoy, Amy Burkot, Assistant Borough Manager Derek Stoy, and Solicitor Steve Coccorese

Absent: Council Member: Jonathan Kittredge, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller and Engineer Lance Kegerreis

Guests/Press: Tom McCloud 527 Green St. Waynesboro PA. , Nancy Robinson 203 S. Main St., Rachel Nichols: **Mercersburg Journal.** Josh Meyers 19 West Seminary St.

President Suddeth called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with Mayor Defibaugh leading the Pledge of Allegiance. President Suddeth asked for Public Comments. Tom McCloud presented a framed picture with "In God We Trust" in front of an American Flag to the council. Mr. McCloud went on to describe how the phrase was created in a brief presentation. The council thanked Mr. McCloud for the picture and for the presentation.

MOTION: to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2017 was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, a vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve A. Treasurer's report for the month ending February 28, 2017, B. Bills payable invoice list January 2017 (distributed with packet), C. Updated bills payable / final invoice list / Account Balance List for February 2017 (provided at meeting) was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

President Suddeth then went on to ask for the Mayor's report. Mayor Defibaugh reported that the Tuscarora School District was interested in having the Mercersburg Police Department respond to incidents at the Montgomery Township Elementary School as it does to other school buildings in Peters Township. He stated a letter of interest from the borough needs to be sent to the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors for them to review. Eventually an Intermunicipal Agreement will need to be created with the township and the borough if this moves forward.

MOTION: To approve the administration to create a letter to the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors expressing interest in the Mercersburg Police Department expanding its response area to the Montgomery Elementary School was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

The Police report was reviewed and Lisa McCoy inquired about the financial report provided. She stated the income was lower than in years previous. It was explained to her that one line item was not provided and that would affect the end of the month figure.

Solicitor Steve Coccorese stated he had nothing at this time, but would answer questions as they arose on other items.

Assistant Borough Manager Derek Stoy provided the manager's report in the absence of Dawn Scheller. Mrs. Scheller reported that no new applications were received for the James Buchanan Award. The award is to be presented on April 27 at the annual Historical Society dinner. Tom Suddeth brought forward 2 names for the award. Julia McLaughlin and Gregg Davis.

MOTION: To present Julia McLaughlin and Gregg Davis with the James Buchanan Award was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Amy Burkot; Lisa McCoy abstained, remaining all ayes. Motion passes on a 5-0 vote with 1 abstention.

The manager's report continued with a discussion on the current contract with Comcast as it pertains to internet

services provided. The administration is looking into the possibility of bundling the internet, cable and phone services with Comcast or another entity. Steve Coccoresse advised that he would need to review the current contract with Comcast to see if the borough can change services.

MOTION: To allow the borough solicitor to review the current Comcast contract was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

Mrs. Scheller requested to attend the PSAB Conference in Hershey from May 7th-10th. She also requested to be a voting delegate as part of the conference as well. She requested to stay at a local hotel as well for the duration of the conference. The expense is a budgeted item for the 2017 approved budget.

MOTION: To Approve Borough Manager Dawn Scheller to attend the PSAB Conference on May 7th through May 10th as well as being a voting member of the delegation. Also, Mrs. Scheller will be staying at a hotel during the conference for a total expense of \$960.95 was made by Catalin Bonciu, seconded by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To send 4 people to the annual Tuscarora Chamber of Commerce Dinner on March 28, at the Whitetail Ski Resort at a cost of \$160 was made by Jeff Main, Amy Burkot second. Lisa McCoy No, remaining ayes, motion carried on a 5-1 vote.

President Suddeth moved on to the Assistant Managers report.

Assistant Manager Derek Stoy advised the council that the demolition of the mayo building took less than 40 minutes. The building was infested with termites and wood ants as evidenced by the wood. He stated backfilling had begun and should be completed within the next week as an impending snowstorm may prolong the effort.

Derek Stoy reported that Penn Dot's Main St. paving project contractor is expected to begin paving in late June. He requested council to extend the previous April 1, 2017 deadline to have all curb and sidewalk complete to the new date of May 15, 2017. He explained that this would give the borough time to perform any work that may be needed for those who don't comply prior to the contractor's arrival.

MOTION: To send out letters to affected property owners along Main St. extending the final curb/sidewalk completion deadline from April 1 to May 15 2017 was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Amy Burkot. All ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Stoy went on to explain that Section 202 of the Zoning Ordinance defines "Junk Vehicle" as follows:

Definition: Includes any vehicle or trailer that meets any of the following conditions:

- a. does not display a license plate with a current registration sticker and does not have a valid State safety inspection sticker (except for licensed antique cars not required to have an inspection sticker), (licenses or inspection stickers that expired less than 90 days ago shall be considered current for the purposes of this Section)

With the recent change to the Penn DOT registration law, registration stickers are no longer given to car owners. He noted that the borough should change the current definition to reflect the new law.

MOTION: To have the borough solicitor make the correct changes to reflect the new state law in the Zoning Ordinance was made by Jeff Main, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes. Motion carried.

President Suddeth asked for Committee reports.

HARB:

Mr. Meyers, chairman of HARB, explained to the council that HARB and council persons Jeff Main and Amy Burkot had a somewhat productive meeting with Bryan Van Sweeden. Numerous items were discussed and meetings will be needed in the future.

PROPERTY:

Catalin Bonciu gave the property committee report. Wertner’s Signs provided an estimate for a sign at the public works garage. This sign would mirror the current signs on borough hall in both color and font. It states “Lee Roy “Snooks” Beck Maintenance Garage Borough of Mercersburg” just as the current sign on the garage states. It would be placed on either 4x4 posts or cobblestone columns.

MOTION: To approve the purchase of the proposed sign for the Public Works Garage from Wertner’s Signs using the 4x4 posts for a total cost of \$2,633 was made by Jeff Main, second Lisa McCoy. Jeff Main, Lisa McCoy, Catlin Bonciu ayes, Tom Suddeth, Donald Stoner, Amy Burkot no. Tie vote went to Mayor Defibaugh to break. Mayor Defibaugh aye. Motion passes on a 4-3 vote.

MOTION: To approve Lopez Construction to perform the concrete work at the garage along with part of Mr. Rotz’s adjoining property for \$3,900 was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jeff Main all ayes, motion carried.

President Suddeth moved onto the other items listed on the Agenda.

MOTION: to approve Ordinance 12-2 Authorizing MMP&W to charge for certain costs associated with response was made by Donald Stoner, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:23 pm was made by Jeff Main, second by Lisa McCoy, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes have been transcribed and respectfully submitted by Derek J Stoy, Assistant Borough Manager, for approval with the use of his meeting notes and audio recording.

Date Approved: _____ **Motion:** _____ **Second:** _____