

Mercersburg Borough Council
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
February 25, 2019
MINUTES

Attending: President Donald (Dusty) Stoner Jr., Vice-President Jeff Main, Dr. Michael Pedersen, Paul Sipes, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Borough Secretary Stacey Golden and Solicitor Steve Coccoresse

Absent: Mayor Roger Defibaugh, Tom Heefner, Sean Grove, Amy Burkot

Guests/Press: Chris Ardinger, John Flannery, Preston Spahr, Rachel Nichols

President Donald Stoner Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked Michael Pedersen to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Stoner announced that there was a special executive session meeting held by Borough Council on February 14, 2019 to discuss personnel matters.

President Stoner asked for public comments. John Flannery spoke to Council about his campaign running for County Commissioner. Mr. Flannery explained why he was running stating he would like to bring "transparency and representation" to the office if elected and said he would like to bring the townships, boroughs and school boards together. Preston Spahr gave a brief update on the planning project for Mercersburg noting that Dr. Liz George, Linda Hargrove and Borough Manager Derek Stoy organized a "visit from Penn Dot". Rachel Nichols from the Mercersburg Journal told the Council that she submitted a right to know request on February 16, 2019 for the February 14, 2019 meeting and still hasn't received it. Ms. Nichols explained that according to the policy of destroying audio recordings she would request that the recordings not be destroyed until her right to know request has been fulfilled. Borough Manager Derek Stoy confirmed that a copy of the audio recording would be available "tomorrow after 2 o'clock".

MOTION: To approve February 11, 2019 minutes was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept putting the letter of reprimand in the officer's file as per discussion at the special executive meeting on February 14, 2019 was made by Paul Sipes, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

President Donald Stoner Jr. moved into the Borough Manager's report. Manager Derek Stoy explained that the clutch went out of the 1997 Ford Dump/Plow truck and asked Council to approve funds to repair the vehicle recommending a "not to exceed price". Stoy noted that the truck was purchased used and he was planning to replace the vehicle by the end of summer. Vice-President Main commented that the truck should be fixed before trying to sell. Stoy gave an overview on interest rates on Orrstown bank accounts stating that the highest rate was 0.40%. After contacting Orrstown, the accounts were raised to 2.0% at a fixed rate. Stoy said he would be meeting with PLIGIT to see what they have to offer noting that they have higher rates but most are variable. Stoy moved onto the Johnston's Run Trail update mentioning that the bid process has started with contacting 17 companies inviting them to bid. The prebid meeting to take place March 6, 2019 at 9 AM with opening of the bids on March 20, 2019 at 1 PM. Stoy concluded his report with a handicap parking request on Linden Avenue. Vice-President Main asked if the permit would be ongoing, Stoy stated that it was a rental and could be removed in the future.

Under Old Business Solicitor Steve Coccorese spoke to Council about the Police Pension Proposal. Coccorese stated he has been in touch with another attorney who specializes in this matter. Solicitor Coccorese said that the attorney fees for the review can't be paid with the pension fund unless it is put out with a RFP. Coccorese explained that he believes a letter outlining the different options will be presented at the next Council meeting and that attorney fees would need to come out of the police budget.

MOTION: To pay attorney fees out of the police budget for the Police Pension Proposal review was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve a not to exceed price of \$2000.00 to repair the 1997 Ford 350 Dump/Plow truck was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the handicap parking request submitted for 214 Linden Avenue was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve \$753.62 to be paid to the Franklin County Drug Task Force was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Council confirmed committee meeting dates.

President Donald Stoner Jr. asked if there was any other business to be brought before Council. Ken Bustin stated that the Mercersburg Journal would like to officially protest the executive session meeting held on February 14, 2019 and asked that the protest letter be appended to the official minutes.

President Donald Stoner Jr. stated that a letter of protest was received by the Mercersburg Journal concerning the executive session meeting held on February 14, 2019 and is to be added to the records and reviewed by the Borough's Solicitor. *(See letter attached)*.

MOTION: To adjourn was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

These meeting minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted for approval by Stacey M. Golden with the use of her meeting notes and audio recording.

Date approved: _____ Motion by: _____ Second by: _____