

**Mercersburg Borough Council**  
**Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA**  
**July 8, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

**Attending:** President Donald (Dusty) Stoner Jr., Dr. Michael Pedersen, Paul Sipes, Sean Grove, Tom Heefner, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Borough Secretary Stacey Golden and Solicitor Steve Coccorese

**Absent:** Mayor Roger Defibaugh, Vice-President Jeff Main, Amy Burkot

**Guests/Press:** Preston Spahr, Rachel Nichols, Judy Boncui

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 Donald Stoner Jr. announced that a special executive session was held on June 17, 2019 at 7 PM.

President Stoner opened the floor for public comments. Preston Spahr gave a brief update on the Steering Committee with what was discussed at the meetings.

**MOTION: To approve the June 10, 2019 meeting minutes was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable for the month ending June 30, 2019 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

Mayor Defibaugh was not present. President Donald Stoner Jr. commented saying that it was "nice to see the part time police officers on the weekends patrolling".

Council moved into the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy gave an update on the Johnston's Run Trail stating that he had a pre-construction meeting on July 2, 2019 and was waiting on the bonding paperwork. Once received, Stoy said the paperwork would then be submitted to the Borough Solicitor Steve Coccorese. Stoy continued in his report with the Summer Playground Program. The program currently has 33 registrants. Borough Manager Derek Stoy said that the Rotary donated \$500 and the Mercersburg Academy donated \$1500. Stoy noted that an executive session would be needed for an ordinance violation. No bids were received yet for the street sweeper. Stoy moved on in his report with explaining that \$900 is still owed on a loan for 208 North Main Street. The former owner passed away and the estate could not afford to pay off the loan. Manager Stoy noted that Mt. Tabor church stopped by the borough office to say "Thank you" to borough employees and brought various treats. The Certified Local Government program is requesting an update in the borough's ordinances and an approved resolution to be signed. Stoy said that grants offered by CLG will cover the costs of updating the ordinances. Manager Derek Stoy concluded his report with announcing that the borough had a clean liquid fuels audit.

President Stoner moved into the Committee Reports.

President Donald Stoner Jr. reviewed the Finance Committee minutes. Solicitor Steve Coccorese gave a recap of what happened at the meeting saying that the reason for the meeting was due to a desire to change the Police Pension Plan and to see what the cost associated with this change would be. Coccorese said that the cost would be “give or take 50k” and shared that Dunbar, Bender & Zapf suggested lowering the discounted rate of 6.25% because of how the market did last year. The borough currently has 18k to make up. Coccorese added that there would also be legal fees to do the document changes. Council member Paul Sipes asked what the benefit would be for the residents of Mercersburg, Coccorese replied that it could potentially attract more qualified officers for employment.

**MOTION: To leave things “status quo” as far as the pension plan is concerned was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.**

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on Fire Board. There will be an open house and light refreshments on July 23, 2019 at 6 PM at the Event Center. Manager Stoy said he would have a presentation as well.

President Donald Stoner Jr. moved onto the HARB committee notes. Real Estate Agent Judy Bonciu spoke to the council about application COA 2019-07-01 explaining that the potential buyer would like to demolish the existing building and replace with “green space”. Bonciu stressed that the contract would be ending “tomorrow” and that the buyer would like to know if the demolition would be approved before purchasing. Council members reviewed HARB’s motion and discussed if there was really a need to approve HARB’s motion. Council explained to Bonciu that HARB didn’t officially approve demolition but rather favored the action based on submission of plans by the buyer and council’s final approval of the plans.

**MOTION: To support HARB regarding COA 2019-07-01 similarly supporting initial investigation for sound log structure and for reuse potential for full submittal for proposed scope of work with intent to support the street edge in some architectural fashion as a requirement and therefore also withholding approval of the demolition pending review by HARB of the buyers final plan and subsequent approval by Borough Council before the demolition permit is issued was made by Paul Sipes, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve HARB application COA 2019-07-02 with using the recommended “Hudson” style aluminum fence with made by Paul Sipes, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve Resolution 07-19, Certified Local Government Certification Agreement, was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To enter into executive session for personnel matters and possible potential litigation at 8:12 PM was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.**

Council resumed regular session at 9:04 PM.

**MOTION: To send a letter to owners of 19 South Fayette notifying them that on July 19, 2019 papers will be filed with the District Magistrate and one final opportunity will be given to remedy the situation by completely clearing the property of any of the aforementioned debris was made by Paul Sipes, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.**

**Motion: To have council draft a letter to be placed in the file of a borough employee was made by Paul Sipes, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.**

**Motion: To approve placing a lien on 208 North Main Street subsequent to selling of the estate was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.**

Borough Manager Stoy commented that there will be a need for a streets and HARB meeting. Manager Derek Stoy said that he has started the process of replacing the 1997 mini dump truck. Stoy said he is looking at the Joint Equipment Fund, the Liquid Fuels account and the General Purpose Authority for funding and anticipates the cost to be around 85K.

**MOTION: To adjourn 9:09 PM was made by Sean Grove, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.**

*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: \_\_\_\_\_