

Mercersburg Borough Council
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
October 14, 2019
MINUTES

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

Absent: Mayor Roger Defibaugh, Amy Burkot

Guests/Press: Rachel Nichols, Lisa Minton, Preston Spahr

President Donald Stoner Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a moment of silence for the passing of Doug Hoffman who served on the Water Authority. President Stoner Jr. asked Preston Spahr to lead in the pledge of allegiance.

President Stoner opened the floor for public comments. Preston Spahr gave an update on the Mercersburg Vibrancy/Steering Committee reporting that a set of by-laws were established as well as a bank account requiring dual signatures for checks. A first donation of \$600 was made and two pending contributions putting the total at \$20,000 in donations for the first year so far.

MOTION: To approve the September 9, 2019 meeting minutes was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable for the month ending September 31, 2019 was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Roger Defibaugh was not present.

President Donald Stoner Jr. moved onto the Borough Manager's Report. Stoy reported on the Johnston's Run Trail noting that Pheasants Forever would be planting wildflowers on October 20th. Trees have been donated by Alliance for the Bay and will be planted the week of October 28th. The Street Committee will meet on October 23rd to go over revisions for the parking ordinance, the police department has been contacted for recommendations. Paving is complete for Beech Lane and Locust Drive, Manager Stoy gave credit to public works employee, Daryl Helman. Stoy went over the 2020 budget saying that the health insurance line item has been adjusted. Council discussed monetary options for honoring the passing of Doug Hoffman. Manager Derek Stoy said that he attended a winter weather meeting with ABC 27 on October 9th in Harrisburg. Stoy said he met other regional municipal leaders and four meteorologists noting that the trip was "well worth the trip to Harrisburg". The Finance Committee will need to meet in mid-October for another review on the budget. The Personnel Committee will meet October 21st to look at the revisions to the handbook, drug testing, vacation and health insurance surplus funds. Manager Stoy took a tour of DL Martin with Congressman John Joyce.

President Stoner Jr. moved onto Committee Reports.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy commented on the Finance Committee meeting saying that he won't know the outcome of the tax appeals until the end of October.

Council moved onto the Personnel Committee report.

MOTION: To approve a COLA increase for 2020 at 1.5% and a merit increase of 1.5% if the employee scores 85% or better on his or her review as recommended by the Personnel Committee was made by Tom Heefner, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve a \$.056 an hour wage increase for Donald Keefer Jr. as recommended by the Personnel Committee was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To allow Donald Keefer Jr. to carry over up to 80 hours of 2019 vacation time, to be used by the end of 2020 as recommended by the Personnel Committee was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

No Old Business.

President Stoner Jr. moved onto New Business.

MOTION: To allow MMPW Fire Police to assist with Greencastle's Christmas Parade on November 23, 2019 was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To allow MMPW Fire Police to assist with Greencastle's Halloween Parade on October 25, 2019 was made by Sean Grove, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept a letter of resignation from Melissa Stuff for serving on the HARB Committee was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

President Donald Stoner Jr. reviewed committee meeting dates.

Council agreed on making a \$250 donation to Hospice of Franklin County to honor the passing of Doug Hoffman with each member individually contributing toward the donation. Borough Manager Derek Stoy said he would take care of writing a letter to send with the donation. Council also discussed having a plaque made and asking the other entities to contribute.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 7:34 PM was made by Jeff Main, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To postpone the hiring of the third police officer until such time that council establishes that finances are resolute was made by Paul Sipes, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To authorize the solicitor to explore the process to establish a civil service commission and report back to council was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:30 PM was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. 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: _____