

Mercersburg Borough Council
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
June 8, 2020
MINUTES

Attending Via Zoom: President Donald (Dusty) Stoner Jr., Vice-President Jeff Main, Dr. Michael Pedersen, Sean Grove, Anthony Frisby, Paul Sipes, Tom Heefner, Mayor Roger Defibaugh, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Borough Secretary Stacey Golden and Solicitor Steve Coccorese

Absent: None

Guests/Press: N/A

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a roll call and read virtual meeting instructions. President Stoner also read an email from business owner Melissa Stuff.

President Stoner opened up the floor for public comments.

Preston Spahr gave an updated report on the Vibrancy Committee. Spahr spoke about the 503 C designation saying it was confirmed. Spahr also said updates were made to the bylaws for the NBSC to include a process to hold funds for committees. Spahr said there was updates given on committees at the May 20th meeting noting that Lena Eckstine gave one for Small Businesses and Michael Pedersen gave one for Beautification.

Amy Burkot asked if the community was allowed to give council and the community a power point presentation when council holds a “town hall presentation” in regards to Orrstown Bank, council members replied yes.

Dr. Elizabeth George spoke to council about Landis Drive. Lena Eckstine asked about putting tables on the sidewalk on behalf of businesses.

MOTION: To accept the May 18, 2020 minutes was made by Tom Heefner, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer’s Report A & B for months ending May 31, 2020 was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved onto the Mayor’s Report.

Mayor Defibaugh referenced Lena Eckstine’s question and talked to council about whether an ordinance needed to be made in regards to public alcohol consumption. Mayor Defibaugh also spoke to council about parking tickets and how long to refrain from giving fines, council discussed a few weeks or possible until end of summer but decided to wait and give it some additional thought. Council member Frisby suggested waiting until Labor Day.

Council moved onto the Borough Manager’s Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy gave an update on COVID 19 stating that Franklin County is still in the yellow stage. The borough office is still closed to the public and employees are on a rotating schedule. Public works department is back to working full time. Stoy commented that when the county goes to the green phase the office could be opened back up to the public practicing social distancing as much as possible. Manager Stoy also spoke about the Summer Playground Program and said he sent CDC guidelines out to council members. Stoy asked council to make a decision as which direction to go with the program. Manager Stoy commented that the fate of the fair has not been decided as of yet.

MMP&W PPE funding request is still under new business for review. Manager Stoy presented a summary for comparison of the Orrstown Bank Branch locations at Greencastle and Mercersburg for acreage, office square footage, parking stalls and the price per square feet. Stoy also included information for taxes on the property. Manager Stoy said the Landis Drive paving project for the Herbrucks Poultry Ranch is ready to be submitted to PennDot for review. The borough will need to sign the permit application and get it back to the Herbruck's engineer. Stoy expects the paving to be completed next year. Stoy noted that a motion can be made to have the borough manager to sign the application. Stoy concluded his report with saying that he will be on vacation from June 15-22.

President Donald Stoner moved into Committee Reports.

Vice President Jeff Main reported on the HARB Committee meeting.

MOTION: To approve HARB application COA 2020-06-01 for fence installation not to exceed eight feet total and for the gate to be installed next to the garage was made by Jeff Main second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve HARB application COA 2020-06-02, given the many changes to the building, the board recommend that a certificate of appropriateness be issued for the work that is proposed with the clarification that many modern materials have already been introduced and this work would not significantly impact the integrity, the board also strongly recommends that the porch post(s) that are damaged and in need of repair with in kind materials was made by Paul Sipes, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried. Tom Heefner abstained due to conflict of interest.

Council moved into Old Business.

MOTION: To cancel the 2020 Summer Playground Program with regret was made by Tom Heefner, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into New Business.

Vice-President Jeff Main reported on PPE funding request for MMP&W saying that he is hopeful that they can get a grant.

MOTION: To approve funding MMP&W for PPE in the amount of \$3500 to help further cost COVID 19 with funds coming from line item 411.50 in the budget was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. Motion carried on a 5 to 1 vote with Jeff Main abstaining due to conflict of interest. Donald Stoner- Yay, Dr. Michael Pedersen- Yay, Sean Grove- Yay, Anthony Frisby- Yay, Paul Sipes- Yay, Tom Heefner- Nay.

Council members discussed the Letter of Intent to Orrstown Bank. Solicitor Steve Coccorese advised that the letter was "non binding" but rather telling the bank that the borough is interested. President Donald Stoner commented that no decision is being made yet without evaluating the situation. Stoner continued by saying he wants to have the facts together before presenting to the community. Council members also spoke to real estate agent Judy Bonciu who commented that the idea was causing stress to the community. Council member Tom Heefner added that in the late 90's the borough talked about renovating Borough Hall and the price was very high and required an elevator for the second floor.

MOTION: Not to sign the Letter of Intent to Orrstown Bank was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Jeff Main. Motion was carried on a 5 to 1 vote with one abstainee. Donald Stoner- Yay, Jeff Main- Yay, Michael Pedersen- Yay, Sean Grove- Yay, Anthony Frisby- Yay, Tom Heefner- Nay. Paul Sipes abstained.

MOTION: To allow Borough Manager Derek Stoy to sign the Landis Drive Highway Occupancy Permit application for submittal to PennDot for review was made by Sean Grove, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

Donald Stoner reviewed meeting dates. Manager Derek Stoy said the Streets Committee meeting was still on and would have quotes.

MOTION: To adjourn to executive session at 8:15 PM for personnel and real estate matters with the intent to not reconvene 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 Golden with the use of her meeting notes and audio recording.

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