

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
December 14, 2020
MINUTES

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

Absent: Mayor Roger Defibaugh

Guests/Press: Numerous Via Zoom

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and read over virtual meeting public comment instructions.

President Stoner opened up the floor for public comments.

MOTION: To accept the November 9, 2020 minutes was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report A & B for month ending November 30, 2020 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

No Mayor's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported that the speed sign has been installed on Park Avenue near the Elementary School and is working good so far.

No Engineer's Report.

Council moved onto the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported that one price was received for the website redesign. Stoy recommended to use Capital Improvement Funds to pay for the project if council decides to move forward with it. Stoy reported that Sewer Authority member John Rose has moved out of the area and will no longer be eligible to serve as a member. Lena Eckstine has expressed her interest in serving and a resolution has been created if approved by council. Catalin Bonciu submitted his resignation for the Sewer Authority and Zoning Hearing Board to be effective January 1, 2021. Peter Briggs submitted a letter reinstating his interest in serving with the HARB Committee. Mr. Briggs would be filling the opening from Jeff Main's resignation. Stoy continued in his report addressing the 2021 budget stating it has been advertised and will need approval. The 2021 meeting schedule for council and committee dates are up for approval, Stoy noted that the only holiday conflict was the council meeting on Memorial Day (second council meeting of the month if needed) and some committee meeting dates that fall on holidays that may need moved. Manager Stoy said he hopes to have a training for the new all call system sometime within the month and hopes to have the service in place by January. Residents and customers will receive a letter alerting them about the new system before it goes live. Manager Stoy spoke to council about lighting on the square, Stoy explained that he felt that if the remaining 23 globes were changed and converted to LED lighting it would provide better lighting for the square with an estimated cost of \$2070 for the globes and \$2340 for installation price for the LED lights by Calvin Bricker. Manager Stoy said the updated lighting would also help the electric bill and recommended using Capital Improvement Funds if council decides to move forward. Manager Derek Stoy explained that the 2021 budget had a 1.5% wage increase built into it and both the Water

and Sewer Authorities approved a 3% wage increase. Manager Stoy asked council to reconsider their 1.5% increase to 3% to avoid dilemma for the payroll company saying it would create a “bookkeeping nightmare”, Stoy asked Council to make a motion if they decided to choose the increase. Stoy said the State Farm Grant was not received that he applied for. Personnel and Streets Committee meetings will both be cancelled for the month. Manager Stoy gave an update on the COVID situation saying all employees are working their normal shifts at the office and stated that there may be a possibility of needing to shut down the office as was done in the Spring. Stoy asked council to approve the purchase of a laptop not to exceed a price of \$1200 for Secretary, Stacey Golden if that happens. Stoy reported that he applied for a county COVID grant in the amount of \$12,347.12 and just received an announcement that \$8794.16 was approved. Manager Stoy concluded his report asking council to review and accept the 2019 audit.

Council moved into Old Business.

MOTION: To approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of Mercersburg and the Mercersburg Police Association subject to final review and approval by the Borough Solicitor and the Police Association was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept the website RFP from Shenberger Technology to be paid for out of Capital Improvement was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into New Business.

Manager Derek Stoy said the 2021 budget has been advertised with no tax increase.

MOTION: To accept the 2021 budget was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy said Resolution 28-20 would replace the Tax Levy Ordinance.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 28-20 setting the tax rate for 2021 was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 29-30 appointing Lena Eckstine to the Sewer Authority was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 30-30 appointing Peter Briggs to the HARB Committee was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the 2021 meeting dates as presented was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept the 2019 audit was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept the quote from Bricker’s Electrical Service for LED lighting on the square not to exceed \$2,340 and approve the purchase of 23 new 18” plastic globes at \$89.89 each to be funded out of Capital Improvement was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To allow Sgt. Robert Wertz to carry an additional 56 vacation hours to 2021 to be used by July 1, 2021 was made by Paul Sipes, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Sun Protectors quote for the Police Department in the amount of \$229.80 was made by Sean Grove, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept Catalin Bonciu’s resignation from the Sewer Authority and Zoning Board effective January 1, 2021 was made by Paul Sipes, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Manager Derek Stoy said that he wasn’t speaking on behalf of the Police Department but that the police furniture will be coming this week and Zody’s is coming to move everything back down to the renovated office.

MOTION: To approve a 3% wage increase for administration and public works was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.

Council President Dusty Stoner moved into Committee Reports.

MOTION: To adjourn regular session at 7:56 PM and enter into executive session for personnel matters with the intent to not reconvene was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. 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: _____