

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
March 8, 2021
MINUTES

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

Absent: None

Guests/Press: Andy Abel-Mercersburg Journal, Melissa Stuff, Tom Suddeth, Amy Burkot, Lena Eckstine and unidentified others.

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. Preston Spahr addressed council on the Vibrancy Steering Committee summarizing the February minutes and going over monetary donations. Spahr said there is an article in the Frontier Journal every month and said they have been having virtual meetings and updated the bylaws. Spahr spoke about a small grant through the community bank and a county comprehensive plan. Spahr concluded that the committee is a month away from hiring a planner.

Amy & Joseph Burkot asked council who to contact in the event of an emergency, Borough Manager Derek Stoy recommended calling the office and following the prompts.

MOTION: To accept the February 8, 2021 minutes was made by Vice-President Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report A & B for month ending February 28, 2021 was made by Vice-President Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved onto the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Defibaugh reported that the clock tower at Borough Hall would be fixed at noon the next day. Mayor Defibaugh said that parking meter enforcement would begin March 22nd and that a press release would be put out in the Mercersburg Journal. Defibaugh spoke to council about the ordinance pertaining to snow on the sidewalks and said that the police only write

criminal citations. Solicitor Steve Coccoresse said there are a couple different ways to go about it such as a pay system that can be enforced by the police without it being criminal or the borough can send out a notice such as having 24 hours to clear the sidewalk and if the resident doesn't comply then the borough would clear it and charge a fee. Vice President Tom Heefner suggested referring it to the Police Safety Committee. Mayor Defibaugh also said that there have been several complaints about speeders on South Fayette Street in the 100 block area. Defibaugh noted that the police have been monitoring the situation.

Council moved into the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported that the LED lights were able to be installed at the square. Stoy noted that the lighting seems "just right". The Comcast Franchise Agreement is up for renewal, Manager Stoy recommended discontinuing television service at the borough garage due to FCC no longer allowing Comcast to provide free cable tv services to entities mentioned in the agreement. The fire department currently has television services, Stoy said if payment is necessary that the funds will be taken from the franchise agreement payment, the borough currently receives 5% of quarterly payments. The annual cost would be \$1,450. Solicitor Steve Coccoresse said an attorney at his office has been in contact with an attorney at comcast. Stoy said it could be voted on in the next couple of months. Stoy mentioned that the Borough of McConnellsburg or McConnellsburg Water Authority has expressed interest in purchasing a steel TS 760 cutoff saw that is approximately 20-30 years old from the Borough of Mercersburg. Stoy talked to solicitor Steve Coccoresse to do a resolution to sell the saw, Coccoresse stated that it would be considered a "small value sale" and therefore wouldn't require a bid/quote. Stoy said no approval was needed yet. There was not a property committee meeting due to a lack of attendance, Stoy however provided notes for council to review. The United Methodist Church on North Fayette Street was contacted in regards to a satellite COVID vaccine site, Manager Stoy said the church offered their building for three days a week if someone can administer the vaccine. Stoy said he is working with several pharmacies to see if they are willing to provide personnel. The county is working with WellSpan and will be starting a mass vaccination site as soon as more vaccines are available. Stoy said he will keep everyone updated. To conclude his report, Manager Stoy asked council to consider looking at an upgraded plan to replace the parking meters. Stoy noted that the meters are very old and cannot be worked on as companies do not make the supply parts anymore. Stoy said the last time he got estimates they were \$350 to \$450 per meter to replace with 130 meters needing replaced. Borough Manager Stoy asked council to also decide who should take the project on, either the police department or the borough administration.

Council moved into the Committee Reports.

Michael Pedersen reported for Fire Board saying they are discussing financial concerns with employment.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on Property Committee, Vice President Heefner addressed the street lights and asked about looking into LED lighting to provide more efficient

lighting, Manager Stoy said he would reach out to his contact at West Penn. Stoy continued on to discuss what he proposed to the Property Committee for Borough Hall renovation projects; Stoy said the sewer line needs repaired in front of Borough Hall and also said the brick sidewalk will need redone. Stoy said the shrubs would be disturbed during the sewer line repair and recommended removing them. Stoy said he would also like to look at the gas line and water line during the sewer line repair. The front doors need to be ADA compliant, the council room needs painted and the flooring is in need of upgrade. Moving on in the report, Manager Stoy spoke about parking meter replacement and the 2006 Ford F250 mentioning that the salt box fell through the bed. Stoy said the truck will have to be replaced before the next winter.

MOTION: To allow Borough Manager Derek Stoy to get various sidewalk replacement estimates was made by Vice-President Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve removing the shrubs in front of the Borough Hall was made by Raymond Minton, second by Vice-President Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

President Donald Stoner asked Michael Pedersen to check into landscaping in front of Borough Hall. President Stoner also asked Manager Stoy about the front doors. Stoy said he has had adjustments made by Dale Metcalfe several times noting that they would be okay for a while but recommended an engineer looking at them to do some measurements to see what is needed to become ADA compliant. Vice-President Tom Heefner said he would like Borough Manager Derek Stoy to look into window replacement for the front of Borough Hall.

MOTION: To proceed with renovations to the council room in the Borough Hall building to include painting the walls, the gridwork and ceilings was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Vice-President Tom Heefner asked Manager Stoy to see what is underneath the carpet in the council room. Mayor Defibaugh asked if this needed to go through HARB, Stoy said the windows would but the inside work would not. Michael Pedersen asked about new council seating as well, Vice-President Heefner said to decide what kind of setup is wanted first. Council discussed the 2006 F250 truck replacement.

MOTION: To approve Borough Manager Derek Stoy to proceed with checking with different dealers to replace the 2006 F250 truck was made by Vice-President Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

President Donald Stoner asked when the sewer line would be done and suggested a backup generator. Manager Stoy said it would be beneficial to get an electrician to look at. Paul Sipes recommended a generator that didn't do the whole building.

No Old Business.

Council moved onto New Business.

Michael Pedersen spoke to council about Snavely's Garden Center proposal asking council for \$2000 total; \$1300 from UDAG and \$700 that is already available under beautification. Beautification has \$1000 on the budget line, Pedersen is asking for \$700, leaving \$300 for the Christmas light electric bill. Council decided against using the UDAG fund. Borough Manager Stoy said that line item 458.03 (Beautification) in the General Fund would be over on the budget.

MOTION: To approve the Snavely's Garden Center proposal/Michael Pedersen's request for \$2000 from the Beautification Account, was made by Vice-President Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried with Michael Pedersen abstaining.

Moving onto the second item under New Business, the Comcast Franchise Agreement, Steve Coccoresse said he heard back from his colleague and "Comcast can pass those fees to the customer".

Council reviewed Committee meeting dates.

Paul Sipes asked about having a Streets Committee meeting and Property Committee meeting to discuss several issues that have not been resolved. Vice-President Heefner said he thought having a property meeting would be beneficial because recommendations can then be made to council and would reduce discussion at the council meetings. Sipes also asked about the water and sewer issues noting that he is always being questioned, Manager Stoy responded that the minutes are posted on the website and the meetings are open to the public. Paul Sipes inquired about the property on Fayette Street with the trash pile issue. Solicitor Steve Coccoresse said there was question about who the actual property owner was. Coccoresse said if council wanted to address it further to let him know. Manager Stoy said he had concern about which items to take away as a zoning officer. Coccoresse said it would be a determination that Manager Stoy would have to take as far as what is problematic. Sean Grove mentioned that verbiage takes time in regards to the skateboard ordinance. Solicitor Coccoresse said he could get the language for council to approve.

MOTION: To adjourn regular session at 8:46 PM was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. 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:
