

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
April 12, 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 Coccoresse

Absent: None

Guests/Press: Andy Abel-Mercersburg Journal, Amy Kronenberg & Shelly Chilcote- GMS Funding Solutions, and unidentified others.

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and did roll call. President Stoner asked for a moment of silence for Harvey Bricker's passing, Mr. Bricker was a crossing guard for the Borough. Stoner read over the virtual meeting public comment instructions and opened the floor up for public comments.

Preston Spahr reported on the Mercersburg Vibrancy Steering Committee. Spahr said there were two organizations that submitted to First Community Bank for their grant program. Spahr said the Vibrancy Committee would use it for programs for small businesses. Spahr noted that "Lena Eckstine is heading up the steering committee efforts". Spahr said MPO meetings have been attended to supplement and support Borough Manager Derek Stoy. Spahr encouraged involvement in the MVSC that meets the third Wednesday of every month.

MOTION: To approve the March 8, 2021 minutes was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy commented that the March report reflects tax income that would rapidly increase in the next two months. Manager Stoy also added that it is a good thing to see real estate transfer taxes showing that people are choosing to come to Mercersburg.

MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report A & B for month ending March 31, 2021 was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved onto the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Roger Defibaugh thanked everyone for the moment of silence for Harvey Bricker and shared some details of Mr. Bricker's life noting that he was a kind hearted gentleman and will

be sorely missed giving his condolences to Mr. Bricker's family. Mayor Defibaugh talked to council about looking into a 457 deferred comp plan for employees. Defibaugh said this plan would allow employees to contribute to and thought that part time employees could participate also. Mayor Defibaugh also discussed the life insurance policy for the employees and expressed concern about the age limit asking council to consider another life insurance policy as well. Defibaugh talked to council about replacing the cloth meter bags, Mayor Defibaugh said he thought about replacing the bags to cover every meter. Defibaugh suggested selling the current bags to offset the cost of the new bags. Chris Ardinger with the Chamber of Commerce may have a sponsor for the new bags. Mayor Defibaugh quoted a price of \$1500 for new bags from Fast Ink. Every four weeks the meters at the square will be emptied and the others every six weeks. Continuing on in his report, Defibaugh mentioned the resignation of two part time officers, Officer Culbertson effective immediately and Officer Soffe April 30, 2021. Solicitor Steve Coccorese said he was okay with the resignations pending receipt of a letter.

MOTION: To regretfully accept Officer Culbertson's resignation effective immediately and Officer Soffe's effective April 30, 2021 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Council President Donald Stoner reminded council that they have a policy that only the President, Vice-President, Borough Manager and the Mayor can contact the solicitor about items. Stoner explained that it is done this way to prevent from being billed about things unknown. President Stoner encouraged approaching these individuals if an issue arises that needs addressed to the solicitor.

Council moved into the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on the summer Playground Program saying it operates with special insurance and normally runs 6-8 weeks. Coordinators are hired at a rate of \$10-\$12 per hour. Manager Stoy said he was uneasy about the having the program this year with the COVID virus and recommended skipping for one more year. Stoy continued on in his report to state that there were two prices obtained for the Borough Hall sidewalk replacement project, one will put brick down and replace the existing or pour concrete and the other only offers concrete. The Robert T. Henry Pharmacy and the First United Methodist Church are teaming up to bring vaccines to Mercersburg. Stoy noted that Medic 200 from Waynesboro Hospital has also provided some vaccinations in the area as well. In conclusion, Manager Stoy discussed Herbruck's truck traffic and noted that a Sponsorship Agreement has been created for review by council. GMS Funding Solutions was on hand to provide details on the agreement. Stoy explained that funding was secured from the MPO to "provide engineering to possibly reconfigure the intersection of Fort Loudon Road and South Main Street at the cemetery". Manager Stoy continued to explain that there will be no out of pocket expense for the borough and that they would be partnering with Herbrucks as a permittee of the project.

Council moved into the Committee Reports.

Michael Pedersen reported for Fire Board saying they have been meeting about financial needs.

Paul Sipes reported on the Streets Committee and said there were two handicap applications for review/approval by council. Borough Manager Stoy said he has been evaluating existing handicapped parking and so far there are about three that can be pulled due to the resident no longer living at the address.

No Old Business.

MOTION: To approve the handicap parking spot application for 54 South Main Street was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the handicap parking spot application for 62 Linden Avenue was made by Sean Grove, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved onto New Business.

Amy Kronenberg from GMS Funding Solutions introduced her colleague, Shelly Chilcote. Kronenberg said Herbrucks is working with PennDOT District 8 in regards to diverting truck traffic out of town. Kronenberg explained that GMS finds funding, she said there are issues with trucks turning from Route 16 to 75 on Constitution Avenue due to the sharp turn. Kronenberg said with help from Borough Manager Derek Stoy she was able to request \$125k from the Franklin County MPO which would provide engineering to reconfigure the intersection of Fort Loudon Road and South Main Street at the cemetery. Manager Stoy has meet with a rep from the cemetery for the project. Kronenberg explained that there would be no cost to the borough.

MOTION: To accept the Sponsorship and Cooperation Agreement between the Borough of Mercersburg and Herbruck's of Pennsylvania LLC was made by Raymond Minton, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To proceed with the Summer Playground Program was made by Anthony Frisby, second by Paul Sipes. Motion carried on a 6 to 1 vote. Dusty Stoner- Yay; Tom Heefner- Yay; Michael Pedersen- Yay; Paul Sipes- Yay; Sean Grove- Yay; Anthony Frisby- Yay; Raymond Minton- Yay.

MOTION: To give the Borough Manager, Derek Stoy, permission to interview for a Coordinator position for the Summer Playground Program was made by Anthony Frisby, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

Moving onto the sidewalk project in front of Borough Hall, Borough Manager Derek Stoy

explained that the Public Works department would have the prep work established.

MOTION: To proceed with Corey Heinbaugh Masonry's estimate of \$8600 for the sidewalk project in front of Borough Hall using bricks was made by Tom Heefner second by Paul Sipes. Motion carried on a 5 to 2 vote. Dusty Stoner- Nay; Tom Heefner- Yay; Michael Pedersen- Yay; Paul Sipes- Yay; Anthony Frisby- Yay; Sean Grove- Yay; Raymond Minton- Nay.

MOTION: To use Capital Reserve Funds for the Sidewalk Project in front of Borough Hall was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Dr. Michael Pedersen said he would like to table the decision on landscaping in front of Borough Hall in order to get more proposals. Pedersen also made recommendations to be taken to the Streets Committee to discuss. Items of discussion would be parking ticket increase, free parking on Wednesday and smart meters.

President Dusty Stoner discussed with council about sending a letter to the First United Methodist Church and Robert T. Henry Pharmacy expressing thanks for teaming up to bring COVID 19 vaccinations to Mercersburg. Council member Anthony Frisby said he would be glad to send the letters.

Council reviewed Committee meeting dates.

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: _____