

**Mercersburg Borough Council**  
**113 South Main Street**  
**Mercersburg, PA 17236**  
**June 14, 2021**  
**MINUTES**

**Attending:** 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, Preston Spahr, Joseph & Amy Burkot, Lisa Minton, Tom Suddeth, Michael Hicks, Tim Stanton, and unidentified others.

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Borough Manager Derek Stoy read a letter from Tim Stanton who expressed concern about the time frame of agenda postings on the website. A moment of silence was held for Ronny Hissong. President Donald Stoner Jr. read a letter by Greg Rotz. Amy Burkot spoke to council on behalf of Greg Rotz in regards to Parks Garbage service. Burkot asked about the possibility of having a “grievance committee”. Representative for the Mercersburg Rotary Club, Mike Hicks donated \$500 to the Summer Playground Program. Preston Spahr addressed council about the Vibrancy Committee stating that contributions are coming in and the next step is hiring a planner. Tom Suddeth said he would like to volunteer to be on the Zoning Hearing Board. Chris Ardinger will have applications for hometown hero banners sometime this summer for \$175.

**MOTION: To approve the May 10, 2021 meeting minutes as written was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer’s Report A & B for month ending May 31, 2021 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.**

Council moved onto the Mayor’s Report.

Mayor Defibaugh reported that he and Chief Zechman emptied coins in the meters at the square and encouraged others to volunteer. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony by the Chamber. There will be a walk/talk at the Zion Union Cemetary at 11 AM with Chris Frisby about the history of the cemetary and the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts buried. Defibaugh also noted that July 12, 19, 26<sup>th</sup> the Historic Society will do a walk through town and a history lesson at Fairfield Cemetary in August. Mayor Defibaugh announced that Officer Matthew Hudson has submitted his resignation and noted that he and Chief Zechman talked about schedules until

part time employees are hired. Mayor Defibaugh said there would be a Safety Committee meeting and would like council's blessing to regionalize with other municipalities. Council member Dr. Michael Pedersen asked the reason why Matthew Hudson resigned, Mayor Defibaugh explained that he has another full time job. Solicitor Steve Coccorese stated that he didn't know if an agreement was required and that an agreement to regionalize can't be made without a study and made a suggestion to council to contact Mayor Starliper in Waynesboro. Coccorese concluded that he didn't think there were any restrictions for Fulton/Franklin Counties.

No Solicitor Report.

No Engineer Report.

Council moved onto the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on the Summer Playground Program, Mercersburg Academy donated \$3000. The program will begin June 15<sup>th</sup> and run until July 29<sup>th</sup> with the week of July 4<sup>th</sup> off. The borough garage window replacement project application was reviewed by HARB & Property. Manager Stoy said the bulky item event was a huge success. Stoy noted that the Comcast Cable Agreement is listed under Old Business to vote on. Manager Derek Stoy spoke to council about the new borough website saying it needs voting on to accept as presented. The new website will go live June 16<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Defibaugh asked if tabs could be created for the police department on the new borough website, Manager Stoy said yes. A retroactive approval will be needed for repair from Musselman's Plastering LLC in the council room, Manager Stoy recommended a not to exceed price of \$800 for the motion. Stoy continued in his report to discuss the (ARPA) American Rescue Plan, the borough will receive \$160,353.24 in federal funding. Manager Stoy suggested to council opening another account at Orrstown Bank and asked them to decide how to spend the funds. A motion will be needed to cover expenditures related to backfilling of the cistern for the Borough Hall Sidewalk project to be paid out of Capital Improvement Funds. Schedule of Fees Resolution 4-21 will need approved to change price from \$5 to \$10 for parking meter violations and overtime parking violation. A tax exoneration for 331 North Main Street will need reviewed/approved, the applicant is a disabled veteran. Manager Stoy will be on vacation June 21-25. Stoy concluded that there will not be a need for a Personnel and Street Committee meeting.

Council moved into the Committee Reports.

Dr. Michael Pedersen reported on Fire Board saying that there are not enough volunteers, there is not enough personnel in case of a fire or EMS issues. Pedersen explained that additional funds are needed to cover the last quarter of employee wages. President Donald Stoner said that it could be looked at in the finance meeting and that he spoke to MMP&W and they aren't hiring until January. Vice-President Tom Heefner said his biggest complaint is that they don't have a budget and suggested a budget from July-June so that council can see the mileage increase. Manager Stoy asked if the fire/EMS was separated and noted that fire will

double.

**MOTION: To not make a financial commitment to MMP&W until the Finance Committee Meeting was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.**

Tom Heefner reported on the HARB Committee, application COA 2021-06-01. Heefner explained that this was an application from Richard Rotz to work with the borough to replace the borough garage windows at 118 South Main Street.

**MOTION: To approve application COA 2021-06-01 noting that the proposed alteration make changes to a non contributing building in an area of low visibility. The changes do not meet the Secretary of Interior's guidelines but that HARB recommends approval providing that the infill reflect the size of the original opening and be made the same was made by Tom Heefner, second by Dr. Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

Raymond Minton reported on the Property Committee Meeting for application COA 2021-06-01 from HARB. Minton said Mr. Rotz is willing to split the cost 50%. \$10,654 will be the borough amount to be paid from Capital Improvement Funds.

**MOTION: To approve \$10,654 to be paid from Capital Improvement Funds for replacement of garage windows at 118 South Main Street was made by Tom Heefner, second by Dr. Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

Council moved into Old Business.

**MOTION: To table the Comcast Franchise Agreement until next month was made by Tom Heefner, second by Dr. Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

Council moved onto New Business.

**MOTION: To table the Schedule of Fees Resolution 4-21 until January 2022 was made by Dr. Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve borough sidewalk expenditures not to exceed \$3000 and to be paid from the Capital Improvement Funds was made by Tom Heefner, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To retroactively approve council room plastering from Musselman's Plastering, LLC not to exceed \$1200 was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To allow borough administration to proceed with the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant application process was made by Tom Heefner, second by Dr. Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To accept Matthew Hudson's resignation with remorse was made by Dr. Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve Brian C. Patton's disabled veterans tax exemption for 331 North Main Street was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve Thomas Suddeth to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board was made by Raymond Minton, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

Council reviewed committee meeting dates.

**MOTION: To adjourn regular session at 8:50PM and enter into Executive Session for personnel reasons not to reconvene was made by Tom Heefner, second by Dr. 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: \_\_\_\_\_