

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
August 9, 2021
MINUTES

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

Absent: Dr. Michael Pedersen

Guests/Press: Lisa Minton, David Moore, Joe Burkot, Andy Abel

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Borough Solicitor, Steve Coccorese addressed “public comments and general rules of decorum for the meeting”. Coccorese asked that all public comments be done at the beginning of the meeting. Coccorese added that comments are to be withheld throughout the meeting and added that council can choose to change that if they wish. Each individual would be limited to five minutes of public comment and asked that all side remarks and comments be kept at a minimum and address one another with common courtesy and respect. President Donald Stoner also added that personal attacks would not be tolerated.

Andy Abel with the Mercersburg Journal shared with council that he is teaching a community development course at Gettysburg College and has chosen Mercersburg as the point of interest. Abel asked permission to present his group’s proposals to council.

MOTION: To approve the July 12, 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 July 31, 2021 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into the Mayor’s Report.

Mayor Defibaugh reported that the new ice cream shop “The Moo” has opened and commented that it was nice to see a long line. Mayor said the fair starts Sunday with a talent show Monday night. There were thirty traffic stops for the month of July, Mayor Defibaugh expressed his thanks to the Police Department and shared the dangers of traffic stops and encouraged the community to also express thanks to the department. President Stoner reminded Mayor Defibaugh that letters were still not received from resigned officers. Mayor Defibaugh stated “you will get them tomorrow”.

Police report in packet.

Council moved into the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy asked Summer Playground Coordinator and council member Anthony Frisby to speak briefly on the program. Frisby thanked Donald Stoner and his family for his help and Bob Friese for transportation. Frisby said they did various activities including two trips to Saunderosa, toured Romeos Pizza to learn how to make a pizza and went bowling at Nellie Fox. Frisby said he would be happy to be the coordinator next year. President Donald Stoner commented saying "Anthony did one heck of an outstanding job!". Manager Stoy asked council about applying for the Franklin County Soil Conservation District's Low Volume Road Program for Meyers Alley. Stoy said he received an email stating that the Borough was the only eligible grant applicant for the program, the full grant amount is \$36,488 for Jailhouse Alley and it will be awarded to the borough. The Comcast Cable Agreement will need voted on under Old Business. Manager Stoy asked for council's approval on Daryl Helman's resignation and expressed his regrets saying "Daryl was a key part to our public works and will be missed". Stoy said the borough will be searching for potential candidates to fill the position. The first ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) payment was received in early July. A second payment will be received at some point next year. Manager Stoy reported that he has received an email from the county stating that there is going to be change on how the tax bills get mailed out. Currently, the county prints them and the tax collector picks them up, stuffs the envelopes and mails them out. The county now wants to have a third-party print, stuff and mail them. Stoy expressed his concern stating that our tax collector saves money by sending multiple taxes together instead of mailing separately and feels this is getting away from "personal service". Stoy said he was invited to a County Commissioner meeting on Wednesday, August 1st to discuss the topic in public session. Stoy continued saying that after further investigation he discovered that the Borough of Chambersburg was the reason for the change. Stoy attached two emails from the county assessment office for council to review. Stoy concluded his report by saying the need for the personnel meeting will need to be discussed at the council meeting.

Council moved into the Committee Reports.

Vice-President Tom Heefner reported on Fire Board. Council President Dusty Stoner said he talked to the MMP&W Fire Chief and asked for a budget. Stoner said the books get audited on a yearly basis with Sollenberger. President Stoner said the Treasurer of the Fire Board resigned.

Raymond Minton reported on the Property Committee. Minton said discussion was made about floor samples for council room and purchasing extra that can be taken up and replaced if one gets ruined. A recommendation was made to council.

MOTION: To approve a quote from Henry's Floor covering of \$2,031 for square carpet tile installation was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the contract with Gladhill Services for pest control, including an initial visit fee of \$175 after the initial visit to treat the garage, administration office and police department first floor was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy explained that the Findlay Park escrow account was established in 2006 when the Dorsey Builders left town and the Borough of Mercersburg took over. Stoy said the Sewer Authority took control of the pump station. Borough Manager Stoy gave three options towards purchasing the new Ford F-350. Option A- To use all of the funds out of the escrow account (\$34,356.22) towards the purchase of the truck, Option B- To use the escrow account to pay for Sewer Authority pump station upgrades and use remaining funds towards the purchase of the new truck or Option C- To use the Joint Equipment Fund to purchase the new truck. Stoy noted that Solicitor Sam Wiser said it was okay to use the entire amount out of the escrow account towards the purchase of the truck. Manager Stoy also noted that the engineer is expecting the pump station upgrades will cost \$16,000 to \$18,000.

MOTION: To set aside funding from the the Findlay Park escrow account to address the pumping station upgrades as described in the Sewer Authority's needs assessment and request that the remaining funds be applied towards the purchase of the new Ford F-350 truck was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: The remaining balance not covered by the Findlay Park escrow account to be paid for out of the Joint Equipment Fund to purchase the new Ford F-350, not to exceed \$58,000 was made by Paul Sipes, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy said Gary Aholt will be laminating the council table for \$400 and since it is under \$500 it doesn't need a motion.

Council moved into Old Business.

Borough council Solicitor Steve Coccorese said discussion about the agreement has been going on for a while going back and forth between Comcast's attorneys and his office and believes it is now in a form that is suitable for council's review. Manager Stoy said to keep in mind if approved, the proposal is there to cancel the borough garage cable service and reminded them that they will have to approve/disapprove the fire department to continue their cable service paid for by the borough's back end of the quarterly franchise payments. Solicitor Steve Coccorese recapped saying the borough was provided with free cable service from Comcast which now they want to charge the borough, the biggest change.

MOTION: To approve the Comcast agreement as written to include providing service at the MMP&W Volunteer Fire Company at 132 North Main Street was made by Paul Sipes, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into New Business.

MOTION: To accept public works employee Daryl Helman’s resignation regretfully was made by Tom Heefer, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

Council President Dusty Stoner commented that he would never fault an employee for bettering themselves saying he was a blessing while the borough had him.

MOTION: To allow Borough Manager, Derek Stoy to write a letter about the tax bill mailing to present to the County Board of Commissioners was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

President Stoner added to include in the letter that the borough shouldn’t be pushed into something the Borough of Chambersburg wants to do.

MOTION: To allow Borough Manager Derek Stoy to apply for the Low Volume Road Grant application through the Franklin County Soil Conservation District was made by Raymond Minton, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Councilman Sean Grove asked for council’s approval to put out purple lights on the square to bring awareness to National Recovery Month for September supporting those struggling with substance abuse and those who have lost the battle.

MOTION: To allow/support putting up purple lights at the square for the whole month of September to recognize substance abuse for National Recovery Month was made by Anthony Frisby, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Defibaugh asked when the date would be to put the lights up and offered his assistance.

Council reviewed committee meeting dates.

MOTION: To adjourn the regular session meeting at 8:15 PM and enter into Executive Session for personnel matters, not to reconvene, was made by Anthony Frisby, 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: _____