

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
December 29, 2021
MINUTES

Attending: Donald Stoner Jr., Tom Heefner, Paul Sipes, Raymond Minton, Michael Pedersen, Anthony Frisby, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, and Mayor Roger Defibaugh

Absent: Sean Grove, Secretary/Treasurer Stacey Golden

Guests/Press: Andy Abel, Tom Suddeth, Joe Burkot, Tim Stanton, Cat Bonciu

Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and asked for public comment.

Joe Burkot stated that inflation is very high and felt now was not the time for a tax increase.

MOTION: To approve the December 13, 2021 meeting minutes as written was made by Raymond Minton second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

No Treasurer's Report/Bills Payable.

No Mayor's Report.

No Police Report.

No Borough Manager's Report.

No Public Works Report.

No Old Business.

Council moved into New Business to discuss the Mayor's veto on Tax Levy Ordinance 2-32. Mayor Defibaugh vetoed the ordinance stating on the ordinance document "I veto this tax increase due to other funds available in the budget to cover." Mr. Stoner acknowledged Mayor Defibaugh for comment. Mayor Defibaugh explained he was given a chart stating Mercersburg was the "highest paid per capita" in Franklin County. He stated people on a fixed income could not pay for the tax increase and that was one of the reasons why he vetoed it. He also wanted to use UDAG funds for the tax increase. Mr. Stoner explained that several finance meetings and council meetings were held with no objections from anyone on the proposed tax increase. He stated the fire department is getting all the income from the tax increase.

Cat Bonciu stated he saved money for years when he was on council and was not sure why a tax

increase was needed.

Tim Stanton asked if a financial analysis was performed on the fire department as it pertained to call volume and funding needed. Mr. Stoner explained EMS billing and how insurance companies manage EMS transport payments.

MOTION: To override Mayor Roger Defibaugh's veto on Tax Levy Ordinance 2-32 was made by Anthony Frisby, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To adjourn the regular session meeting to an executive session for personnel matters not to reconvene at 1:35 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted for approval by Derek Stoy with the use of his meeting notes and audio recording.

Date approved: _____ Motion by: _____ Second by: _____