

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
January 24, 2022
MINUTES

Attending: Donald Stoner Jr., Tom Heefner, Paul Sipes, Joseph Burkot, Tim Stanton, Raymond Minton, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Secretary/Treasurer Stacey Golden, Mayor Michael Pedersen & Solicitor Steve Coccorese

Absent: Anthony Frisby

Guests/Press: Andy Abel, Shyanna Taylor, Grace Mohler, Skylee Hensley, Malachi Krawczak, Avery Strick, Loretta Clever, Crystall Riess, Jayme Keefer, Don Palesky, Lisa Minton, Robert Small, Tom Suddeth

President Stoner called the meeting to order at 7 PM and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Girl Scout Troop 28G introduced themselves and asked council questions about getting involved in the community. Manager Stoy replied by saying that bird boxes and bat houses would be put up in the spring and he could get in touch with them as the time gets closer. President Donald Stoner challenged the Troop to come up with ideas and bring them back to council.

MOTION: To approve the January 3, 2021, meeting minutes as written was made by Tom Heefner second by Paul Sipes. Motion carried with one abstainee. Tim Stanton abstained due to not being at the previous meeting.

Treasurer's Report/Bills Payable.

MOTION: To approve the year's end Treasurer's Report for December 31, 2021 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Pedersen said he learned that the Mayor gets a lot of suggestions from the town. He reported that he has been meeting with mayors from the surrounding area. Mayor Pedersen said he likes to be involved in the community. Borough Manager Derek Stoy said that the police department had a report for the January 3, 2022 meeting. Mayor Pedersen stated that he asked the police to start being present at the meetings.

Council moved into the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on the intersection Engineering RFP at Fort Loudon Road and South Main Street. Manager Stoy said the project "produced seven companies for

review” and that PennDOT ECMS system requires all companies to be weighted in assorted topics. Stoy said the RFP’s were reviewed by himself, GMS Funding Solutions with Herbrucks and have mutually agreed upon naming Traffic Planning and Design as the company to award the project to. Stoy asked council for a motion to state this pending PennDOT approval of the same firm. Manager Stoy reminded council that the project is not final and the engineering will need done to see if it is possible and that the funds are being paid for with MPO funds from the county not costing the borough any money. Stoy announced that there are two gentlemen interested in serving on the Water Authority, if approved the resolutions will need to be approved. Manager Stoy said there was a budget surplus for the year and explained how he got the figure.

President Stoner commented that he noticed quite a few people thanking public works for snow removal.

Vice-President Tom Heefner reported on Fire Board saying they are trying to resolve issues going back at least five years when they became a corporation incorporating the fire part and the ambulance part under one corporation. Heefner said there seems to be a lot of conflict in different parts of the charter.

Council moved into New Business.

MOTION: To approve Traffic Planning and Design Inc. to be the engineer of record for Fort Loudon Road and South Main Street project pending PennDOT approval was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Paul Sipes asked how this was going to be assembled. Manager Stoy said get everything on paper, existing survey done first, get a design and overlay on existing conditions, and then bring the stakeholders in. Stoy said “we can’t do anything until they see what is there and what needs to be there”.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 07-22 for appointing Robert Small to the Water Authority was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 08-22 for appointing Jacob Morgan to the Water Authority was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve HARB application COA 2022-01-01 for 30 North Main Street for porch repairs and boards on the back barn as per Mindy Crawford’s recommendations set forth in her report dated December 17, 2021 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton, All ayes, motion carried.

Manager Derek Stoy spoke to council about the proposed changes to the employee handbook and personnel committee recommendations. Solicitor Steve Coccorese explained that the

changes were for incidents where employees would be present with children, supervising children such as the Summer Playground Program.

MOTION: To accept the proposed changes to the employee handbook as recommended by the personnel committee for all new employees to have mandatory live scan fingerprinting and criminal background checks was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Manager Derek Stoy explained to council the changes proposed by the personnel committee regarding the change in holiday pay. Instead of double pay and reduced hours when working on a holiday the employee would get the 8 hour holiday pay in addition to time and half for whatever hours worked on the holiday.

MOTION: To approve the proposed change to the holiday pay policy as where if an hourly employee works on an observed holiday, the employee will receive 8 hours of holiday pay at their normal rate and if called in to work they will receive 1.5 times his or her regular rate of pay. If the employee works on a weekend whereas either Independence Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or New Year's Day falls on, said employee will receive double their rate of pay for hours worked was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. Motion carried on a 5 to 1 vote. Donald Stoner, Yay; Paul Sipes, Yay; Raymond Minton, Yay; Tom Heefner, Yay; Tim Stanton, Yay; Joe Burkot, Nay.

MOTION: To hire a part time employee at the water treatment plant at \$20 per hour with no benefits and the water authority paying 100% of wages was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

Council discussed changing the date of the council meeting and possible options. Andy Abel with the Mercersburg Journal offered to advertise the change for free.

MOTION: To change the council meeting date to the second Tuesday of the month was made by Joe Burkot, second by Tim Stanton. The motion was withdrawn due to council member Paul Sipes having other obligations.

President Stoner appointed a temporary committee named "Meeting Date Committee" appointing Joe Burkot, Tim Stanton and Paul Sipes with Mr. Burkot being the chairman.

Council went over the meeting dates.

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:01 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: _____