

**Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting Minutes**  
**113 South Main Street, Mercersburg, PA 17236**  
**Monday, June 26, 2023**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President Stoner at 7 pm.

Present were President Stoner, Vice President Heefner, councilmen Minton, Frisby, Burkot, Mayor Pedersen, Chief of Police John Zechman, and Solicitor Steve Coccorese. Councilmen Sipes and Morgan were absent.

Cat Bonciu led the Pledge of Allegiance at the request of President Stoner.

**Guests/Press:** See attached sign-in sheet.

**Public Comment/Guest**

Pedersen presented John Jay Thompson with the Harriette Lane Award for his contributions to the historic preservation of the Borough.

Tom Steiger and Judy Bonciu voiced their concerns about truck traffic. Price stated she would bring these concerns to the next Streets Committee meeting.

**Minutes**

On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the May 8, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted.

On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the May 22, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted.

**Treasurer Report/Bills Payable**

On a Minton/Heefner motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the Treasurer's Report bills payable as of May 31, 2023, as submitted.

**Mayor's Report**

Pedersen presented Council with a summary of his activities throughout the Borough.

**Police Report**

Zechman provided his May report to Council for which there were no comments or questions.

**Solicitor**

Coccorese reserved comments for the Executive Session.

**Engineer Report**

Not present at the meeting; no report submitted.

**Borough Manager's Report**

Price introduced Borough Secretary Donna Irons-Zimmerman. She also updated Council on the installation of a new server, status of the blanket sidewalk permit, truck/ bus signs on Park Street, code violations, repairs to the back of the borough building, and cost comparison of parking meters.

Burkot asked about the 401C status relating to historic preservation grants.

Minton asked about the volume of PA One Calls recorded and Price said it was tied to the

construction project on Buchanan Trail West.

**Department of Public Works Report** was provided to Council in their meeting packet.

### **Committee Reports**

- A. **Act 537:** None.
- B. **Finance:** None.
- C. **Fire Board:** Heefner said the meet-and-greet event at the Fire Department was successful.
- D. **HARB:** None.
- E. **Nominating:** None.
- F. **Personnel:** Discussed in Executive Session. Council was provided June 19, 2023, meeting minutes.
- G. **Planning:** None.
- H. **Property/Technology:** Burkot said grants for the Band Building are key using the 401C status for grants, as noted in the June 7, 2023, meeting minutes provided to Council.
- I. **Police/Safety Committee:** None.
- J. **Streets:** June 5, 2023, meeting minutes provided to Council. Burkot questioned his attendance at the June meeting. Heefner raised the issue of the sign visibility at the Route 16 East sign.
- K. **Zoning Hearing Board:** Price said she has a venue and will move forward setting the first meeting date.

### **Old Business**

On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council unanimously voted to appoint Donald Stoner to the Fire Board per Resolution 04-23.

On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council unanimously voted to table Resolution 06-23 for the Zoning Hearing Board until the July meeting.

### **New Business**

On a Burkot/Frisby motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the expenditure of \$600 for Mayor Pedersen to attend the State Mayors Conference.

On a Frisby/Burkot motion, Council unanimously voted to have the Borough Manager speak to other banks in the area and see if they would be interested in hosting this program.

On a Minton/Hefner motion, Council unanimously voted to table the recommendation and approval of a Parking Permit which businesses could purchase at a rate of \$150.00 per quarter, with the notation that it would be one pass per business, for one space that could be used for a maximum of two-hour increments.

Stoner asked if an Ordinance would be required and Coccorese said it would depend on current language in the Parking Ordinance. Any changes would have to be advertised in advance of a Council meeting.

On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the purchase of three Blink Cameras, brackets, and annual cloud storage with the initial expense not to exceed \$500.00.

Burkot said there would be an additional annual fee of approximately \$100.

On a Heefner/Burkot motion, Council unanimously voted to add Juneteenth as a Borough holiday beginning 2024.

Minton asked if free parking would apply and was told it would.

Stoner asked Council for approval to add to the agenda the acceptance of a resignation letter of an employee. Motion made by Minton, seconded by Frisby.

On a Minton/Frisby motion, Council unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Tessa Holtry who texted Stoner that morning.

### **Correspondence**

Council discussed correspondence requesting rezoning Landis Drive from industrial to commercial to allow for restaurants and retail shops and a 25-acre townhouse development on Keefer Drive, now zoned planned commercial.

Coccorese said the developer is asking for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance with no changes to the map which Council can approve. If Council doesn't want to make an amendment, a variance would be required through the zoning hearing board.

Stoner asked if the zoning change would affect the property in question only and Coccorese said changing permissible uses in a defined zone are borough-wide for that zone. He then asked if the Borough charged property owners fees for the cost of amending the Zoning Ordinance. The Solicitor said he would review the existing Fee Schedule prior to the July meeting.

Heefner said he supports development of the land behind Food Lion.

On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm for an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. The meeting was reconvened at 8:37 pm.

On a Frisby/Minton motion, Council unanimously voted to amend the agenda to include the discussion concerning the possible zoning ordinance changes.

On a Minton/Heefner motion, Council unanimously voted to have Coccorese start that process and to investigate whether we (the Borough) are able to pass those fees onto the individuals requesting this (the zoning amendment).

Coccorese asked Council if he was to proceed regardless, and Council said yes. He said he would draft the ordinance which will need to be advertised for public comment before Council can decide and investigate the fees that can be charged.

President Stoner asked for a motion to add to the agenda getting Mrs. Zimmerman bonded.

On a Minton/Heefner motion, Council unanimously voted to add the bonding of Borough Secretary Donna Irons-Zimmerman to the agenda.

On a Heefner/Minton motion, Council unanimously voted to get Mrs. Zimmerman bonded.

### **Confirm Meetings**

- Council: July 10, 2023, July 24, 2023, 7 pm
- Finance: TBA
- HARB: July 11, 2023, 7 pm
- Nominating: TBA
- Personnel: July 6, 2023, 7 pm
- Planning: TBA
- Property: July 5, 2023, 7 pm
- Sewer: July 13, 2023, 7 pm
- Water Authority: July 20, 2023, 7 pm
- Streets: July 26, 2023, 7 pm
- Zoning Hearing Board: TBA

On a Minton/Frisby motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Irons-Zimmerman  
Borough Secretary

*ALL GUEST/CORRESPONDENCE IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER PER REQUEST/RECEIPT*