

Mercersburg Borough Council
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
December 9, 2019
MINUTES

Attending: President Donald (Dusty) Stoner Jr., Vice-President Jeff Main, Amy Burkot, Dr. Michael Pedersen, Tom Heefner, Sean Grove, Paul Sipes, Mayor Roger Defibaugh, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Borough Secretary Stacey Golden and Solicitor Steve Coccoresse

Absent: None

Guests/Press: Rachel Nichols, Lena Eckstine, Raymond & Lisa Minton

President Donald Stoner Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked the Amy Burkot to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance since it was her last meeting.

Preston Spahr gave a report on the Mercersburg Vibrancy/Steering Committee saying he attended a PennDot meeting. Spahr also noted that he met with an advisor from M&T who helps communities get affordable housing. 501 3C designation is due very soon, attorney Tom Steiger is taking care of the details.

MOTION: To approve November 11, 2019 minutes was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy said he would be closing out the year bills payable between January 10th-15th.

MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable for the month ending November 30, 2019 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Defibaugh thanked Amy Burkot for her service as a council member. Mayor Defibaugh also acknowledged the Public Works Department for putting up Christmas lights. Defibaugh reported that meters would be free for the holidays and said that he and Chief Zechman checked all the meters and that there were some that were foggy. Seventy five meters were pulled and cleaned by Public Works employee Butch Mowen and his father who Mayor Defibaugh acknowledged. Borough Manager Derek Stoy said to think about replacing the meters for the future, Vice-President Main said to get a price and bring to the Streets Committee meeting. Defibaugh reported that he and Sgt. Wertz went to a school meeting about crossing guards and eliminating the West California crossing and walking down West Seminary because of the staffing issue. Officer Culbertson will be coming back around February/March. Mayor Defibaugh talked to council about getting rid of the third police cruiser and selling to another agency. Mayor Defibaugh said the only thing that needs done before that is taking the radio out. Defibaugh said he would be exploring that and would have more information at the next meeting. Paul Sipes reported that he is able to read the police reports now.

Council moved onto the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on Johnston's Run Trail noting he had a final inspection with DCNR. The only outstanding issue is the benches not being installed. Burdette Ironworks will build them, local schools will then paint them with a mural and then they will be clear coated and installed. DCNR is not requiring an extension. Stoy anticipates having them installed by February. 2020 budget has been advertised and will need approved along with the new resolution that can be used when millage is not changed. Borough Manager Stoy said the Franklin Area Tax Board budget needs reviewed. Personnel meeting will be held on December 16th to discuss handbook updates. A

reorganizational meeting is required on the first Monday of the calendar year by boroughs. Judge Eyer will be swearing in newly elected council members. Meeting schedules are under new business to review, dates are remaining the same. Manager Stoy reported that the Streets Committee has reviewed an update to the existing parking ordinance 1-35, the police department recommended that a boot ordinance be implemented. Stoy said he would have the proposed ordinance for the January 6th meeting. The Finance Committee reviewed the 2018 audit with no findings. Stoy noted that three applications were received for the HARB Committee and applications were received for the Zoning Hearing Board. Stoy said that leaf pickup has been postponed due to the rain. Vice-President Jeff Main inquired about the new truck. Manager Stoy said the truck was purchased from Keystone Ford and is at US Municipal being finished.

MOTION: To approve the 2018 audit was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Jeff Main reported on Fire Board. Main said insurance is being purchased for six of their employees.

Jeff Main reported on HARB. Meetings were approved for the first Tuesday of the month. An application was received and approved for a 6 foot fence at 37 North Main, COA 2019-12-01.

MOTION: To approve HARB application COA 2019-12-01 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on the Personnel meeting saying that the handbook is being reviewed.

No Old Business to report. Council moved onto New Business.

MOTION: To approve Franklin County Area Tax Bureau proposed 2020 operating budget was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All nays, motion failed.

MOTION: To disapprove the Franklin County Area Tax Bureau proposed 2020 operating budget was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To accept the 2020 borough budget was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 10-19 for 2020, setting the tax rate for 2020, was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To keep the meeting dates schedule the same as 2019 for 2020 was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve appointing Raymond Minton to the HARB Committee was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To appoint Lena Eckstine to the Zoning Hearing Board was made by Paul Sipes, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Michael Pedersen asked about the garbage in the alley stacked up. Borough Manager Stoy said there was more than one owner and some progress was being made but ceased. Manager Stoy said he would relight the fire and have something prepared for the next meeting.

Council reviewed upcoming committee meeting dates.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 7:52 PM was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Regular session resumed at 8:56 PM.

MOTION: To approve Rockwell Construction to perform a renovation budget study in the amount not to exceed \$1,500 was made by Tom Heefner, Jeff Main second. Amy Burkot no, remaining ayes, motion passed on a 6-1 vote.

MOTION: Borough Council will only deal with the property owner and or a representative designated by the property owner in writing in any subject matters as it pertains to their property was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

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: _____