

Mercersburg Borough Council
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
April 27, 2020
MINUTES

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

Absent: None

Guests/Press: N/A

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM with a roll call and announced that council met on March 16, 2020 in Executive Session to discuss real estate matters, also council met on April 13, 2020 in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

President Stoner read over questions with responses submitted to council from a borough resident. The floor was then opened up for public comments. Council was questioned by a few residents about the borough's letter of intent to Orrstown Bank. Several residents expressed their concerns. Council along with Solicitor Steve Coccorese addressed the concerns. Mr. Coccorese stated that the borough's letter of intent was "non binding" and was purely a gesture of good faith that the borough was interested in the Orrstown Bank building concluding that it was not formal. Vice-President Jeff Main emphasized that it would be addressed further when council could hold a public meeting in person.

MOTION: To approve the March 9, 2020 minutes was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report A & B for months ending March 31, 2020 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved onto the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Defibaugh began his report by thanking the citizens for their cooperation with the COVID 19 pandemic. The mayor addressed opening parking meters and said it would depend on Governor Wolfe.

Council moved onto the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy on behalf of the borough employees thanked council for their understanding with the COVID 19 pandemic. Manager Stoy continued with saying that staffing is still operating at a limited schedule and stated that hopefully by May 8th things will start to progress. Stoy explained Resolutions 15-20, 16-20, 17-20, 18-20 and 19-20. Manager Stoy said the police garage door is in "dire need" to be replaced and suggested that the purchase be made from Martin's Garage Doors with the funds coming out of Capital Improvement. There were no nominations for the Harriet Lane award. Manager Stoy recommended to Council that the Summer Playground Program be cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Stoy commented in his report "Although I don't want this, I feel it's best for everyone". Borough Manager Stoy made a brief comment on the letter of intent with Orrstown Bank confirming what Solicitor Coccorese explained. Stoy asked for a retroactive approval on a invoice for COVID 19 cleaning. Lastly, Manager Stoy advised council about a CD that matured the beginning of April for roughly \$26,000. Due to the COVID 19 and not being

able to meet, a decision was not able to be made about which direction to go. Stoy deposited the money into the Capital Improvement Fund and asked council to decide to keep it there or reinvest it.

No Old Business. Council moved into New Business.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 15-20, to sell a 2008 Ford Police Interceptor, was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 16-20, to sell a 1997 Ford F-350 truck, was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 17-20, extending the real property tax discount period and waiving penalties in accordance with ACT 15 of 2020, was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 18-20, continued proclamation of local disaster emergency, was made by Tom Heefner, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 19-20, amending and updating the Mercersburg Employee Manual, was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Council discussed the Summer Playground Program. Borough Manager Derek Stoy commented that some funding was left over from last year but wouldn't be enough to cover this year. Stoy also said that letters did go out for funding and stated that the academy said they would provide funding as in previous years.

MOTION: To cancel the Summer Playground Program as historically planned and follow up with alternate planning when Governor Wolfe lifts the stay at home order with funds remaining to be used for next year was made by Paul Sipes, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

President Donald Stoner asked Solicitor Steve Coccorese to read the letter of Intent to Orrstown Bank.

MOTION: To approve sending the Letter of Intent to Orrstown Bank was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Paul Sipes asked what happened to the garage door at the police department, Manager Stoy said it is old, Mayor Defibaugh commented that it is a safety hazard.

MOTION: To approve a garage door replacement for the police department from Martin's Garage Doors in the amount of \$1,180.00 to be taken out of Capital Improvement was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To keep the CD in the Capital Improvement Fund was made by Tom Heefner, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Defibaugh stated that a letter of resignation from a police officer that was originally submitted was withdrawn and the officer is now staying.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy stated that the COVID 19 cleaning was the whole borough building. Tom Heefner asked if there was a program that would give the borough refunds in emergency times. Discussion was made about checking into it.

MOTION: To approve the COVID 19 cleaning invoice from SERVPRO in the amount of \$2,345.00 was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Paul Sipes had some questions on a few topics. Sipes asked about hiring another IT person to assist with zoom meetings. Manager Stoy and Jeff Main both stated that the property committee would need to handle first. Sipes also asked if the fire department was impacted by COVID 19, Jeff Main said that due to HIPAA he couldn't respond but stated that there is going to be a meeting on the 30th and said the borough wouldn't be impacted and the cost was minimal. Main said the fire department is looking into reimbursements. Sipes concluded his questions with the sidewalk issues on Oregon Street and the debris pile on Fayette Street. Manager Stoy said nothing can be done on Oregon Street until the state addresses it. Stoy said he has attended meetings in Harrisburg about the elevation issues. Jeff Main suggested the solicitor checking into liability issues. Solicitor Coccorese addressed Fayette Street saying it has "taken a back seat", Manager Stoy said that there was discussion a month ago with the resident living there. Stoy noted that the source of the problem is the property owners. Discussion was made about which direction to go including taking legal action. President Stoner said it would be discussed again at the next meeting.

Council discussed the next council meeting date options as the second scheduled meeting falls on Memorial Day.

MOTION: To hold the next council meeting on May 18, 2020 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Council President Donald Stoner confirmed committee meeting dates.

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:30 PM was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. 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: _____