

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
September 14, 2020
MINUTES

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

Absent : None

Guests/Press: Numerous Via Zoom

President Donald Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and read over virtual meeting public comment instructions.

President Stoner opened up the floor for public comments.

Preston Spahr gave an update on the Vibrancy Steering Committee. Spahr thanked Borough Manager Derek Stoy for providing two months of updates on PennDOT relationships. Spahr reported on meeting with Peters Township saying they were very receptive, Spahr said monthly minutes would be provided to the township supervisor. Spahr anticipates meeting again at the supervisor's meeting to present an agreement between them and borough council. Spahr noted that he would be attending Montgomery Township's meetings also to present the same information. Spahr concluded speaking about a potential opportunity for joint productions with Star Theater.

Amy Burkot addressed the possibility of putting up hometown hero flags, President Stoner commented that he would like to talk to Chris Ardinger from the Chamber of Commerce about it and it would have to be researched and evaluated. Burkot expressed concern about a desolate property in the borough that has a sidewalk that needs repair and appears "dangerous". President Dusty Stoner asked Borough Manager Derek Stoy to look at the property. Burkot asked why the UDAG account was used for the MACWELL Trail and stated that she recalled council agreeing not to use the account for community funds. Borough Manager Derek Stoy explained that some of the work couldn't be completed "in kind" and council agreed not to use the general fund but use the UDAG account.

Andi Frey addressed council about the website and updating the website. Council discussed getting an RFP for the website to review multiple vendor proposals. Amy Burkot commented about the need for an updated website, Dr. Michael Pedersen commented that he thought the updated website is a great idea but is open to seeing what else is out there. President Dusty Stoner said the Property Committee would handle the matter and put out an RFP.

Dr. Elizabeth George gave an update on Oregon Street and the trail. George expressed concern about grass growing on Oregon Street and the need for it to be cut. Manager Derek Stoy said PennDOT is aware of the situation but cannot control the situation adding that it cannot be touched without an occupancy permit. Dr. George was advised to talk to Bonnie Keefer, Representative for Jesse Topper or Kathleen Gunnell, Representative for Senator Judy Ward who use the borough building monthly.

MOTION: To accept the August 10, 2020 minutes was made by Tom Heefner, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report A & B for month ending August 31, 2020 was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved onto the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Defibaugh reported that the floor is down in the police department, the electric work and drop ceiling will be done soon. Mayor Defibaugh stated that he had no plans of cancelling Trick or Treating.

Council moved onto the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported that Resolution 24-20 needed approval. Stoy explained that the resolution is for Act 44, created in 2009 for all municipal pension systems mandating actuarial funding standards. Manager Stoy continued in his report stating that he attached an email from Solicitor Sam Wiser regarding a lawsuit that could potentially provide the borough with thousands of dollars from Purdue Pharma if chosen to opt in. Stoy stated he contacted Council President Dusty Stoner to discuss providing a letter to opt into the lawsuit, Manager Derek Stoy explained that the only cost was the solicitor fee of \$150. Stoy requested a motion that would allow all police department renovation costs to be taken from the Capital Improvement Fund. Stoy gave an update on McConnell Alley stating it has been paved and topsoil has been placed, the project will be completed once the inlet filter is received and installed. Manager Stoy commented in his report that he is looking for another project to apply for another grant through the Conservation District and that applications need to be submitted by October 16th. Stoy asked that council to provide direction as to what to do with the website suggesting putting an RFP out to allow companies to give the borough proposals. Stoy furthered his comments by saying companies could be asked to give presentations and that the RFP is specific as to how to incorporate online water and sewer payments supporting the existing billing software. Two Right to Know requests were submitted for the month of August.

Council moved into Committee Reports.

Vice President Jeff Main reported on Fire Board and thanked everyone for donations.

Council moved onto Old Business.

Council discussed quotes for the IT system upgrade for the police department. Once more quotes are received it will be taken to the Property Committee for further review. Vice-President Jeff Main commended Ryan's Computer Consulting Services stating that the MMP&W uses Ryan and he is reliable and his work is good. Borough Manager Derek Stoy commented that it would be cleaner to have one IT person for the whole municipality building.

MOTION: To approve Ryan's Computer Consulting Services quote of \$2,390.00 for upgrading the IT system for the police department to include installing security appliances and upgrading existing dell towers to Windows 10 and load applicable programs for upgrade was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into New Business.

MOTION: To approve all expenditures related to the police department renovations to come out of the Capital Improvement Funds was made by Tom Heefner, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To retroactively approve Zody's Moving & Storage, Inc. estimate of \$628.58 was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 24-20, adopting written procedures detailing how professional services are chosen for its non-uniformed employee pension plan in order to comply with Act 44 and the Auditor General's recommendation, was made by Jeff Main, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Solicitor Steve Coccoresse added that this was not new procedures for the borough and that the resolution just put it into writing.

MOTION: To approve the police department’s request for body armour replacement of two vests and to place in the 2021 budget for the remaining vests to be purchased was made by Jeff Main, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To retroactively approve the application that Salzmann Hughes submitted on behalf of the borough regarding the Purdue Pharma lawsuit was made by Paul Sipes, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve hiring of Samantha Krawczak for part-time crossing guard position was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy said that he wrote to PennDOT about the speed study but hasn’t received a response or phone call yet.

Council reviewed meeting dates.

MOTION: To adjourn regular session at 8:10 PM and enter into executive session for personnel reasons with the intent to not reconvene was made by Jeff Main, 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: _____