

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
October 12, 2020
MINUTES

Attending Via Zoom : President Donald (Dusty) Stoner Jr., Dr. Michael Pedersen, Sean Grove, Tom Heefner , Anthony Frisby, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Borough Secretary Stacey Golden and Solicitor Steve Coccoresse

Absent : Paul Sipes, Jeff Main & Mayor Roger Defibaugh

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 noted that Rockwell Construction gave a contribution to the committee. Mr. Spahr spoke about the planner position and said he would have the job description soon. Spahr said he attended a training session on design with Dr. Elizabeth George that including topics such as facade improvement and merchandising small businesses.

MOTION: To accept the September 14, 2020 minutes was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report A & B for month ending September 30, 2020 was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on the last page of the police report noting that the department put up their ENRADD system.

Council moved onto the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy began his report with the Bradnick Subdivision for review. Stoy recommended approval pending engineering comments be addressed as well as Franklin County Planning Commission approval. Stoy said that the MMO's (Minimal Municipal Obligation) for the uniform and non-uniform pension plan will need approved. Manager Stoy gave council a review on the all call system, Swiftreach, recommended through the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association that will alert residents for emergencies. Stoy suggested for all three entities to split the cost of the program with either a three or five year contract. Stoy said the system could be used for snow emergencies, street sweeping, etc. Manager Stoy said after the recent numerous water line breaks that this would be a very effective system noting that he didn't want to overuse it either. Retroactive approval needed for breast cancer awareness pink ribbon display from the Cumberland Valley Breast Cancer Awareness group. Stoy asked council to try three new globes and LED bulbs for lighting on the square. Two bids were received for the trash contract, a breakdown was provided as well as the bid docs that correspond with the breakdown. Manager Stoy reported that PennDOT officially responded on the speed limit study on Oregon and Park Avenue saying they don't see reasoning to lower the speed on either street. Manager Stoy spoke to council about the website RFP. Stoy concluded that the borough has received three right to know requests and that total cost for solicitor fees for 2020 so far is \$2800.

Council President Dusty Stoner moved into Committee Reports.

President Donald Stoner reviewed the Finance Committee notes discussing the 2021 proposed budget. Stoner commented that he was not in favor of raising taxes. Borough Manager Derek Stoy reminded council that they pay 100% of the police department's wages and split wages with the water and sewer authorities for the non-uniformed employees. Borough Manager Derek Stoy said the budget has a deficit of \$30,000. President Stoner said there were no adjustments made to the police budget. Solicitor Steve Coccores spoke to council about the police arbitration and the costs associated. Manager Stoy suggested reducing the Street Improvement line item from \$30,000 to \$15,000 and taking the remaining \$15,000 from the General Reserves Fund to balance the 2021 proposed budget. Council talked about a wage increase for employees and agreed that they didn't feel comfortable with a 3% wage increase but wanted to do something.

MOTION: To approve a 1.5% wage increase for the non-uniformed and administrative borough employees was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.

Council continued discussing in length how to reduce numbers to balance the 2021 proposed budget. Borough Manager Derek Stoy said he would be reaching out to the Finance Committee members to schedule another meeting.

Council reviewed the Streets Committee meeting notes.

MOTION: To obtain crosswalk line pricing on all PennDOT roads in the borough along with any corresponding crosswalks at borough road intersections with the PennDOT roads as recommended by the Streets Committee was made by Sean Grove, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into Old Business.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy said he had a link for Greencastle's RFP for the website if anyone was interested to look at to start looking forward with plans.

Council moved into New Business.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy said he was hoping to have plans for the Brandnick Subdivision but Franklin County Planning Commission still had them. Stoy sent a PDF copy of the plan to council members by email.

MOTION: To approve the Bradnick Subdivision plans was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the MMO's, minimal municipal obligation, for the uniform and non-uniform pension plan was made by Tom Heefner, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve a five year contract with Swiftreach, the all call system recommended by the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association was made by Anthony Frisby, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To retroactively approve the display of pink ribbons for Breast Cancer Awareness from the Cumberland Valley Breast Cancer Awareness group was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To award Parks Garbage the trash contract for Option B, the three bag limit per week at a quarterly rate of \$45.15 for residential and \$35.15 for senior citizens with \$4.00 per additional bag put out and \$2.00 per month for a recycling bucket was made by Anthony Frisby, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve \$2750 for one annual electronics recycling day for the length of the Parks Garbage trash Contract (3 years) was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Ryan's Computer Consulting Services quote to upgrade the Mercersburg Police Department's vehicle laptops in the amount of \$990 was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To not approve any quotes for furniture for the police department but rather wait to see if they checked at any used furniture stores was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

Council reviewed meeting dates.

President Donald Stoner Jr. read a letter of resignation that was received from Borough Council Vice-President Jeff Main resigning from all seats. Solicitor Steve Coccoresse advised council that once resignation is accepted council has 30 days to fill the vacancy and that person will remain until January 2022.

MOTION: To accept the letter of resignation with regret from Borough Council Vice-President Jeff Main was made by Tom Heefner, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To move forward to solicit for the vacancy seat on Borough Council was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To nominate Tom Heefner as Vice-President for Borough Council was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To adjourn regular session at 9:00 PM and enter into executive session for personnel reasons with the intent to not reconvene was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Anthony Frisby. 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: _____