

Mercersburg Borough Council
113 South Main Street
Mercersburg, PA 17236
February 14, 2022
MINUTES

Attending: Donald Stoner Jr., Tom Heefner, Paul Sipes, Joseph Burkot, Tim Stanton, Raymond Minton, Anthony Frisby, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Secretary/Treasurer Stacey Golden, Mayor Michael Pedersen & Solicitor Steve Coccoresse

Absent: None

Guests/Press: Lisa Minton, Tom Suddeth, Andy Abel

President Stoner called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Vice-President Tom Heefner led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: To approve the January 24, 2022, meeting minutes as written was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report/Bills Payable.

MOTION: To approve the year's end Treasurer's Report amended for January 31, 2022 instead of January 31, 2021 as listed in the agenda was made by Tom Heefner, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Pedersen reported that he had the opportunity to attend the MMP&W Fire & Rescue Award Ceremony and stated there is a lot of good things happening in the community. Mayor Pedersen also stated that the police department started a new schedule stating "the whole intent and goal is to get a little more coverage in town until we get some more part time coverage". Mayor concluded his report saying "things are going well".

Council moved into the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported that he spoke to Betty Jane Lee and would like to advertise for the James Buchanan and Harriet Lane awards. Stoy spoke to council about the schedule of fees resolution saying he added increases for labor and machine time. Stoy commented that these charges are normally only seen when an ordinance violation occurs, such as weed and grass violation and an owner not taking care of high weeds in five days after notification, then the borough would mow the grass and charge accordingly. Manager Stoy contacted the engineer about replacing the front doors of Borough Hall asking council to

proceed with obtaining pricing for both material and labor to install new doors. Pricing will then be taken to the Property Committee for further review and if approved a HARB application will also be reviewed by the HARB Committee. Borough Manager Stoy proposed purchasing a new computer for the Borough Secretary stating the current one is starting to slow down. The purchase cost (\$2100.00) will be split between all three entities. A retroactive approval will be needed for the purchase for a new furnace at Borough Hall that was installed February 1, 2022. The previous furnace was 19 years old. Stoy said that Mayor Michael Pedersen would like to talk to council about the possibility of installing a security camera in front of Borough Hall. Manager Stoy concluded his report by telling council that they will need to decide if the police department or the borough manager is responsible for performing background checks for new employees.

Council moved into Committee Reports.

Vice-President Tom Heefner reported on Fire Board regarding a change in the charter. Heefner stated there is a "power struggle" because the volunteers aren't getting enough representation. Mayor Michael Pedersen commented that he thinks there should be more representation due to the financial contribution from the borough. Heefner said there was a 2/3 vote to change the charter of the entire corporation and each municipality currently has two representatives and they want to reduce to one. If this changes the municipality will not have the majority on the board. It was brought up that since state funding increased why decrease representation. Borough Manager Derek Stoy made a suggestion to have a representative and/or alternate so if the representative is missing the alternate can fill in. MMP&W relies on fundraising, donations, ambulance billing, grants, etc. The borough does not provide 100% funding. Solicitor Steve Coccoresse stated that up until about 10 years ago the language in the borough code stated "the borough shall be responsible for ensuring that fire and emergency medical services be provided within the borough but currently it says that specific powers of the borough include that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the borough by the means and to the extent determined by the borough including the appropriate financial and administrative assistance for the services". Coccoresse said the borough would not have to provide service saying he doesn't suggest the borough do that but that the language has been "softened over time". Solicitor Coccoresse recommended that council make a resolution to state their stance and then pick three council members who would want to attend the meeting on February 24, 2022.

Council moved into Old Business.

MOTION: To keep the council meeting dates the same for the rest of the 2022 year was made by Tom Heefner, second by Raymond Minton. Tim Stanton-Nay; Paul Sipes-Nay; Joseph Burkot-Nay; Raymond Minton-Yay; Anthony Frisby- Yay; Donald Stoner-Yay; Tom Heefner-Yay. Motion carried on a 4 to 3 vote.

Council moved into New Business.

MOTION: To advertise/solicit nominees for the James Buchanan and Harriet Lane awards was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 9-22 "Schedule of Fees" was made by Paul Sipes, second by Tom Heefner. Donald Stoner-Yay; Tom Heefner-Yay; Paul Sipes-Yay; Anthony Frisby-Yay; Raymond Minton-Yay; Joseph Burkot-Yay; Tim Stanton-Nay. Motion carried on a 6 to 1 vote.

MOTION: To give permission to Derek to move forward with soliciting estimates and drawings for replacement of Borough Hall front doors was made by Tom Heefner, second by Joseph Burkot. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the invoice from Ryan's Computer Consulting in the amount of \$2100.00 as an exception emergency purchase of the borough secretary's computer and going forward the borough will change it's practice to buy computer equipment at cost and engage in professional consulting agreements yearly for the implementation fees for the installations was made by Tim Stanton, second by Raymond Minton. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To retroactively approve the invoice from MC Plum in the amount of \$2,617.50 for a new furnace installation and to be paid out of the Capital Improvement funds was made by Tom Heefner, second from Tim Stanton. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To allow Borough Manager Derek Stoy to investigate options to add a security camera to the front of the Borough Hall building was made by Tom Heefner, second by Anthony Frisby. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the Mercersburg Police Department to run criminal background checks for new employees was made by Raymond Minton, second by Tom Heefner. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve HARB application COA 2022-02-01 for 13 East Seminary for exterior improvement and minor sitework to accommodate a future coffee house tenant was made by Tom Heefner, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

Vice-President Tom Heefner asked who is permitted to contact the borough solicitor. Solicitor Steve Coccoresse stated that he didn't know if it was an official policy or not but that it has been the practice to limit it to the Borough Manager, the Borough Secretary in the Borough Manager's absence, the Council President and Vice President and the Mayor. Coccoresse said he cannot stop people from reaching out and commented that he doesn't have to respond.

Councilman Tim Stanton asked about uploading financial records to the website. Council will discuss at the next meeting.

Council went over the meeting dates.

**MOTION: To adjourn at 8:50 PM was made by Raymond Minton, 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: _____