

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
November 28, 2017

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at the Borough Hall. President Staron brought the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were Mayor Overley and Council Members: Tom Staron, Mark Dudash, Pete Heizmann, Claudia Hurwitz, Rick Lombardo, Josh Nowotarski, and Roger Reto. Also in attendance were Solicitor Zachary Morey, Police Chief Ray Serafin, Engineering Representative James Mohn, Secretary Christeena Hauck, Road Foreman David Wojchehoski, and Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

The following residents addressed Council regarding the property located at 251 Carsonia Ave being purchased by the Berks County Redevelopment Authority:

Tanya Weaver

Jim Murray

Rayleen Rotkiske

Tom Himmelberger

Jocelyn Himmelberger

Concern was expressed regarding crime, property values, lack of communication, a complaint policy and contact person, tax exempt status, and misrepresentation of the newspaper article. Mr. Mohn explained the Berks Coalition to End Homelessness (BCEH) would be leasing the property from the Berks County Redevelopment Authority (BCRA), and plans to serve one homeless family at a time as a rental program. The property would serve as emergency housing for each family for a period of 60 days or less. The family must meet all program requirements to qualify and will be monitored regularly. After discussion, at the request of the attending residents, Council offered to contact BCRA in attempt to set up a meeting with BCEH for the residents to ask questions and share their concerns.

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Moved by Mr. Nowotarski and seconded by Ms. Hurwitz that the minutes of October 24, 2017 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

II. FINANCE REPORT:

- A.** Moved by Mr. Dudash and seconded by Mr. Reto to approve checks #17489-17515 in the amount of \$115,192.12 from the General Fund, checks #1251-1252 in the amount of \$4,655.79 from the Liquid Fuels Fund, check #114 in the amount of \$1,559.84 from the Fire Tax Fund, and check #115 in the amount of \$3.12 from the Ambulance Tax Fund. The motion carried unanimously.
- B.** Moved by Mr. Dudash and seconded by Ms. Hurwitz to accept the October 2017 Treasurer's report. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported:

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Checking- | \$ 103,774.74 |
| Savings- | \$ 354,496.99 |
| Liquid Fuels- | \$ 62,266.43 |
| Petty Cash- | \$ 50.00 |
| Fire Tax | \$ 9,320.82 |
| PIB Loan- | \$ 39,651.71 |
| Ambulance Tax | \$ 790.92 |

- C. Mr. Dudash distributed the 2018 preliminary budget to Council. After discussion, Mr. Staron made the motion to advertise the adoption of the budget at the December 12, 2017 meeting, and the Special Meeting to be held December 20, 2017 at 5:30 PM to adopt the tax rate for 2018, seconded by Mr. Dudash. The motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **STREETS:** Mr. Wojchowski reported he will be repainting the lines for the parking spaces at the police station.
- B. **BUILDINGS: No Report.**
- C. **LEGISLATIVE: No Report.**
- D. **PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY:** Mr. Nowotarski reported he and Mr. Reto will meet with the Chief, prior to the next meeting, to review the parking lot ordinance requirements. Mr. Dudash questioned if there was a formal request from RCAF for 2018 matching grant funds.
- E. **PUBLIC UTILITIES:** Mr. Heizmann reported the Street Light replacement program will begin by spring of 2018.
- F. **SOLID WASTE:** Mr. Dudash requested a \$5.00 service charge be added to the Trash Collection charge for 2018, increasing the rate to \$195.00 for the collection of trash, recycling and yard waste. Mr. Morey will verify if a \$5.00 administrative fee can be added.
- G. **PERSONNEL: No Report.**
- H. **INSURANCE: No Report.**
- I. **PENSION: No Report.**
- J. **CODES:** Mr. Bender reported he and Ms. Hauck attended a Central Berks Codes meeting at Lower Alsace Township. Kevin Sidella of Pro Champs presented their rental registration program to the group. Mount Penn has not been accepted as a client for the Vacant/Foreclosed Property Registration Program, as promised. Lower Alsace will be considering the rental registration program. Discussion continued. Mr. Lombardo will contact Mr. Sidella at Pro Champs.

IV. LIAISON REPORTS:

- A. **Fire Company:** Mr. Lombardo reported Santa Claus has requested Mount Penn Fire Co. to drive him through the Borough again this year. The date in December has yet to be determined.
- B. **MPBMA:** Mrs. Hurwitz expressed concern with the liaison confusion on the water board. It is the duty of Mount Penn Council to appoint the Mount Penn resident board member who will be Council's liaison. Mr. Staron will remind Ms. Christof of the procedure. Ms. Hauck added she spoke with Mr. Al Worrall, whose term on the board is set to expire December 31st. Mr. Worrall will be happy to serve another 5 year term.

- C. AVMA:** Ms. Hurwitz reported Mr. Wojchegoski will be resigning effective December 31, 2017. A year of service remains to complete his term.
- D. Planning Commission: No Report.**
- E. Police Commission:** Chief Serafin reported details continue to be worked out with the Oley contract.
- F. MPP:** Mr. Dudash reported the County's website is a great resource for the Mount Penn Preserve. The COG will focus on getting committees started and the program running. Funding will be discussed at a later date.
- G. RCAV: No Report.**

V. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor:

- Mayor Overley reported he received a handicapped parking space application for 1953 Woodvale Ave. After discussion, Mr. Hiezmann made the motion for the preparation and advertisement of the handicapped parking ordinance for 1953 Woodvale Avenue, seconded by Mr. Nowotarski. The motion carried unanimously.
- The Holiday Decoration Categories will be updated this year. The following prizes will be awarded:
 - 1st Place-\$50.00
 - 2nd Place-\$25.00
 - 3rd Place-\$15.00
 Judging will take place the weekend of December 16th.

- B. Motley Associates:** Mr. Mohn reported he attended a pre-construction meeting with PennDot for the phase of the project that begins at 19th Street and continues to 23rd Street on Perkiomen Avenue. The scheduled start date is February 2018, ending November 2018. Work will take place 6:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday-Thursday.
- Mr. Mohn reported the signal repairs at 26th and Perkiomen Avenue will not be included in the next phase of work proposed from 23rd Street East to the Borough line.

C. Solicitor:

- Mr. Morey reported Resolution 22-17 is prepared for Council's consideration. The resolution, if adopted, allows for the municipality to opt-out of having a Category 4 casino located within the municipality. No action was taken.
- Mr. Morey reported there will be a vacant seat on Council beginning January 1, 2018. Letters of interest will be accepted and interviews need to be conducted. An appointment will need to be made by January 30th 2018.

D. Secretary:

- Ms. Hauck reported the Christmas luncheon will be held Friday, December 22nd. Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority has agreed to a generous contribution again this year.
- Council approved four registration dates for Antietam Valley Youth Baseball at Borough Hall in 2018, and requested the signs be removed as soon as the event is over.

VI. ORDINANCES: None.

VII. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. Dudash reported three quotes were received for copy machines. A new machine will be purchased or leased in 2018 and will be included in the budget. There are a few items that needed to be clarified on the Fraser quote.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE: No action was taken on the correspondence regarding the school bus traffic and the suggestion of prohibited parking on Perkiomen Avenue.

X. NEW BUSINESS: None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Lombardo made a motion for adjournment at 9:15 P.M., seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christeena Hauck