

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
April 24, 2018

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at the Borough Hall. President Staron brought the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were Mayor Nowotarski and Council Members: Tom Staron, Mark Dudash, Roger Reto, Troy Goodman, Claudia Hurwitz, Rick Lombardo and Jim Cocuzza. Also in attendance were Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineering Representative Jim Mohn, Secretary Christeena Hauck, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Police Chief Ray Serafin.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- A. Mr. Michael Frankhouser of 1962 Woodvale Ave thanked Council for the \$5,000.00 contribution toward the Cemetery maintenance. He also mentioned the article in the Reading Eagle regarding alleys in the city. Discussion continued regarding the City of Reading's ordinance that mandates homeowners must repair the alleys, and how other communities handle repairs to alleys. Mr. Frankhouser expressed concern over the rising school taxes and the burden it creates especially on fixed income seniors in the community. After discussion, Mr. Reto made a motion to send a letter to the State Representatives expressing Council's support in favor of property tax reform, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Mr. George Saltzman addressed Council regarding the school board meeting and their plans to renovate the Primary Center for \$1.5 million dollars. Discussion continued.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Moved by Mr. Cocuzza and seconded by Mr. Reto that the minutes of March 27, 2018 be approved as presented. The motion carried. Mr. Staron, Ms. Hurwitz and Mr. Lombardo abstained.
- B. Moved by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Reto the minutes of April 10, 2018 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

II. FINANCE REPORT:

- A. Moved by Mr. Dudash and seconded by Ms. Hurwitz to approve checks #17658-17678 dated April 23, 2018 in the amount of \$21,591.13 from the General Fund, and checks #1269 in the amount of \$1,546.12 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. Check #17601 issued to Rodger Krause will be reissued as check #17672. It was never received.
- B. Mr. Dudash reported the 2017 Audit Report was completed. It showed a \$34,841 deficit for 2017. Police costs were 54% of our budget.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS:

- Mr. Wojchegoski distributed photographs of the contractor patching of a collapsed sewer pipe repair. Mr. Hurwitz explained AVMA will be taking care of this area to restore it properly.
- A list of ideas for parking lot enforcement items were submitted for the purpose of creating an ordinance. Discussion continued. Council will review these items for the next meeting.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY: No Report.

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES: Mr. Goodman reported he is waiting for a response from PennDot regarding the trash collection during construction. Mr. Mohn added that the utility work will be first during 2018; the street construction will mostly take place during 2019. There will always be an East bound travel lane, however, the West bound traffic will be detoured. Discussion continued regarding a 4-way stop at Endlich Ave and Cumberland Ave. and visibility at Carsonia Ave and Endlich Ave. Mr. Reto suggested a tree project on Perkiomen Ave. After discussion it was decided to wait for a later date for the tree project. Chief Serafin expressed concern regarding the possibility of an accident on the bypass and the congestion it would cause in Mount Penn, and also school entry and dismissal for Saint Catherine of Siena. Mr. Mohn and Mr. Staron explained the contractor asked to work during the evening hours if necessary. Discussion continued. Milling and paving will be allowed during evening hours.

D. PERSONNEL: Mr. Staron reported a letter of resignation was received from the crossing guard at 25th and Filbert Ave. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion for Mayor Nowotarski to interview and hire the best candidate for the Crossing Guard position, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

E. INSURANCE/PENSION: Mr. Cocuzza reported he received the new defined contribution pension ordinance from Mr. Klonis. Copies will be disseminated to Council via email for discussion at the next meeting.

F. CODES: Mr. Lombardo reported the committee is working on the new ordinances, and a meeting is scheduled for next week.

IV. LIASION REPORTS:

A. Fire Company: No Report.

B. MPBMA: Mr. Dudash reported Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority (MPBMA) sent out bid requests for the work on Perkiomen Ave. Mr. Reto reported a representative of RCAV will be attending the next Council meeting to request assistance with the maintenance items at Carsonia Park. Mr. Klonis added he had a conversation with Attorney Merola, MPBMA's Solicitor, who informed him MPBMA will not take care of any of the maintenance items on the list. These items are the responsibility of the tenant who is AVRCC. Mr. Dudash suggested MPBMA supplies water to all residents who utilize the park; therefore, MPBMA should maintain the property. Mr. Reto asked Council to commit to emptying the trash cans around the lake. Mount Penn already paints the line in the parking lot. A decision was not made.

C. AVMA: No Report.

D. Planning Commission: No Report.

E. Police Commission: Chief Serafin reported the Department of Emergency Services requested the attendance at the breakfast meeting to review the 911 home addresses for emergency response.

F. MPP: Mr. Klonis reported he met with Commissioner Barnhardt and Solicitor Bradshaw regarding the concerns with the Articles of Agreement for the COG. A revised Articles of Agreement was distributed for Council's review. After review, Mr. Dudash made the motion to advertise the Mount Penn Preserve COG

Ordinance and the revised Articles of Agreement, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

G. RCAV: No Report.

V. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor: No Report.

B. Motley Associates:

- Mr. Mohn reported the School District is planning to appeal the decision on the recently denied Zoning application. The district applied for Zoning to move the entire second grade from the Elementary Center to the Primary Center.
- Mr. Mohn reported Motley Associates was asked by Berks Redevelopment Authority to be involved in the planning and design stages of the Summit Ave development and asked for Council's approval. Mr. Staron suggested Motley act as a subcontractor to an independent engineer. After discussion, Mr. Reto made the motion for Motley Associates to act as subcontractor to the engineer for the Summit Ave. development, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. Mr. Staron asked for a roll call vote:

Mr. Staron-Yes	Mr. Lombardo-Yes
Mr. Cocuzza-Yes	Ms. Hurwitz-Yes
Mr. Dudash-No	Mr. Reto-Yes
Mr. Goodman-No	

C. Solicitor: No Report.

D. Secretary: Ms. Hurwitz questioned if there were any reports regarding the Emergency Housing on Carsonia Ave. Ms. Hauck explained there was a complaint regarding a moving truck being parked there for 2 days. She also informed Council she has not yet received a list of current tenants. She reached out to Berks Coalition to End Homelessness and reminded them of the requirements requested by Council. Mr. Mohn will contact the coalition also.

VI. ORDINANCES: No Report.

VII. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE: No Report.

X. NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Goodman reported the office computers are 8 years old and suggested instead of spending funds for a server, each computer could be updated and an external back-up system put in place. He will get costs for discussion at a future meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Lombardo made a motion for adjournment at 9:39P.M., seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, May 8th at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christeena Hauck