

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL

August 14, 2018

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at the Borough Hall. President Staron brought the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were Council Members: Tom Staron, Roger Reto, Claudia Hurwitz, Jim Cocuzza, Rick Lombardo, Troy Goodman and Mark Dudash. Also in attendance were Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineering Representative Jim Mohn, Police Chief Ray Serafin, Secretary Christeena Hauck, and Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender. Mayor Nowotarski did not attend.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- A. Mr. Garfield McCoy of 2404 Perkiomen Ave addressed Council regarding the citation that was issued by the Central Berks Codes Department. Mr. McCoy's trash containers are stored at the front of his rental property located at 2210 Perkiomen Ave. Mr. McCoy questioned why he received a citation when other properties in the Borough store trash containers in the front of the property. Mr. Bender issued a citation after there was no response to the two notices of violation he issued to Mr. McCoy. After discussion, Mr. Reto made the motion for the citation to be withdrawn if Mr. McCoy purchases a screen or barrier to enclose the containers properly before the hearing date, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Ms. Courtney Brumbach of 40 N. 23rd St spoke on behalf of the neighboring residents regarding the temporary restoring of the no right turn lane and the problems it would cause for the residents in that area who have to find alternative parking. Ms. Kelley Townson of 40 N. 23rd St and Ms. Donna Napoli 36 N. 23rd St also spoke. Permit parking, re-routing traffic onto Fairview Ave and timing changes to the traffic signal were discussed. Chief Serafin expressed his concern with the dangerous back-up of traffic during school times and added restoring turning lane temporarily will help to eliminate much of this congestion. Mr. Dudash made the motion to temporarily eliminate the parking and restore the no right turn lane per the PennDOT approved plan, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. Mr. Klonis asked for a Roll Call Vote:
Mr. Staron-yes Mr. Goodman-no Mr. Reto-no
Mr. Dudash-yes Ms. Hurwitz-yes
Mr. Cocuzza-yes Mr. Lombardo-no
The motion carried.
- C. Mr. Jay Worrall, representing the Recreation Commission of Antietam Valley (RCAV) reported there were 200 participants registered for the Summer Playground Program. The average daily attendance was 61 participants. Mr. Worrall also explained the Commission has been raising funds for renovations at the tot lot at Carsonia Park. The original commitment for the Playground grant from Mount Penn was \$16,000.00; however, the grant was not awarded. Council budgeted \$8,200.00 in 2018 for the playground renovations. RCAV requested Council donate the additional \$7,800.00. After discussion and budget review, Mr. Reto made the motion to contribute \$15,000.00 to the playground renovations; Mr. Reto offered a personal contribution of \$1,000.00, and Mr. Lombardo offered to contribute the remainder of his Borough Council pay for 2019, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried. Mr. Dudash voted no. Volunteer manpower will be needed in October for the renovation.

Mr. Staron called for an Executive Session, regarding personnel, at 8:33 P.M. Regular Session resumed at 9:25 P.M. No action was taken.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Moved by Ms. Hurwitz and seconded by Mr. Reto that the minutes of July 10, 2018 be approved as presented. The motion carried. Mr. Dudash abstained.

II. FINANCE REPORT:

- A. Moved by Mr. Dudash and seconded by Mr. Reto to accept the July 2018 Treasurer's report. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported:

Checking-	\$ 30,666.34
Savings-	\$ 701,168.97
Liquid Fuels-	\$ 85,519.65
Petty Cash-	\$ 50 .00
Fire Tax-	\$ 13,071.50
PIB Loan-	\$ 39,790,27
Ambulance Tax-	\$ 2,656.94

- B. Moved by Mr. Dudash and seconded by Mr. Reto to approve checks #17753-17770 dated July 23, 2018 in the amount of \$33,090.78 from the General Fund; checks #17771-17782 in the amount of \$106,290.50 dated August 13, 2018 from the General Fund; check #1275 dated August 13, 2018 in the amount of \$4,052.44 from the Liquid Fuels Fund; check #121 dated July 23, 2018 from the Fire Tax Fund in the amount of \$7,015.53, and check #120 dated July 23, 2018 from the Ambulance Tax Fund in the amount of \$1,403.24. The motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS: Mr. Okonski reported:

- 1997 Dump Truck needs to be replaced; the fuel tank support has rusted. A quote was obtained from Manderbach Ford for the Chassis only- \$38,293.00. The estimated total for body and frame could be close to \$65,000.00. Ms. Hurwitz requested a second quote. Ms. Hauck reported 20% of the yearly liquid fuels allotment can be used for equipment.
- There was damage to a few Borough streets from the recent heavy rains. These areas are being reported to the County.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY: No Report.

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES: No Report.

D. PERSONNEL: No Report.

- E. **INSURANCE/PENSION:** Mr. Cocuzza reported the pension plan is 90% funded and in good shape. He also reported the questionnaire for the Defined Contribution Plan will be completed; he needs a percentage from Council. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion to contribute up to a 3% match for the Defined Contribution plan for new employees, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried. Ms. Hauck and Mr. Cocuzza will meet with Mr. White. The ordinance needs to be prepared for the September 11th meeting.

F. CODES:

- Mr. Mohn asked for permission to have Mr. Bender accompany him on a few rental inspections. Ms. Petrov will begin to schedule the rental appointments.
- Mr. Lombardo reported the rental property at 1924 Perkiomen Ave was temporarily condemned. There was an issue with tenant water running for hours causing a flooding situation. When the Fire Department entered the property it was infested with mice and roaches. The Red Cross gave the residents temporary housing. The problem was corrected and the tenants were back in the property the within 48 hours.
- Mr. Lombardo made the motion to approve a one year committal to the Joint Codes Administrator Lower Alsace will be hiring, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously. The Committee will reevaluate the program after the one year time period.

IV. LIASION REPORTS:

- A. Fire Company:** Mr. Lombardo reported Mount Penn Fire received a grant to purchase a washer and dryer for the station.
- B. MPBMA: No Report.**
- C. AVMA: No Report.**
- D. Planning Commission:** Mr. Mohn reported a Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2018, to receive comment on Berks County Redevelopment Authority's proposed three lot sub-division along the unopened/unimproved section of Summit Ave.
- E. Police Commission: No Report.**
- F. MPP: No Report.**
- G. RCAV: No Report.**

V. OTHER REPORTS:

- A. Mayor: No Report.**
- B. Motley Associates: No Report.**
- C. Solicitor:**
 - Mr. Klonis reported a revised copy of the Memorandum of Understanding was provided to everyone. After discussion, Ms. Hurwitz made the motion for Mr. Staron to execute the Carsonia Park Memorandum of Understanding beginning August 14, 2018 expiring December 31, 2018; renewing annually thereafter unless one of the parties gives written notice of their intent to withdraw, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried. Mr. Dudash voted no.
 - Mr. Reto made the motion to advertise the parking lot ordinance, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. Secretary:** Ms. Hauck reported there are vacancies that need to be filled on both the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board. A letter of resignation was received from Planning Chairman John Giradello.

VI. ORDINANCES: #847- Handicapped parking at 2544 Cumberland Ave. Motioned by Mr. Reto, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. RESOLUTIONS: 26-18- Adopting the Berks County Hazard Mitigation Plan- Motioned by Mr. Reto, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. Bender reminded Council of the continuous problems with the property located at 2319 Fairview Ave. After discussion, Mr. Reto made the motion to hire a lawn service to bring the property into compliance. The fee will be included as restitution in the citation. Mr. Bender will issue a citation or a lien will be placed on the property, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

- Mr. Reto reported he asked Mr. Mohn to look into the drainage issue at the property located at 209 Laurel Street. The stone is washing out into the street from the alley due to run-off from this property.
- Mr. Bender asked Council to reimburse Fire Marshall Gerhart \$125.00 to offset some of his class fees as a thank you for his Fire service to the community. Motioned by Mr. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Reto made a motion for adjournment at 10:14 P.M., seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, September 11th at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christeena Hauck