

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL

July 10, 2018

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at the Borough Hall. President Staron brought the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were Mayor Nowotarski and Council Members: Tom Staron, Roger Reto, Claudia Hurwitz, Jim Cocuzza, Rick Lombardo, and Troy Goodman. Also in attendance were Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineering Representative Jim Mohn, Secretary Christeena Hauck, and Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender. Mr. Dudash did not attend.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- A. Representing Aulenbach Cemetery, Mr. Pete Heizmann, Mount Penn's Liaison, thanked Council for allowing the Road Crew to assist with the tree trimming project. He continued to explain the City of Reading is also committed to helping and will be removing a few dead trees. In light of the recent article in the Reading Eagle, a few projects and donations have been offered.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Moved by Mr. Cocuzza and seconded by Ms. Hurwitz that the minutes of June 12, 2018 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

III. FINANCE REPORT:

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

Checking-	\$ 36,835.56
Savings-	\$ 736,132.13
Liquid Fuels-	\$ 89,839.48
Petty Cash-	\$ 50 .00
Fire Tax	\$ 7,759.53
PIB Loan-	\$ 39,771.09
Ambulance Tax-	\$ 1,594.42

- B. Moved by Mr. Reto and seconded by Mr. Lombardo to approve checks #17723-17740 dated June 25, 2018 in the amount of \$23,225.00 from the General Fund, checks #17741-17751 in the amount of \$88,856.14 dated July 9, 2018 from the General Fund, and checks #1274 dated July 9, 2018 in the amount of \$4,361.90 from the Liquid Fuels Fund.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS:

- Ms. Hurwitz reported with the recent traffic problems due to the PennDOT construction she and Mayor Nowotarski discussed the possibility of making Cumberland Ave. a one -way street. There is a problem with traffic backing up and a sight distance issue when making a left turn at the intersection of 23rd and Cumberland Ave. Chief Serafin reminded Council if there were any alterations to the roadway map after the detour has been established by PennDOT it could bring a liability issue to the borough. He suggested looking at the Dengler and 23rd Street intersection and establishing the turn on red again. Mr. Staron reminded Council PennDOT needs to take care

of the detour problems. Discussion continued regarding the temporary elimination of parking along 23rd St. at the Dengler St. intersection. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion to authorize Mr. Mohn to send a letter to PennDOT requesting the “No Turn on Red” sign modified to allow turn on red from 6:00AM-6:00PM, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried. Mr. Reto voted no because he was worried about the residents losing their parking.

- Chief Serafin reported the residents of 2523 Perkiomen Ave have a handicapped space that they cannot utilize due to the construction and are having difficulty with parking. He suggested asking the business located at 2457 Perkiomen if the residents could park in a space on their lot during the construction.
- Chief Serafin also reported Perkiomen Ave will be closed to all traffic for one night sometime in the next week to replace a lateral main near 24th Street. The detour will be on Fairview Ave during this evening work.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY: No Report.

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES: Mr. Goodman reported the recycling in the 2500 block of Perkiomen Ave was collected by the Street Crew on Friday and everything went well. The committee will be meeting to review the extension documents. Mr. Goodman also reported he is in the process of obtaining quotes for the lights at the parking lot.

D. PERSONNEL: No Report.

E. INSURANCE/PENSION: Mr. Cocuzza reported the pension fund is in good shape. He is working with Mr. White at Morgan Stanley on the new plan. Discussion was held regarding the hiring of a full time employee without a plan in place. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion to offer full time employment to Adam Bender effective July 30, 2018 conditioned upon it being permitted by law to offer employment without a retirement plan in place, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried. Mr. Klonis will research and report to Ms. Hauck as soon as possible. Otherwise, employment will be offered to Mr. Bender as soon as the new plan is in place.

F. CODES:

- Mr. Lombardo reported he is working on a meeting date with Supervisor Theodoussiou to discuss the Codes Administrator position. Ms. Hauck will send a letter expressing Mount Penn’s interest to Lower Alsace. Mr. Goodman made the motion to make Adam Bender the Assistant Zoning Officer, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion continued regarding the rental program and Mr. Bender beginning inspections. Ms. Hauck explained the rental program currently requires an inspection every two years, and expressed her concern for the current staff handling the proposed yearly inspections with required paperwork, phone calls, scheduling etc. Until this point the program was outsourced and will now be done by the Borough Office staff. She asked Council to consider allowing a year of adjustment before considering an increase of the inspection frequency.
- Mr. Bender reported Berks County Emergency Management is updating the Five Year County Hazard Mitigation Plan from 2013. A resolution needs to be adopted. Mr. Klonis will review the resolution for adoption at the next meeting.

V. LIASION REPORTS:**A. Fire Company: No Report.****B. MPBMA: No Report.****C. AVMA: No Report.****D. Planning Commission: No Report.****E. Police Commission:** Mayor Nowotarski reported the Commission met Thursday. A copy of the Chief's monthly report was disseminated to Council. National Night Out is August 7th.**F. MPP: No Report.****G. RCAV:** Ms. Hauck reported there was a ground-breaking ceremony to mark the beginning of the construction for Phase I of Carsonia Park.**VI. OTHER REPORTS:****A. Mayor: No Report.****B. Motley Associates: No Report.****C. Solicitor: No Report.****D. Secretary:** Ms. Hauck reported the date for the 2018 Block Party is Saturday, October 20, 2018.**VII. ORDINANCES: #846-**Amending the member definition and eligibility for the Employee Defined Benefit Contribution Plan. Motioned by Mr. Cocuzza, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously.**VIII. RESOLUTIONS: None.****IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Mr. Klonis explained he spoke with Attorney Setley regarding the Cooperation Agreement for the maintenance items at Carsonia Park. It was decided to title the document a Memorandum of Understanding. Discussion continued regarding the wording of Section B., Mount Penn responsibilities. The document will be revised and redistributed for consideration at the next Council meeting.
- A copy of the Parking lot ordinance will be distributed to Council for review and discussion at the next meeting.

X. CORRESPONDENCE: None.**XI. NEW BUSINESS: No Report.**

Mr. Staron called for an Executive Session at 8:49 P.M. to discuss potential litigation. Regular Session resumed at 8:52 P.M. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion for President Staron to execute the insurance release in the pro-rated sum of \$225.57, releasing Aramis Baez from a property damage loss related to an auto accident, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Lombardo made a motion for adjournment at 9:00 P.M., seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, August 14th at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christeena Hauck