

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
March 13, 2018

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 13, 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, Claudia Hurwitz, Troy Goodman, and Jim Cocuzza, and Rick Lombardo. Also in attendance were Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineering Representative Jim Mohn, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Secretary Christeena Hauck.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- A. Ms. Erika Haas addressed Council regarding the current heating situation at her property located at 205 Endlich Ave. and asked for a reprieve from the 5 year street cut ordinance to have gas service supplied to her home. She currently is heating with propane. Endlich Ave was repaved in September of 2014. After discussion, Mr. Mohn will contact UGI to see if boring is a possibility instead of making two cuts in the street and will report back at the next meeting.
- B. Mr. John Fielding of 7 Pennwyn Terrace addressed Council regarding the two year term that was not on the November ballot. Ms. Hauck explained Election Services was notified of the resignation of Teresa Christof in June. Mr. Goodman verified the notification in the sent borough office email from June of 2017. She continued to explain she understood both parties would be asked to appoint a candidate to the two year vacancy on the ballot which did not happen. The sample ballot is delivered by mail to the office and then emailed to Council and available to the public view via the county's website in October. The omission of that two year vacancy was not noticed until after the election.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Moved by Mr. Reto and seconded by Ms. Hurwitz that the minutes of February 27, 2018 be approved as presented. The motion carried.

II. FINANCE REPORT:

- A. Moved by Mr. Dudash and seconded by Mr. Reto to approve checks #17617-17627 dated March 12, 2018 in the amount of \$101,971.91; and checks #1265-1266 dated March 12, 2018 in the amount of \$6,041.82 from the Liquid Fuels fund. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Dudash questioned check #17620 in the amount of \$287.72 for the copy machine. Ms. Hauck explained this amount also included a half month of service and would normally be \$162.50 a month for future payments.
- B. Moved by Mr. Dudash and seconded by Mr. Reto to accept the February 2018 Treasurer's report. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported:

Checking-	\$ 33,455.14
Savings-	\$ 102,952.99
Liquid Fuels-	\$ 33,394.18
Petty Cash-	\$.00
Fire Tax	\$ 63.54
PIB Loan-	\$ 39,698.66
Ambulance Tax-	\$ 62.06

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS:

Ms. Hurwitz reported the following:

- She and Mr. Mohn inspected the curb complaint at 2611 Cumberland Avenue. The homeowner is requesting the Borough split the cost for the repair to the large section of curb that is damaged. After discussion, Council did not take any action. Ms. Hurwitz will notify the homeowner. The Road Crew will place the pieces of curb back where they belong.
- Mr. Wojchegoski will be attending Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority's board meeting to request monetary assistance with the manhole rings.
- There have been questions about the parameters previously set forth regarding Mr. Okonski's service to fire calls. Mr. Okonski confirmed he was given verbal permission to attend fire calls during work hours only in the communities of Mount Penn, Lower Alsace and St. Lawrence. Ms. Hurwitz reported on February 28th Mr. Okonski attended a fire in Douglass Township with permission from Mr. Lombardo. Ms. Hurwitz read Resolution #16-90 which specifies the Street Department Employees report to the Street Supervisor who reports directly to the Street Chairperson. Discussion continued regarding compensation for fire calls outside of the three specified communities. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion for one of the Streets employees to attend the fire calls during work hours and be compensated only in the communities of Mount Penn, Lower Alsace and St. Lawrence. Any other fire calls that are outside of the three specified communities will be unpaid time, vacation, or the employee's own accumulated compensation time. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reto and the motion carried unanimously. This motion will be prepared as a resolution and given the next number of 25-18.
- On February 13, 2018 there was a motion of Council requesting the Street Supervisor to complete and submit a weekly plan of action and for both Street Employees to complete and submit daily activity reports effective Tuesday, February 20th. Ms. Hurwitz has only received reports for one week. Mr. Klonis reminded the Street Department the consequences of not complying with a directive from Council, their employer, could result in disciplinary action or termination.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY: No Report.

- #### C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:
- Mr. Goodman reported he and Mr. Klonis will be meeting to review the current trash and recycling contract. He will also be contacting Matt at Met Ed to determine the time line for the street light project.

- D. PERSONNEL:** Mayor Nowotarski reported the Crossing Guard at Filbert and 23rd is taking a 30 day leave of absence. Ms. Hauck will ask Mr. Ward to relocate to this crossing. Mayor Nowotarski may have someone to help out for the 30 days. In the meantime, the Street Department will take over the Perkiomen Ave crossing.
- E. INSURANCE/PENSION:** Mr. Cocuzza reported the following:
- He met with Tom White from Morgan Stanley to review the pension plan and sign the paperwork authorizing him as the Borough's trustee. The Borough's pension plan is in good shape, at about 90% funded. A discussion was held regarding freezing the current pension plan and creating a new defined benefit plan. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion for Mr. Klonis to begin drafting the new defined benefit pension plan, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.
 - The Life, Long and Short Term Disability insurance policy with Lincoln Financial was reviewed. A quote was received from Cigna with better benefits and costing \$100.00 per month less than the current plan. After discussion, Mr. Cocuzza made the motion to accept the quote for the Life, Short and Long Term Disability with Cigna, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.
- F. CODES:** Mr. Dudash reported there was an article in the Reading Eagle stating the Townships' hiring of the Property Maintenance Consultant Ron Natale for thirty days to evaluate the current codes program.

IV. LIASION REPORTS:

- A. Fire Company:** Mr. Lombardo reminded Council the Fire Company's spill trailer is required to be stored inside, and was previously kept in the garage at Borough Hall. Mr. Goodman suggested that we ask AVMA Board to switch garages with the Street Crew. Mr. Staron suggested the trailer could fit in the garage at Borough Hall with some organization.
- B. MPBMA:** After discussion regarding Council's liaisons, it was decided to send a letter to the Authority Board reminding them Kelly Dudash has been appointed as Council's liaison.
- C. AVMA:** Mr. Goodman reported the board is still looking for a maintenance mechanic. Mr. Staron suggested contacting Vo-tech.
- D. Planning Commission: No Report.**
- E. Police Commission:** A discussion was held regarding the number of calls received from Oley Township.
- F. MPP:** Mr. Klonis reported he was contacted by one of the County solicitors regarding the changes Mount Penn Borough Council had requested for the Mount Penn Preserve Articles. The County and the City have already adopted the articles and are not willing to change or re-advertise the articles with Mount Penn's requested revisions. After discussion, it was decided Mr. Klonis will contact the Solicitors office again to discuss the options. The next MPP meeting is March 28th.
- G. RCAV:** Mr. Reto reported RCAV requested a \$20,000.00 grant match from Mount Penn toward the next grant application being submitted in 2019 for Carsonia Park Improvements. After discussion, Mr. Dudash made the motion to contribute \$17,222, if the grant is awarded, seconded by Goodman. The motion carried unanimously. A letter of commitment will be submitted on behalf of Mount Penn Borough Council.

V. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor: Mayor Nowotarski reported the new community crime watch requested permission to place a few signs around the community. He will communicate the restricted areas to the group when granting permission.

B. Motley Associates:

- Mr. Mohn reported the Borough received their MS4 permit, and he is in the process of reviewing the requirements.
- The PennDot Perkiomen Ave project beginning at 23rd St heading toward Exeter Township is scheduled to begin sometime in May of 2018 and will continue through October 2019.
- A Zoning application was received from Antietam School District. The District is planning to move six classrooms of second grade from the Elementary Center to the Primary Center located on N. 25th Street. Mr. Klonis and Mr. Sobotka, the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, will be meeting to review a previous decision from the Zoning Hearing Board. Discussion continued regarding the traffic problems caused by the dismissals at both Mount Penn Schools.

C. Solicitor: Mr. Klonis reported he received a letter dated May 19, 1953 from the White House, signed by Dwight D. Eisenhower, congratulating Mount Penn on their 50th Anniversary. The letter was donated by the estate of a former Mount Penn resident and will be displayed in the office.

D. Secretary: No Report.

VI. ORDINANCES: None.

VII. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE: No Report.

X. NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Reto reviewed the list of maintenance items needed for Carsonia Park with Council and a discussion was held. No action was taken.

President Staron called for an Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation at 9:29 P.M. Regular Session resumed at 9:41 P.M. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion, based on comments made earlier in the meeting while the Road Crew was present, requesting that Council authorize their personnel files to reflect their failure to comply with Council's directive to complete and submit their weekly plan and daily logs, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Lombardo made a motion for adjournment at 9:42 P.M., seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, March 27th at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christeena Hauck