

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
March 27, 2018

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at the Borough Hall. Vice President Dudash 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: Mark Dudash, Roger Reto, Troy Goodman, and Jim Cocuzza. Also in attendance were Solicitor Tom Klonis, Secretary Christeena Hauck, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, Police Chief Ray Serafin, and Street Supervisor David Wojchegoski. Mr. Staron, Mr. Lombardo and Ms. Hurwitz did not attend.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- A. Ms. Marsha Goodman-Hinnershitz, a member of Reading City Council and one of the city's two designees for the Mount Penn Preserve Partnership Executive Committee, advised Council she was present to answer any questions regarding the borough's participation in the Council of Governments (COG). She also distributed a copy of the ordinance creating the COG and the proposed amendment that would address the borough's concerns regarding financial obligations and eligible appointees to the Executive Council. She stressed the COG is a cooperative arrangement and the city, county, Lower Alsace Township, and Alsace Township hope Mt. Penn participates in this unique and important initiative. Mr. Klonis expressed his concern regarding the process in which the amendment and any other amendments would be made – by the COG or via ordinance by each partner municipality. He stated that ideally all partners should have agreed to the ordinance before any partner advertised and approved it. Mr. Klonis will review the ordinance and amendment with the solicitors of the four partners and advise Council how to proceed at its next meeting.
- B. Attorney Brian Boland, representing Antietam School District, addressed Council regarding the decision of Zoning Officer Jim Mohn to deny the zoning permit submitted by the district to relocate second grade students and classrooms from the Elementary School to the Primary Center. He believes Mr. Mohn failed to consider that the reasons stated for the denial were Zoning Hearing Board conditions that were dismissed by a county judge when the final variance was granted. Discussion continued regarding the number of staff and students that could be moved into the building. Mr. Klonis will review the situation with Mr. Mohn and Mr. David Sobotka, solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board, and advise Mr. Boland if his interpretation of the judge's decision will allow the permit to be approved or if a variance hearing is needed. Police Chief Serafin expressed concern for the dangerous traffic conditions that exist during opening and dismissal of school and the need for a plan to alleviate the already existing traffic congestion. Mr. Boland offered a traffic study could be revisited in the future.
- C. Mr. George Saltzman of 6 Earl Gables Court expressed his concern that the school's plan will create more vehicles, parents, and students in his neighborhood during the opening and dismissal of school. He stated he believes the amount of new classrooms will violate the current variance and violations are already occurring due to overuse of the auditorium. He also asked Council to take a look at the code enforcement policies of Salisbury Township, specifically regarding abandoned vehicles.

- D. Mr. James Sparks of 8 Earl Gables Court expressed his concern that the additional students and staff, and the additional evening and weekend use of the auditorium, will negatively impact the already stressed parking situation in his neighborhood. He also asked Council to review the debris and trash section of the Salisbury code enforcement policy.
- E. Mr. Mike Frankhouser addressed Council regarding the increasing Antietam school taxes and the elimination of these taxes, the transient community, and the increase of students being dropped off at school. Discussion continued regarding students attending Antietam School District illegally and how this issue has been addressed in the past and needs to be addressed in the future.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Moved by Mr. Cocuzza and seconded by Mr. Reto that the minutes of March 13, 2018 be approved as presented. The motion carried.

II. FINANCE REPORT:

- A. Moved by Mr. Dudash and seconded by Mr. Reto to approve checks #17628-17647 dated March 26, 2018 in the amount of \$33, 997.83; check #118 dated March 26, 2018 in the amount of \$10,458.85 from the Fire Tax Fund; and check #118 in the amount of \$2,091.86 from the Ambulance Fund. The motion carried. Mr. Goodman voted no and questioned checks # 17645 and 17646 payable to Mr. Staron and Mr. Nowotarski in the amount of \$20.00 each for a cell phone stipend. Mr. Nowotarski explained 12 years ago a motion was passed allowing a \$20.00 cell phone stipend to the President and Mayor, if they elected to receive it, to help offset the minute usage on their personal phone plans. Both the Mayor and President receive the majority of Borough related calls.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **STREETS:** Mr. Okonski reported the following:
- Street Sweeping will take place April 3rd -6th and questioned if vehicles would continue to be ticketed and towed if they were not moved. Council was in agreement vehicles would be ticketed and towed. Central Berks and the Road Crew try to locate/notify the owner of the vehicle prior to ticketing or towing.
 - After discussion, Mr. Reto made the motion to purchase the Traffic Marking Paint at a cost not to exceed \$1,530.70 and for the Road Crew to line paint the traffic lines at the intersection of St. Lawrence Ave and Perkiomen Avenue (all costs associated with this intersection to be reimbursed by St. Lawrence Borough), seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.
 - A small section of the grass area next to the police station will have a tree removed and the ground slopped thus allowing space to push the snow during future snow removal.
 - Mr. Okonski and Mr. Wojchegoski have identified several streets that need to be repaired in the near future and suggested a five-year plan needs to be put in place. Mr. Nowotarski offered to look for some grant options, as well.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY: No Report.

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES: Mr. Goodman reported he spoke with Matt Kemp from Met Ed regarding our future street light replacement project. Mr. Goodman will contact Matt again to see if Met Ed will replace the Borough's lights at the parking lot as part of the project. If not, Mr. Dudash made the motion to purchase the replacement lights from Met Ed for the parking lot, seconded by Mr. Goodman. The motion carried unanimously.

D. PERSONNEL: No Report.

E. INSURANCE/PENSION: Mr. Cocuzza reported Mr. Klonis is in the process of drafting the new defined benefit pension plan ordinance and the paperwork was signed to switch the life and disability insurance to Cigna effective April 1.

F. CODES: No Report.

IV. LIASION REPORTS:

A. Fire Company: No Report.

B. MPBMA: No Report.

C. AVMA: Mr. Goodman reported the board is still looking for a maintenance mechanic.

D. Planning Commission: No Report.

E. Police Commission: Mayor Nowotarski reported the next Commission meeting is Thursday, April 5th.

F. MPP: No Report.

G. RCAV: No Report.

V. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor: No Report.

B. Motley Associates: No Report.

C. Solicitor: No Report.

D. Secretary: No Report.

VI. ORDINANCES: # 844-Handicapped Parking at 2250 Woodvale Avenue. Motion made by Mr. Reto, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. Reto reported he spoke with the Street Crew about the list of Carsonia Park maintenance tasks provided by RCAV. He stated the Street Crew currently takes care of the line painting in the parking lots, but AVRCC is asking for more assistance. After discussion, it was determined Ms. Hauck will invite one of the Lower Alsace Supervisors to attend the next Council meeting to discuss the maintenance list.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE: No Report.

X. NEW BUSINESS: No Report.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Cocuzza made a motion for adjournment at 9:47P.M., seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, April 10th at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christeena Hauck