

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
November 13, 2018

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at the Borough Hall. President Staron brought the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were Mayor Nowotarski and Council Members: Tom Staron, Roger Reto, Claudia Hurwitz, Randall Miller, and Troy Goodman. Also in attendance were Solicitor Thomas Klonis, Engineering Representative Jim Mohn, Police Chief Ray Serafin, Secretary Bette Petrov, and Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender. Councilmen James Cocuzza and Richard Lombardo did not attend.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- Ms. Marguerite Reis, 1964 Woodvale Avenue, submitted a letter to Mayor Nowotarski and addressed council regarding a large tree (estimated 60' in height) on the rear property of 1960 Woodvale Avenue. Formerly, the home belonged to the Becker Family, and currently owned by Neighborhood Housing Program. Her fear is if the tree falls it will cause damage to many of the properties. She would like it removed prior to it being sold. Mr. Klonis explained the Borough does not have the power to mandate that a healthy tree on private property be removed. Mr. Bender also advised that he has been in touch with the County and the Neighborhood Housing Program. The original representative (Stanley) of Neighborhood Housing is no longer there. The new representative stated that in his professional and personal opinion the tree should come down, and that he would review all previous notes. The County stated they also will review. Mr. Frankhouser explained a bucket truck is needed to take down the tree. Mr. Klonis reiterated we are unable to mandate the removal of the tree. Mr. Bender will follow up.
- Mr. Frankhouser, 1962 Woodvale Avenue, addressed council regarding a conversation with Mr. Wojchowski about a potential sink hole at 22nd Street. He explained over the past four years many trees that lined Mt. Penn have either been taken down or beginning to die. Roots remain. Bacteria and fungus decompose. When there are two or three years of excessive rain, as we have experienced, it creates the potential risk for sink holes.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Moved by Mr. Reto and seconded by Ms. Hurwitz that the minutes of October 23, 2018 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

II. FINANCE REPORT:

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

Checking-	\$ 12,952.49
Savings-Metro	\$ 428,163.28
Liquid Fuels Fund-	\$ 73,494.05
Fire Tax-	\$ 6,475.56
Ambulance Tax-	\$ 1,337.36
PIB Loan-	\$ 39,852.23
Petty Cash-	\$ 50.00

- B. Moved by Ms. Hurwitz and seconded by Mr. Reto to approve checks #17855-#17864 in the amount of \$103,255.95 dated November 13, 2018 from the General Fund; check #1278 in the amount of \$4,044.41 dated November 13, 2018 from Liquid Fuels; check #122 in the amount of \$1,844.27 dated November 13, 2018 from the Fire Tax Fund, and check #121 in the amount of \$376.90 dated November 13, 2018 from the Ambulance Fund. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. President Staron stated Mr. Miller will be taking Mr. Dudash's place on finance. Mr. Miller submitted a rough draft of the 2019 Budget for review, and requested suggestions be forwarded to all council. Council would like the budget finalized by the next meeting.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS:

- Dave Wojchegoski introduced Derrek Rhoads, Road Crew for Borough of St. Lawrence. Discussion was held about the potential and benefit of borrowing equipment belonging to each Borough. In addition, sharing expense of possible new equipment.
- Ms. Hurwitz conveyed a resident on Endlich Avenue is concerned over the additional traffic due to the detours, and the lack of a speed limit sign. Perhaps a temporary sign could be placed directly after the turn off from Perkiomen Avenue, and a second after the Filbert Avenue stop sign. Perkiomen Avenue will be opened for the winter, with temporary detours throughout the winter.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

Mr. Reto spoke about permit parking 7 P.M.-8 A.M. on the Borough's parking lot. Businesses would not have to purchase permits. Residents will purchase permits, and the lot would be monitored by police at night. Monthly or yearly tickets may be purchased, eliminating vehicles left there indefinitely. Fees would be waived for Perkiomen Avenue residents until PennDot project ended. Rodger suggested a \$30 monthly fee with a contract, and suggested ideas be brought to the next meeting. Mr. Klonis stated we would have to adopt an ordinance amending the prior parking lot ordinance.

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES: No Report.

D. PERSONNEL:

- Two resumes were received for the part time position. Ms. Hurwitz would like the ad to be placed on Facebook.
- Deb Janney, State Association of Boroughs, sent correspondence regarding the annual Solvency Fee; their fee for handling any unemployment issues that may arise. Our cost is \$348.47 a year. Mr. Miller explained it may be a catastrophic insurance that would be handled through the State Association of Boroughs, with them acting as the Borough's agent. Mr. Klonis suggested more information be obtained since it is unclear as to what was being purchased.

E. INSURANCE/PENSION:

Ms. Hurwitz questioned whether to do an RFP regarding the pension. A plan administrator is needed. Options should be reviewed as to what is best for the Borough. Current investments are not large enough for Morgan Stanley, and we were given 180 days before they will cash out the Borough. The Police went through the RFP process, and Mr. Miller requested copies.

F. CODES: No report.

IV. LIASION REPORTS:

A. Fire Company: No Report.

B. MPBMA: No Report.

C. AVMA: No Report.

D. Planning Commission: No Report.

E. Police Commission: Meeting held on Nov. 1st. No new information to be shared.

F. MPP: No Report.

G. RCAV: No Report.

V. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor: No Report.

B. Motley Associates:

- Mr. Mohn reported that McDonalds is doing renovations, including the driveway exiting onto Perkiomen Avenue, that is part St. Lawrence and part Mount Penn. Their traffic engineer needs to apply for a permit naming the applicants as The Borough of Mount Penn and St. Lawrence. That means we, as the applicants, will become responsible for any problems that may arise. Joan London, solicitor for St. Lawrence communicated to Mr. Mohn that she experienced this on St. Lawrence Avenue with Goodwill Industries, and forwarded a copy of an agreement with Goodwill and PennDot holding St. Lawrence harmless should there be a problems. They are doing the same thing with McDonalds, and are willing to add us on to the agreement. It must be signed and submitted back to engineer and then to PennDot.

Mr. Miller made the motion to enter into an agreement with St. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Mohn received a Greenlight Go Application sponsored through PennDot to update traffic signals etc. throughout the Borough. The grant will be 20% matching. 22nd and 23rd Streets being done through PennDot as part of current PennDot project. 26th and Perkiomen will not be done since they said there is no funding available. Each year we receive a report from Signal Service indicating items to be addressed for repair. Mr. Mohn will obtain quotations for these repairs. Additionally, he will inquire more into the grant. We have to apply by January 2019.
- Mr. Mohn asked for an Executive Session at 9:10 PM. to discuss Krafczek litigation. Regular Session resumed at 9:30 P.M. No action was taken.

C. Solicitor: No Report.

D. Secretary: Signatory Authority

Ms. Hurwitz made the motion to add Mr. Miller and Ms. Petrov as signors on the bank accounts, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. **ORDINANCES:** No Report

VII. **RESOLUTIONS:** No Report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: ARL

Ms. Hurwitz attended the Animal Rescue League meeting at Albright. ARL's executive director, speaking for the board, proposed fees for service. It will be based on where the animal was found. Borough reps did not feel this was fair and factual, and not verifiable. More control would be needed. Second suggestions was per capita based on census. Per Capita will be saving Mount Penn money; approximately 3,000 residents @ \$2.00 per head, in lieu of the \$8,000 originally determined from the last two years of service provided. This will be broken down into quarterly payments. President Staron brought up the article whereby it was disclosed that ARL had large amounts of money. Discussion continued. Mr. Miller will change the line item under donations. Ms. Hurwitz will reach out to other municipalities to see what their deciding upon. There is another ARL meeting prior to the December 5th deadline.

IX. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

X. **NEW BUSINESS:** None.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Klonis informed Council he will not be at our next meeting.

Ms. Hurwitz made a motion for adjournment at 9:32 P.M., seconded by Mr. Goodman. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, November 27th at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bette E. Petroo