

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
October 23, 2018

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 23, 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, Roger Reto, Jim Cocuzza, Claudia Hurwitz, Rick Lombardo, and Troy Goodman. Also in attendance were Solicitor Zachary Morey, Chief Tim Waldman, Fire Marshall Barry Vogt, Secretary Christeena Hauck, and Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender. Police Chief Ray Serafin. Engineering Representative, Jim Mohn did not attend.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- Mr. Peter Mullunburg, Lynx Computer, addressed Council regarding updating the Borough with two new PC's that are connected to MPBMA network. The Authority is moving towards a more business platform. Microsoft, in 2020, will no longer offer mainstream support for Microsoft Office 2007. The Borough's existing PC's are approximately 7-8 years old and consideration should be taken to replace them. Security compliance, protection, and email issues were also addressed. Site loss, fire and theft issues were brought up by Mr. Reto. Mr. Mullunberg explained with the technology at hand access, retrieval, and business running normally can be obtained within a half day. Ms. Hurwitz questioned the individual emails. MPBMA will have an email for each individual board member and employee. Cost will be \$6.50 monthly per individual. At this time no decision regarding the individual email accounts was made by Council. Joe Boyle of MPBMA offered a few options to the Borough upgrades that were not budgeted for 2018: a month's reduction of rent, or repay them in April of 2019 or a 1/3 discount on the total installment. After discussion, Ms. Hurwitz made the motion for \$2,551 to be paid to Lynx for new software and hardware upgrades from the 2018 budget, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.
- Fire Chief Tim Waldman, 13 Endlich Avenue, submitted the 2017 Fire Chief's report, 2019 budget, and 2018 financial statement. He addressed Council regarding the four phones the Borough has on the Fire Department's plan. Sprint is discontinuing the old Direct Connect and coming out with a new Direct Connect as of April 1, 2019. New phones must be purchased if continuing to utilize direct connect. New phones, with a two year contract for Direct Connect Plus, will be free. Additional expenses may be incurred with overages from use of telephone minutes since these plans are geared towards direct connect usage. Adam Bender and Dave Wojchegoski both conduct Borough business on their phones. It was suggested we look into other plans for next year. Decision must be made by April 1, 2019.
- Ryan Maur, 212 Summit Avenue, approached council regarding concerns over the possible subdivision and increased traffic on Summit Ave. He was told the original plans are off the table. The two upper properties are for sale. Mr. Maur asked about buying the property and our office will give him the phone number for Ken Pick.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Moved by Mr. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Reto that the minutes of October 09, 2018 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

II. FINANCE REPORT:

- A. Moved by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Reto to approve checks #17831-17853 in the amount of \$21,895.94 dated October 22, 2018 from the General Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS: Mr. Cocuzza reported:

- Dave Wojchowski is gathering information for 2019 Streets budget.
- Friday, October 26th streets department will be assisting with mulching, utilizing the backhoe, at Carsonia Park.
- Truck #55 needs to be inspected.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY: Mr. Reto made the motion to accept the quote obtained from Overhead Door Company of Reading for \$550 to repair the broken garage door opener and include a remote control opener, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES: No Report.

D. PERSONNEL: With regret, Ms. Hurwitz made the motion to accept Ms. Christeena Hauck's resignation effective November 2, 2019, seconded by Mr. Goodman. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Nowotarski praised Ms. Hauck for her years of positive service always going above and beyond what was expected. Discussion was held regarding advertising of either the full time or part time position. Ms. Petrov was asked if she would be interested in full and replied she would.

President Staron asked for an Executive Session at 8:14 PM regarding personnel issues. Regular Session resumed at 9:06 PM. The following action was taken:

Ms. Hurwitz made the motion to hire Ms. Petrov 40 hours weekly as a full time employee, at the pay rate of \$18 per hour. She will be credited as of January 1st as having one year completed as a full time employee. From now until January 1st she will receive a pro rata of two sick days, and four paid holiday till that time. The effective hire date will be Wednesday, October 24th, 2018 as of tomorrow. After January 1, 2019 she will receive 10 sick days in accordance with our ordinance and one personal day. Since her full year of credit she will also be offered 5 vacation days, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously. Reto made the motion appointing Ms. Petrov as Secretary and Treasurer, a dual position for the Borough of Mount Penn, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Petrov accepted under the terms and conditions. It is council's understanding Ms. Petrov has previously asked for November 28th and December 3-5 to be off of work and council has approved.

Mr. Lombardo made the motion effective October 11, 2018, for Adam Bender to be a 40 hour employee at the rate of \$20 per hour, two sick days pro rata till the end of the year. Also the four paid holidays. As of January 1st will receive two days vacation and as of April 1st receiving an additional three days, 6 month anniversary, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hurwitz was impressed with all the candidates who applied for the counsel and made it clear she had no personal ties with any candidate. She chose the candidate with the most municipal experience benefiting the Borough.

Ms. Hurwitz made the motion that Randy Miller be appointed to council, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. Mr. Staron asked for a roll call vote:

President Staron - Yes

Mr. Cocuzza - Yes

Mr. Goodman - No

Ms. Hurwitz - Yes

Mr. Lombardo - No

Mr. Reto - No

At this point in time Mr. Mayor must cast his vote.

Mayor Nowotarski – Yes

Motion carried to appoint Mr. Miller to council.

E. INSURANCE/PENSION:

Mr. Morey reported that after checking with both corporations, regardless of the exhibit issues no alterations are necessary.

Ms. Hurwitz made the motion to accept Ordinance #850, adopting the Non-Uniform Defined Contribution Pension Plan, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hurwitz reported health insurance numbers changed for 2019. If kept the same with adding another full time employee the budget line item becomes \$69,805. Adding dental and vision it becomes \$74,000. Discussion continued regarding raising the deductible or having an employee contribution.

Mr. Lombardo made the Motion to accept the Capital Gold PPO plan seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. Mr. Morey explained if a decision was made to have an employee contribution it may be done internally by January 1st. The option of the employee contribution remains open for budgetary reasons. He continued by saying it has nothing to do with the acceptance of a specific plan that must be made by November 1st.

F. CODES: No report from Mr. Lombardo

- Mr. Bender conveyed the rental inspection was completed on 251 Carsonia Avenue, the Family Shelter. The inspection passed with flying colors and to his knowledge there has never been a complaint lodged or a violation noted. It's a model property.

IV. LIASION REPORTS:

A. Fire Company: No Report.

B. MPBMA: No Report.

C. AVMA: No Report.

D. Planning Commission: No Report.

- E. Police Commission:**
- 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:** Ms. Hauck reported:

- Four dates were requested from AVMA for baseball sign up. Two during the week and two Saturdays. Approved with same rules applying.
- Recommending someone attend Berks County Association of Boroughs regarding the Animal Rescue League and the significant financial changes. Ms. Hurwitz will attend.
- Dennis Dyer, residing at 1954 Fairview called and reported he could not attend this meeting. But he wanted it noted that the cold patch that Wojchegoski used to fill the hole has washed away, and the pot hole remains. Mr. Cocuzza will talk to Wojchegoski about a possible solution.

President Staron asked for an Executive Session at 9:29 P.M. to discuss Krafczek litigation. Regular Session resumed at 10:05 P.M. No action was taken.

VI. ORDINANCES:

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

X. NEW BUSINESS: None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Hurwitz made a motion for adjournment at 10:07 P.M., seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, November 13th at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christeena Hauck