

**MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**September 11, 2018**

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 11, 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, Claudia Hurwitz, Jim Cocuzza, Rick Lombardo, Troy Goodman. Also in attendance were Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineering Representative Jim Mohn, Police Chief Ray Serafin, Secretary Christeena Hauck, and Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender. Mr. Dudash did not attend.

President Staron asked for a moment of silence to remember the victims and their families today on the seventeen year anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

- Mr. Christopher Falencki representing Weiser Engineering presented the Plan for the Summit Avenue subdivision to Council. The same plan was presented to the Planning Commission at their August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Berks County Redevelopment Authority plans to create three residential home lots on this property. The Planning Commission members requested Summit Avenue be constructed as a dedicated road subject to Borough specifications; each house would have their own driveway. Council agreed to an 18' wide paved Cul-de-Sac with curb on both sides. Mr. Falencki asked if Council would accept a one way thoroughfare heading south towards Dengler Avenue. PennDot approval would be necessary. In the event that the properties are purchased by adjoining landowners the Mr. Falencki will return to see what road development is necessary, if any lots remain.
- Ms. Bobbie Jo Souden of 1975 Woodvale Ave addressed Council regarding the tree on the neighboring property at 1977 Woodvale Ave that has lost three branches. Mr. Bender informed Council all limbs hanging over the street have been removed by the homeowner at Mr. Bender's request. The tree was checked by the local botanist and determined it is still alive. Mr. Bender will provide a letter to Ms. Souden explaining the status of the tree.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- A. Moved by Ms. Hurwitz and seconded by Mr. Reto that the minutes of August 14, 2018 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**II. FINANCE REPORT:**

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

Checking-	\$ 110,434.41
Savings-	\$ 516,712.64
Liquid Fuels-	\$ 81,506.49
Petty Cash-	\$ 50 .00
Fire Tax-	\$ 6,060.79
PIB Loan-	\$ 39,808.86
Ambulance Tax-	\$ 1,254.36

- B. Moved by Mr. Reto and seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to approve checks #17783-17797 dated August 28, 2018 in the amount of \$107,696.32 from the General Fund; checks #17797-17805 in the amount of \$104,279.16 dated September 10, 2018 from the General Fund; and check #1276 dated September 10, 2018 in the amount of \$4,050.28 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

### **III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mr. Staron reported the following committee changes will be effective following the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting: Ms. Hurwitz will Chair the Insurance/ Pension Committee and Mr. Cocuzza will Chair the Streets Committee.

**A. STREETS:** Ms. Hurwitz reported:

- The Road Crew needs a part time leaf helper. Mr. Goodman made the motion to advertise on Social Media/ Website, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried.
- Quotes were received for a new dump truck. One for using the existing stainless body and one for a new stainless body. Only 20% of Liquid Fuels allocation for the year can be used. The total cost would be close to \$60,000.00. The equipment will be purchased through the state program. The truck was not budgeted for 2018. After discussion, it was decided to wait for the 2019 budget.

**B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY:** Mr. Goodman reported RCAV is looking for some volunteer manpower and heavy equipment from the communities for a few days beginning October 24<sup>th</sup>. After discussion Council committed to helping a half day on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and a half day on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Reto will contact Mr. Worrall and Mr. Wojchowski.

**C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:** Mr. Goodman reported:

- He spoke with Matt Kemp at Met Ed regarding the schedule for the street light replacement. Matt reported they are behind due to the weather. He is waiting for a pole replacement update for damaged poles from Karen Baxter.
- He also made the recommendation to extend the Trash and Recycling contracts for one year. Everyone received a copy of both quotes. The current trash/recycling fee is \$195.00 per unit per year. The market cost for recycling has increased significantly. The fee for the year 2019 for trash, recycling, and yard waste will be \$203.00 per unit. After discussion, Mr. Goodman made the motion to extend the trash and recycling contract for an additional year, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.
- The 902 Equipment Grant will open another enrollment period in the spring of 2019; the Committee has met to discuss the future needs for the Borough. The leaf box will need to be replaced in 2019. The cost is \$5,000.00 the grant match is 10%. The leaf picker is ten years old and is also being considered for the next grant round.

**D. PERSONNEL: No Report.**

- E. INSURANCE/PENSION:** Mr. Cocuzza made the motion to rescind the prior motion authorizing the 4% contribution for the defined contribution pension plan, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried.

Mr. Staron called for an Executive Session at 8:28 PM to discuss personnel issues. Regular Session resumed at 8:54 PM. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion to set the contribution to 7% for the Defined Contribution Pension Plan for the new full time employees, and submit the questionnaire to Morgan Stanley for the creation of the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

- F. CODES:** Mr. Lombardo reported 2210 Perkiomen Ave had a clogged chimney. Mr. Bender reported 2319 Fairview Avenue has been mowed and the trash was removed today. The cars will be taken care of next. The homeowner is willing to pay all costs.

Mr. Lombardo made the motion for Mr. Klonis to attend the Crafton hearing with Mr. Bender, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **IV. 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 everyone has a copy of the Chief's report. The police pension is 90% funded. There is a pension shortfall due to the combination of the new employees and the accumulated percentage rate being lowered. Chief Serafin reported the speed boards that were donated by Mr. Heizmann have been ordered and should arrive in a few weeks.
- F. MPP: No Report.**
- G. RCAV: No Report.**

#### **V. OTHER REPORTS:**

- A. Mayor:** Mayor Nowotarski reported he received a handicapped parking application for 2432 Fairview Ave. The spot was a past handicapped parking space. Mayor Nowotarski authorized a temporary handicapped parking sign be erected until the ordinance is adopted.
- B. Motley Associates: No Report.**
- C. Solicitor: No Report.**
- D. Secretary:** Ms. Hauck reported everyone received a copy of the invite to the County Commissioners and Berks Municipal Partnership's Municipal Officials Breakfast. Also, everyone has a copy of the Penn State Master Gardener Club's Educational Flyer. There are group educational sessions available. Ms. Hauck pointed out there is free public meeting Spotted Lantern Fly education available. She will inquire to find out the best time to schedule a public meeting. After discussion, Ms. Hurwitz made the motion for the road crew to band the trees on Endlich Ave, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

**VI. ORDINANCES: #848-** Establishing rules and regulations regarding the use of the Parking Lot at N. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Perkiomen Ave, Motioned by Mr. Cocuzza, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

**VII. RESOLUTIONS: None.**

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.**

**IX. CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**X. NEW BUSINESS: None.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Lombardo made a motion for adjournment at 9:11 P.M., seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Christeena Hauck*