

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL

March 12, 2019

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at the Borough Hall. President Staron brought the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were Mayor Nowotarski, President Staron, and Council Members: James Cocuzza, Troy Goodman, Claudia Hurwitz, Randall Miller, and Roger Reto. Also in attendance were Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineering Representative Jim Mohn, Police Chief Ray Serafin, Secretary Bette Petrov, and Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender. Richard Lombardo arrived late.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- A. Mr. Ed Overberger, ARRO, approached Council regarding the Early Intervention Grant. He introduced Andrew Sheaf and Fred Chapman, representatives from DCED who continued the explanation of the potential grant. The Borough would have to engage and file for the grant, with the Authority assuming all costs, and financing the matching funds. Phase One is the Borough's responsibility, and entails the Borough's philosophy, benefit, and deciphering what the actual grant would involve. Phase Two will identifying and addressing the Authority's needs such as, self-analysis, rate study, management, infrastructure needs, equipment needs, etc., all of which must be spelled out in Phase One in order to be addressed. An RFP will be put out for a Financial Consultant who will actually take the lead. Borough's responsibility in name only. Discussion continued. A resolution will be needed for the agreement relative to the financial responsibility.
- B. Kelly Dudash, Recreation Commission Antietam Valley, addressed council regarding the \$250,000 DCNR grant awarded, for the restoration of the park, which requires a 50% match. Ms. Dudash requested the Borough to commit to budgeting \$20,000 for the 2020 calendar year. Discussion continued. Mr. Lombardo made the motion, seconded by Mr. Goodman, to move forward with the letter of intent of contribute \$20,000 in 2020. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Ray Eppler, PennDot, spoke to Council regarding entering into a three year contract whereby Mount Penn will plow the state roads within the Borough. Mount Penn would be compensated either yearly plus severe weather, or on a real time cost basis tracking wages, anti-skid, etc. Mt. Penn will be responsible for plowing and pushing back snow. Following that any icing issues become the responsibility of PennDot. Discussion continued. PennDot will submit their contract for review. A contract will be issued for the review of Mr. Klonis.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. Moved by Mr. Lombardo, and seconded by Mr. Reto, that the minutes of February 26, 2019 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

III. FINANCE REPORT:

- A. Moved by Ms. Hurwitz, and seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to accept the February 2019 Treasurer's Reports. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported:

Checking-	\$	19,687.91
Savings-Metro	\$	108,903.84
Liquid Fuels Fund-	\$	44,699.09
Fire Tax-	\$	8,456.40
Ambulance Tax-	\$	1,733.44
PIB Loan-	\$	39,950.59
Petty Cash-	\$	50 .00

Discussion was held regarding moving the Fire Tax and Ambulance Tax accounts from First Priority back to First National. Ms. Hurwitz suggested speaking with First National regarding better interest rates. Mr. Miller will contact First National.

- B. Moved by Mr. Miller to ratify checks #17979 - #17989, dated March 11, 2019 in the amount of \$42,239.66 from the General Fund, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Miller also reported on the amount of tax money being deposited.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS:

- Mr. Cocuzza brought up street sweeping, taking place the week of April 2nd, and construction. This year it will be more efficient to do the flat rate in lieu of hourly due to the amount of cinders. The construction contractors should be sweeping ongoing when needed. Discussion followed. Mr. Cocuzza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Goodman to enter into the flat rate, \$4,000, with Industrial Grounds. The motion carried unanimously.
- Masano's would like a commitment on the new truck costing \$37,918. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, to give Masano's the approval on the new truck. The motion carried unanimously.
- Approximately \$5,000 is needed for crack sealing. Additionally, the Borough is in need of approximately \$142,000 in three necessary and major street repairs. Discussion continued and the Borough must prioritize the streets and repairs. Mr. Cocuzza will look into grants.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY: No Report

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Mr. Goodman had a meeting with Blosenski and Republic regarding alternate routes. Rubbish will be removed one day a week, early Friday morning between 5AM and 6AM, on Perkiomen Avenue. Mr. Goodman obtained the approval of Chief Serafin. As of now Republic does not seem any additional costs will be imposed.

D. PERSONNEL: No Report

E. INSURANCE/PENSION:

RFP responses are due by March 20, 2019

F. CODES:

- Mr. James Lorah, Code Enforcement Administrator, Central Berks Regional Codes Enforcement Department, addressed Council. He gave a synopsis of his report, conveying recommendations on key points, issues in need of improvement, standard operating procedures written, and his vision for the joint codes department. Discussion followed. Mr. Lombardo made the motion, seconded by Tom Staron, to merge the individual community databases into one. The motion carried unanimously. This will allow comparison reports to be generated. Mr. Bender will remain an employee of the Borough and should continue to attend Borough Council Meetings.

V. LIASION REPORTS:

A. Fire Company: 1900 dozen Fastnachts sold.

B. MPBMA: No Report

C. AVMA: No Report.

D. Planning Commission: No Report.

E. Police Commission: Request to change the articles of agreement. Quorum constitutes three members in lieu of four, removing the required number of meetings, and moving the audit date to June. Mr. Klonis will review the original articles of agreement, and the request to change the articles. He will report at the next meeting.

F. MPP – No Report

G. RCAV: No Report.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor: No Report.

B. Motley Associates:

- Mr. Mohn brought up repairs that need to be made at the triangle. Jim Davis, PennDot, will meet with a council representative this week. Jim will arrange the meeting.
- Regarding the Primary Center, Mr. Mohn issued the Zoning Permit November 2018. Permit applications and plans have now been submitted. Mr. Sands, Mr. Waldman, and Mr. Mohn will be reviewing plans.

C. Solicitor: No Report

D. Secretary: Reminded Council to respond to Municipal's Officials Dinner and to return Financial Interest Statements.

VII ORDINANCES:

- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to adopt Ordinance #851 amending our Solid Waste Ordinance to comply with the 902 recycling grant. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to adopt Ordinance #852 amending the Burning Ordinance to comply with the 902 recycling grant. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII RESOLUTIONS: No Report**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Animal Control

Ms. Hurwitz discussed the survey regarding Animal Control services in Berks County and council's wishes were noted on each survey question.

X. CORRESPONDENCE: None.**XI. NEW BUSINESS:** None.

President Staron requested an executive session at 9:42. Regular session resumed at 9:52. The record shows matters of personnel and Krafczek litigation were discussed. No action was taken.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Hurwitz made a motion for adjournment at 9.56 P.M., seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bette E. Petrov