

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
May 14, 2019

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at the Borough Hall. President Staron brought the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were Mayor Nowotarski, President Staron, and Council Members: Troy Goodman, Claudia Hurwitz, Rick Lombardo, and Roger Reto. Also in attendance were Solicitor Tom Klonis, Police Chief Ray Serafin, Secretary Bette Petrov, and Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender. Randall Miller arrived late, Engineering Representative James Mohn, and James Cocuzza did not attend.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- Thomas Smith, Chairman, Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority, spoke on the social media thread regarding dissolving the water authority. Mr. Smith questioned what Council's intentions are in regards to dissolving the authority or having a public works. Additionally he spoke on the ramifications of dissolving the water authority, as well as being under the umbrella of the Public Utilities Commission. Discussion continued. Mr. Smith requested if discussions continue to include the Municipal Authority Board.
- Joseph Boyle, Vice Chair Municipal Authority, 208 Mayer Avenue, spoke on what can happen should the Water Company is dissolved. Mr. Boyle conveyed a brief history of Crystal Lake. Today the park is beautiful, and dissolving the Authority will not help the park. He stated a referendum should be needed for a decision of such significance. Discussion continued.
- Dennis Swartz, 2423 Filbert Avenue, former Council Member, Board Member on Authority, and Sewer Authority member. Mr. Swartz gave a history on the creations of both the Water Authority and the Sewer Authority. He conveyed his concerns and issues of dissolving the Authority.
- Judy Swartz, 2423 Filbert Avenue, expressed concern over representatives gathering for discussion, possibly having a quorum, and breaking the Sunshine Law.
- John Fielding, 710 Penn Terrace. Mr. Fielding stated that part of the document revolving around the past potential merger, Lower Alsace and Mount Penn, was a clause providing the new entity could dissolve the Authority. He continued conveying information.
- Cindy Heizmann, 2702 Philmay Terrace, addressed Mr. Goodman wanting to know who he spoke with in the public.
- Ron Stouffer, 412 Friedensburg Road, requested to know which council member spoke to PA American, Aqua America, or any other privatizers. He continued, and asked council to seriously consider the idea of losing control of a valuable asset.
- Rosie Skomitz, 412 Friedensburg Road, added not to change a wonderful system that works for us. Why jeopardize?
- Lee Pace, 39 Kinsey Hill Drive, Birdsboro, owns two properties in Mount Penn. He expressed the Authority has been "a financial steward of resources". He continued conveying information.
- Steve Davis, 108 Antietam Trace, showed concern and asked how the future vote of incoming council members may impact dissolving the Authority.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Moved by Ms. Hurwitz, and seconded by Mr. Lombardo, that the minutes of April 30, 2019 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. FINANCE REPORT:

- Tom Staron made the motion to table the Finance Report until Randy Miller arrives, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**A. STREETS:**

- Mr. Reto made the motion to authorize the Borough to enter into an agreement with PA One (Call), and have the appropriate officials execute the contract, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

- Mr. Reto received an estimate for a maintenance agreement covering the garage doors. Mr. Reto made the motion to agree to the quotation. No second.

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:

- Forty more lights need to be changed. Mr. Goodman will contact representative.

D. PERSONNEL: No Report

E. INSURANCE/PENSION: No Report

F. CODES: No Report

V. LIASION REPORTS:

A. Fire Company: No Report

B. MPBMA: No Report

C. AVMA: No Report.

D. Planning Commission: No Report.

E. Police Commission:

- Chief Serafin is requesting that everyone lock their vehicle doors. Vehicles with unlocked doors are being entered. Residents should be aware of their surroundings. He is requesting if anyone notices suspicious activity to notify the police directly, rather than reacting to social media.
- The 2700 block of Perkiomen Avenue has started to disintegrate due to the milling and needs a complete restoration. Some work may occur at night.
- Chief Serafin reported the sign on Endlich is set for another cycle. The high speed of 47 MPH was reported at 2:00 AM. Average speed during the day of 300 vehicles is 27 MPH.

F. MPP – No Report

G. RCAV:

- President Staron will re-write letter of intent for 2020.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor: No Report

B. Motley Associates: No Report

C. Solicitor: No Report

D. Secretary: Ms. Hurwitz spoke, for the secretary, on the amount of electric bills received and suggested we look into paying online. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion to authorize the Borough Secretary to pay the electric bills on line, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

VII ORDINANCES:

- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto, to adopt an Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Penn, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing Intergovernmental Cooperation by agreement between the Township of Lower Alsace and the Borough of Mount Penn, all of Berks Bount, Pennsylvania, to provide for the amendment and restatement of the Articles of Agreement of the Central Berks Regional Police Commission for the for the Purpose of providing police service to the aforementioned municipalities. The motion carried. Ms. Hurwitz abstained.

VIII RESOLUTIONS:

- Mr. Reto made the motion, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz to adopt Resolution No. 24-19 of the Borough of Mount Penn, Berks County, Pennsylvania, adopting the summary of award notice and its selection of CBIZ Investment Advisory Services, LLC as its pension advisor. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Mr. Miller made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept the April 2019 Treasurer's Reports. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported:

Checking-	\$	95,778.98
Savings-Metro	\$	763,690.67
Liquid Fuels Fund-	\$	127,008.66
Fire Tax-	\$	85,992.06
Ambulance Tax-	\$	17,242.24
PIB Loan-	\$	40,000.68
Petty Cash-	\$	50 .00

X. CORRESPONDENCE: No Report

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

- The tax collector, Mr. John Skrincosky, Jr., is requesting a new computer. The issue was raised as to whether we are responsible for the tax collector's expenses. Discussion followed. Mr. Klonis will investigate.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lombardo made a motion for adjournment at 9:02 P.M., seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bette E. Petrov