

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
September 24, 2019

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 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, President Staron, and Council Members: Jim Cocuzza, Troy Goodman, Claudia Hurwitz, Rick Lombardo, Randy Miller, and Roger Reto. Also in attendance were Mayor Nowotarski, Solicitor Zachary Morey, Engineering Representative James Mohn, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Secretary Bette Petrov.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Michael Frankhouser, 1962 Woodvale Ave., Mr. Watcke, 1038-A Friedensburg Road
Mr. Tyler Martikainen-Watcke, 11 Lake Street, and
Courtney Brumbach, 225 Friedensburg Road

All addressed council regarding the 50 new townhouses that are going to be constructed behind St. Catherine's Sr. Apartments. Some questions and issues were raised over school taxes, storm water issues, and changes in the plans. Discussion followed. Mr. Mohn explained that plans have not changed, and at this time there are no plans for change. Three to four public hearings were held prior to the approval of the plans over ten years ago.

President Staron assured the residents Council shares their concerns.

- Donna Napoli, 36 North 23rd Street, requested to know if the Borough would make it known to all residents when the PennDot project was nearing completion, and if and when the five parking spaces will be returned. Discussion continued.
- MaCherie Dunbar, Constituent Advocate, 815 Washington Street, Reading, PA spoke on behalf of Representative Chrissy Houlahan. She discussed various ways in which their office could be of service, inclusive of being the liaison with the Federal government and grant writing.
- Roderick Morrison, 32 North 23rd Street, expressed concern over the lack of parking spaces, the lack of vehicles stopping before making the right turn, and the speeding as they turn.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Moved by Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Hurwitz, that the minutes of September 10, 2019 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

III. FINANCE REPORT

- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to ratify check #18142 through #18157, dated September 23, 2019 in the amount of \$24,576.83 from the General Fund; and check #1294 dated September 23, 2019 in the amount of \$1,440.58 from Liquid Fuels. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS:

- Mr. Cocuzza spoke on Grant Street taking longer than anticipated. Mr. Mohn explained Folk paving ran into some problems with the street.
- Mr. Reto expressed concern over the angle on the sidewalk in front of St. Catherine's Convent. Discussion continued. Council would like Mr. Mohn to attend the PennDot meetings; the next one scheduled for Tuesday, October 01, 2019 at 1:00 PM. Mr. Okonski is compiling a punch list of items to be addressed by PennDot at the end of the project.

- In regards to the original motion to repair South 20th Street at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00, Mr. Lombardo made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto amending to include additional paving (Cumberland in front of the school and a patch on Laurel Lane) at no additional cost. Motion amended and properly seconded. It was a unanimous consent.
- The caulking and expansion tapes being utilized on the sidewalks are not consistent in color and are falling out. It will be addressed on the punch list.
- Mr. Okonski stated that their part time helper, Mr. Bradley Prater, was given raises over the past two years and he never received the increases. His rate remains at \$12.00. The secretary will research the resolutions.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY: No Report

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:

- Mr. Goodman noted the waste management bid was advertised in the Reading Eagle September 12th and is scheduled again for the October 15th edition.

D. PERSONNEL: No Report

E. INSURANCE/PENSION:

- Ms. Hurwitz had a meeting with CBIZ. Contributions on the 401 plan are based on gross salary. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion that \$2,043.33 be transferred to CBIZ for the 2018 Money Purchase Plan for Adam and Bette, seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz, to transfer \$4,054.26 for the 2019 through payroll period ending September 8th, with transfers made every two weeks thereafter with each payroll. The motion carried unanimously.

F. CODES:

- Mr. Bender stated the 1951 Woodvale Avenue property was declared blighted by the County Blight Review Committee. Additionally, Berks Fire and Water is beginning to clear the house, damaged by fire, on the 2700 block of Perkiomen.

V. LIASION REPORTS:

A. Fire Company: No Report

B. MPBMA: No Report

C. AVMA: No Report

D. Planning Commission:

- Mr. Mohn stated the Summit Avenue Subdivision plans were approved, recorded, and returned to the Borough Office.
- Representatives are still needed for the Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Joseph Cunliffe, 7 Earl Gables Court, is a Poll worker with Berks County. Mr. Morey will further investigate this issue.

E. Police Commission: No Report

F. MPP: No Report

G. RCAV: No Report

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor: No Report

B. Motley Associates:

- The potential buyer for 2242 Dengler wants to restore high end vintage vehicles. Their zoning application was denied and they filed for appeal. Documents were forwarded to Mr. Sobotka. Discussion continued. Mr. Miller moved that the Borough draft a letter, signed by the President, indicating that the Borough of Mount Penn is in favor of adaptive reuse of the property under consideration with the Zoning Hearing Board, seconded by Mr. Goodman. The motion carried.
- The following parking space issues were discussed. MPBMA is requesting two parking spaces beside their window on Filbert. It was denied. Mr. Mohn and Mr. Okonski suggested that two temporary no parking signs be placed on a trial basis on the 1900 block of Perkiomen Avenue due to a site vision problem turning onto Perkiomen coming out of the alley. The resident on Oak Terrace agreed to park back further with no inconvenience. No Parking signs will be posted during snow storms to eliminate the turning issue.

C. Solicitor:**D. Secretary:****VII. ORDINANCES:**

- Ms. Hurwitz made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto to adopt Ordinance 854, being duly advertised, updating the 2018 International Property Code. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS:

- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz to adopt Resolution 27-19, appointing Don Pottiger as the primary delegate, and John Skrincosky as the alternate delegate to represent the municipalities in the same school district on the Berks County Tax Collection Committee, Executive Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

President Staron called for an executive session at 9:08 PM. Regular session resumed at 9:19 PM. Let the record show Krafczek litigation was discussed. No action was taken.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**X. CORRESPONDENCE:****XI. NEW BUSINESS:****XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Mr. Miller made the motion for adjournment at 9:21 PM, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 PM, October 08, 2019 at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bette E. Petrov