

**MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**June 23, 2020**

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on June 23, 2020 via Zoom. President Goodman brought the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were, President Goodman, and Council Members: James Cocuzza, John Fielding, and Ryan Maurer. Mr. Reto arrived late. Also in attendance were Mayor Nowotarski, Solicitor Tom Klonis, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Secretary Bette Petrov. Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Staron, and Chief Serafin did not attend.

**I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

- Michael Frankhouser, 1962 Woodvale Avenue, submitted a letter regarding Small Cell or 5G Towers, to be read by Ms. Petrov. His concern is the health hazards that can be attributed to these towers. Mr. Frankhouser strongly suggests an ordinance be adopted making it illegal to have 5G projection systems in the Borough.

**II. ENGINEERING**

An executive session was called for at 7:25 P.M.  
Regular session resumed at 7:35 P.M.  
Let the record reflect Krafczek litigation was discussed.

- Mr. Fielding made the motion seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to authorize the execution of the settlement agreement that settles the Krafczek litigation. The motion carried unanimously. Council President signed. The document was notarized, copied and returned to Mr. Krafczek for recording.
- The Engineers report of May 06, 2020 to June 18, 2020 was reviewed.
- Mr. Fielding made the motion seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to authorize the engineer to investigate the repair costs associated with the Glenn Terrace sink hole. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Moved by Mr. Fielding and seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, that the minutes of May 12, 2020 be approved with the following change. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:00 PM, Tuesday, June 23, 2020 in lieu of June 30, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. FINANCE REPORT**

- Mr. Fielding made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to accept the Treasurer's Reports for May 2020. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported.

Checking	49,361.22
Savings	775,099.70
Fire	51,434.23
Ambulance Tax	20,943.77
PIB Loan	40,258.82
Liquid Fuels Fund	99,613.55
Petty Cash	50.00

Mr. Fielding made the motion seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to ratify check #18373 dated May 13 and check #18374 dated May 15, 2020 for a total of \$1,068.00; check #18375 - #18392 including the on-line payment, dated May 25, 2020 totaling \$24,290.99; check #18393 - #18403 including on-line payments, dated June 10, 2020 totaling 105,626.74; and check #18404 - #18419 including the on-line payment, dated June 24, 2020 totaling \$58,112.17, all from the General Fund. Check #1310 dated March 25, 2020 totaling \$2,607.56 and check #1311 dated June 24, 2020 totaling \$2,607.25 from Liquid Fuels. The motion carried unanimously.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **A. STREETS:**

- Mr. Cocuzza reported the following:
  - Glenn Terrace sink hole. Mr. Cocuzza would like to authorize Mr. Falencki to look into permanent repairs for the storm water pipes. President Goodman expressed concern over the amount of possible voids in the street as the curbs are beginning to sink. He continued Cumberland Avenue to Center Street and down to Endlich Avenue the corrugated steel is beginning to corrode. President Goodman expressed the need for preventative maintenance and inspections on the storm drains. In order to determine what other municipalities are doing regarding maintenance, Mr. Maurer suggested we bring this to the engineer for investigation.
  - President Goodman said the engineer has a five-year plan for the handicap ramp project and it will be addressed at our next meeting.
  - Mr. Maurer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, authorizing Mr. Okonski to purchase a new lawn mower at a cost not to exceed \$400.00. The motion carried unanimously.
  - Mr. Reto made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, to put the codes vehicle and salt spreader on MunciBid for sale.

### **B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY:**

- Mr. Reto read the contract related to the parking lot. Discussion continued regarding parking permits, other possible usage, and selling. Mr. Fielding made the motion, seconded by Mr. Maurer, authorizing Mr. Klonis to prepare an amended ordinance referencing the Parking Lot Contract allowing paid permit parking. The motion carried unanimously.

### **C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:**

- President Goodman discussed the meeting that was held with Mascaro representatives. Discrepancies and complaints were brought to the table for discussion.

### **D. PERSONNEL:**

- To save costs, Mr. Maurer suggested we utilize the part time person, and hold off hiring full time. Discussion continued. Mr. Maurer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fielding to table the hiring a street crew member until September 30, 2020, at which time it will be revisited. The motion carried.

### **E. INSURANCE/PENSION: - No Report**

**F. CODES:**

- Regarding 1951 Woodvale Avenue, Mr. Bender conveyed the lender has given up the property free and clear. He conveyed the property should be boarded up for safety and health reasons. Mr. Bender is actively citing the property owner on a daily basis. Additionally, he will attend the County Blight hearing scheduled for 2:30 July 28<sup>th</sup>. Discussion continued regarding the benefit of continuing to cite as opposed to suing, and the situation in its entirety.  
Mr. Bender will investigate the cost relating to boarding up the building.
- Rental inspections will begin shortly.
- Mr. Reto brought up the issue of weeds by the curbs throughout the Borough. Discussion continued.

**V. LIASION REPORTS:****A. Fire Company:** No Report**B. MPBMA:** No Report**C. AVMA**

- AVMA is looking to purchase a diesel generator to back up the entire plant, not just the pumps.

**D. Planning Commission:** No Report**E. Police Commission:**

- National Night Out is cancelled.
- Contract negotiations with the officers is taking place. Inclusive in the negotiations is the idea of transferring salaries for Mr. Bender and the replacement for Mr. Gerhart to the Central Berks payroll.
- Discussion continued regarding the “Chain of Command Crisis”, synchronizing permits, forms, software, and on-line payments, etc. between the Borough of Mount Penn and Lower Alsace. Additionally, Mr. Bender spoke on “codes” versus “building maintenance”.

**F. MPP:** No Report**G. RCAV:**

- President Goodman reached out to Mr. Theodossiou regarding waste removal at the park. Lower Alsace will remove trash Tuesday and Wednesday. Mt. Penn will remove trash Monday and Thursday. The MPBMA has agreed to have signage put in place stating if those using the courts will not remove their trash the courts will be locked. Discussion continued. President Goodman conveyed additional discussion would take place at the next meeting.

**VI. OTHER REPORTS:****A. Mayor:** No Report**B. Solicitor:** No Report**C. Secretary:**

- Ms. Petrov presented two service agreements for approval. 1) Waldman Brothers for annual service to the generator for \$ 375.00, and 2) Signal Service covering maintenance to traffic lights for \$2,325.00.

Mr. Fielding made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to accept the two service agreements. The motion carried unanimously.

**VII. ORDINANCES:****VIII. RESOLUTIONS**

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**X. CORRESPONDENCE:** No Report.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

- President Goodman made the motion for adjournment at 9:20 seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 PM, Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bette E. Petrov*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*