

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
December 10, 2019

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on December 10th 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, President Staron, and Council Members: James Cocuzza, Randall Miller, and Roger Reto. Also in attendance were Mayor Nowotarski, Solicitor Tom Klonis, Chief Serafin, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Secretary Bette Petrov. Troy Goodman, Claudia Hurwitz, Rick Lombardo, and Engineering Representative James Mohn did not attend.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- Joseph Cunliffe, 7 Earl Gables Court, updated Council on the Block Party scheduled for Saturday, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM, May 02nd with a rain date of Sunday, May 03rd, 2019.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

III. FINANCE REPORT

- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, to approve the November 2019 Treasurers Report. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported:

Checking-	\$	30,278.81
Savings-Metro	\$	311,862.26
Liquid Fuels Fund-	\$	52,685.00
Fire Tax-	\$	12,490.43
Ambulance Tax-	\$	3,545.91
PIB Loan-	\$	40,161.29
Petty Cash-	\$	50.00

- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto to ratify checks #18218 - #18228 dated December 10, 2019 amounting to \$105,308.30 from the General Fund.
- Discussion continued regarding expenditures and the reserve of \$311,862.26 in the savings account that needs to carry us through the first three months of 2020. Points discussed were as follows:
 - Adhering to the 2020 Budget with no extraneous expenditures.
 - Monitoring Earned Income Tax.
 - Lower earned income tax puts a strain on property tax.
 - The need for property tax reform.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS:

- Mr. Cocuzza spoke about reinstating the parking spaces (painting of the lines) on Perkiomen in front of senior housing.
- The teamster contract is not ready. The vote will be taken during the January 14th, 2020 meeting and be retroactive to January 01, 2020.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

- Mr. Reto would like the sale of the parking lot to increase to \$175,000 in lieu of \$165,000. Discussion continued.

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:

- Council received rates for energy services. Mr. Reto made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to accept the rates received from AEP Energy for a period of 36 months. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Klonis reviewed the waste removal contracts. J.P. Mascaro's is fine. The contract received from Charles Blosenski is incorrect, and will be returned for proper adjustments. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto, authorizing President Staron and the secretary to execute the contract from J.P Mascaro. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to execute the corrected contracts from Charles Blosenski, subject to the approval of the solicitor. The motion carried unanimously.

D. PERSONNEL:

President Staron requested an executive session at 9:18. Regular session resumed at 9:42. Let the record show personnel issues were discussed. No action taken.

E. INSURANCE/PENSION:

- Our expiring rate is \$35,408, and our new rate for 2020 is \$30,051. It was suggested we increase the umbrella a million dollars at an additional cost of \$673. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto to accept the 2020 insurance contract with Richard Hart inclusive of the additional million dollar coverage for the additional \$673. The motion carried unanimously.

F. CODES:

- Mr. Bender met with the new owner 2709 Perkiomen Avenue. Plans are to completely renovate in the spring.
- 18 South 23rd Street is being sold as a two unit. For the past 19 years the owner has been paying for one unit of trash. Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto to invoice the owner for the past five years. The motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion was held regarding increasing ticketing rates for violations.
- Chief Serafin confirmed Mr. Lorah is a Lower Alsace employee, and not included in the Police budget. Discussion continued regarding the codes program and Mr. Lorah. Mr. Reto made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, to draft a new letter rescinding the September 24, 2019 letter. A roll call vote was taken.

President Staron ---	Yes
Mr. Cocuzza -----	Yes
Mr. Miller -----	No
Mr. Reto -----	Yes

The motion carried.

V. LIASION REPORTS:

- A. Fire Company:** No Report

B. MPBMA:

- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to appoint Mr. Staron to the Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority Board filling the vacant seat through 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- Sworn into the CBRPD were two new officers.

F. MPP: No Report**G. RCAV: No Report****VI. OTHER REPORTS:****A. Mayor: No Report****B. Motley Associates: No Report****C. Solicitor:****D. Secretary:**

- Ms. Petrov submitted for approval and advertising the 2020 meeting dates. Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, to advertise the 2020 meeting dates. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. ORDINANCES:

- Mr. Reto made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to adopt Ordinance #855 (duly advertised) restricting parking for handicapped use only at 1941 Woodvale Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Miller noted Ordinance #856 needed the addition of a statement: "That the value in dollars is \$1.07 for every \$1,000.00 of assessed property value." Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to adopt Ordinance #856 (duly advertised) fixing the tax rate for the fiscal year 2020 and inclusive of the additional statement. A roll call vote was taken.

President Staron ---	Yes
Mr. Cocuzza -----	Yes
Mr. Miller -----	Yes
Mr. Reto -----	No

The motion carried.

Additionally, Mayor Nowotarski submitted a letter to the Solicitor vetoing Ordinance #856. Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, to override the veto of the mayor. A roll call vote was taken.

President Staron ---	Yes
Mr. Cocuzza -----	Yes
Mr. Miller -----	Yes
Mr. Reto -----	Yes

The motion carried.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, to adopt the Borough of Mount Penn budget for the year 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Safety Net Sanctuary forwarded a sample contract covering animal services. Cost to the Borough in the year 2020 is \$1,000 for their services. Discussion continued.

X. CORRESPONDENCE: No Report.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

- Mr. Miller made the motion for adjournment at 9:43 PM, seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously. The Re-Organization meeting will take place Monday, January 06, 2020 at 7:30 PM at Borough Hall. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 PM, Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bette E. Petrov
Secretary/Treasurer