

**MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**November 12, 2019**

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on November 12, 2019 at the Borough Hall. President Staron brought the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were, President Staron, and Council Members: James Cocuzza, Troy Goodman, Claudia Hurwitz, Rick Lombardo, and Roger Reto. Also in attendance were Mayor Nowotarski, Solicitor Zachary Morey, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Secretary Bette Petrov. Randal Miller did not attend.

**I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

- Jason Wink, 2601 Philmay, addressed Council regarding flooding and a sinkhole on his property. Mr. Mohn met with Mr. Wink last week. Mr. Mohn explained part of the issue is an existing storm sewer pipe, on the resident's property, rusted out at the bottom. Mr. Mohn conveyed DEP might require permits. Discussion continued. Mr. Mohn explained this is not the responsibility of the Borough as it is private property, and will provide Mr. Wink the name and number of a representative at the Conservation District to contact.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Moved by Ms. Hurwitz and seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, that the minutes of October 29, 2019 and November 07, 2019 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. FINANCE REPORT**

- The following October 2019 balances were reported:

Checking-	\$	24,200.08
Savings-Metro	\$	391,354.04
Liquid Fuels Fund-	\$	90,620.52
Fire Tax-	\$	11,360.15
Ambulance Tax-	\$	3,319.31
PIB Loan-	\$	40,152.15
Petty Cash-	\$	50.00

- Mr. Lombardo made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto to ratify checks #18186 - #18200 dated November 10, 2019 amounting to \$106,342.74 from the General Fund; and checks #1299 through #1300, dated November 10, 2019 amounting to \$1,237.50 from Liquid Fuels. The motion carried unanimously.
- Council discussed the 2020 budget with regard to fee schedules, rental fees, and increasing the Business Privilege tax. Mr. Morey informed Council individual ordinances are necessary for each change. Rental fees need to be broken down separating the license fee from the inspection fee. Following adjustments, Ms. Hurwitz noted a surplus of \$41,000 that includes a .2 mil increase (on the recommendation of Mr. Miller) as a reserve for future budgets. The budget can be balanced contingent on changes made to fee schedules. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz to advertise the 2020 budget, and to authorize the solicitor's office to prepare the ordinance and advertise for the tax increase. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Hurwitz conveyed the budget is \$2,152,312. Mr. Cocuzza, Mr. Goodman and Mr. Mohn will work together adjusting the fee schedules.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

##### A. STREETS:

- Mr. Cocuzza conveyed he and Mr. Mohn spoke again with Mr. Mitchell, US DOT, regarding the handicap ramps throughout the Borough. The Center Street and Cumberland Avenue complaint is not valid. However, we need to indicate to him where we do not have ramps, and how the Borough intends to address. Discussion continued noting changing standards and increasing costs. Mr. Cocuzza and Mr. Mohn will do a Borough wide survey.
- Discussion continued on traffic issues at St. Catherine's. Specifically, whether the potential changes will be specific times versus permanent. Will they be limited to time zones, arrival and departure? The principal is requesting to keep the buses on North 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. Chief Serafin, Mayor Nowotarski, and possibly Mr. Cocuzza will survey the situation throughout the next few weeks.
- Mr. Okonski noted the truck is returned and the salt spreader in place. An electrical switch went on the leaf picker. He ordered the part from Amazon.
- With the Perkiomen Avenue project complete, PennDot will be conducting a final walk through on Friday, November 15, 2019.
- Chief Serafin reported on a Go Green system, currently utilized by Exeter Township, allowing the police to control the lights on Perkiomen Avenue in the event of the by-pass being shut down. In addition, PennDot did not put battery back-up to the new 23<sup>rd</sup> and Perkiomen lights. Battery back-up is important in the event of power outages. Discussion continued.
- Mr. Cocuzza was informed South 21<sup>st</sup> Street continues to be effected resulting from the Waste Management truck fire. Mr. Mohn is not certain the damage occurring can be attributed to the fire as the street was replaced on 2014.
- President Staron reported the Verizon pole at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Perkiomen Avenue is leaning increasingly, dangerous, and needs to be removed.
- Stowe Fire Alarm will be moving the antenna from the WIFI from the basement to the outside to eliminate the alarm continuing to trigger.

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

- Mr. Lombardo made the motion, seconded by Mr. Goodman, to sell the parking lot. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lombardo rescinded his motion and Mr. Goodman rescinded his second. Mr. Lombardo made the motion, seconded by Mr. Goodman, to sell the parking for a figure in excess of the amount Mt. Penn paid. An appraisal should be obtained and Mr. Mohn will check on the zoning. Mr. Mohn suggested NAI Keystone; a commercial agent should be contacted. President Staron requested a roll call vote.

President Staron	Y
James Cocuzza	Y
Troy Goodman	Y
Claudia Hurwitz	Y
Rick Lombardo	Y
Roger Reto	Y

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

- Mr. Morey reviewed the waste removal bids for the 10% minimum bid bond and the raised seals. Mr. Goodman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to award J.P. Mascaro regular trash pick-up, and A.J. Blosenski recycling and yard waste. The motion carried unanimously. Contract period 2020 through 2022.

**D. PERSONNEL:**

President Staron requested an executive session at 8:42. Regular session resumed at 10:18. Let the record show personnel issues were discussed and will be addressed by the Personnel Committee. No action taken.

**E. INSURANCE/PENSION:**

- Ms. Hurwitz reported the Dental and Vision plan currently in place will remain with a 3% increase to the Borough. Additionally, UPMC's plan compared to Capital Blue, indicated the same deductible, lower employee co-pays, and savings of 4.3% to the Borough. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, to accept the UPMC Health Care Plan for 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

**F. CODES:**

- President Staron tabled further Codes discussion until the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**V. LIASION REPORTS:**

**A. Fire Company:** No Report

**B. MPBMA:** No Report

**C. AVMA:** No Report

**D. Planning Commission:** No Report

**E. Police Commission:**

Mayor Nowotarski reported the following:

- The Police Commission passed the Police budget. Mr. Lombardo made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, to pass the 2020 CBRPD budget. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Hurwitz abstained as an employee of the CBRPD.
- The Codes budget is merely an office budget. No salaries and no vehicles.
- The Commission made a motion to offer two conditional employment positions, filling Terri Heydt's position, and Sgt. Al Shade's position who is leaving effective December 1. Background checks are completed. Physical and Psychological tests are scheduled.
- Regarding the letter submitted to Lower Alsace, Lower Alsace stated they were going to remain in the Joint Codes Program and it is up to Borough Council whether they wish to remain or not. Discussion continued.

**F. MPP:**

- Mr. Goodman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to advertise an ordinance for withdrawal of the Mount Penn Preserve. The motion carried unanimously.

**G. RCAV:** No Report

**VI. OTHER REPORTS:**

**A. Mayor:**

- The Mayor received a request for a handicap space at 1941 Woodvale Avenue. The resident meets all the requirements. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, to advertise the handicap parking for 1941 Woodvale Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Motley Associates:**

- Mr. Mohn stated we do not have to go through PennDot when putting parking spaces on Perkiomen Avenue.

**C. Solicitor:**

- Mr. Morey reviewed the Class Action National Prescription Opiate Litigation and advised Borough not to withdraw.

**D. Secretary: No Report****IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****X. CORRESPONDENCE: No Report.****XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Ms. Hurwitz made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, to change the job title of a part time highway employee to a seasonal highway employee. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz, to have the streets department return the custody of the credit card to the secretary, and the secretary be in charge of the card for the Borough and issued as needed. Mr. Cocuzza, rescinded the motion, Ms. Hurwitz rescinded her second. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz to have the streets department return the custody of the credit card returned to the secretary and the streets department is to request permission from the streets supervisor for all purchases. The motion carried unanimously.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Mr. Lomabardo made the motion for adjournment at 10.37 PM, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 PM, November 26, 2019 at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bette E. Petrov*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*