

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
October 29, 2019

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 29, 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: James Cocuzza, Troy Goodman, Claudia Hurwitz, Rick Lombardo, Randal Miller, and Roger Reto. Also in attendance were Mayor Nowotarski, Solicitor Tom Klonis, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Secretary Bette Petrov.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- Joseph Boyle, Water Authority Board Member, approached Council with the intent on knowing what Council’s wishes are on selling the Water Authority, as well as dispelling the hearsay and rumors on the potential sale. Mr. Klonis assured the representatives that Council has not discussed the issue since May. Mr. Miller conveyed that it is not the favor of Council to sell MPBMA. Discussion continued. Mr. Miller moved this Board, as it is currently seated, would memorialize that there is no intention to dispose of or sell the Water Company, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Miller requested a roll call.

President Staron	Yes
Mr. Cocuzza	Yes
Mr. Goodman	Yes
Ms. Hurwitz	Yes
Mr. Lombardo	Yes
Mr. Miller	Yes
Mr. Reto	Yes

- Mr. Reto, for the benefit of the residents not present at the October 8 meeting, reiterated on comments and discussion regarding the temporary turning lane on 23rd Street. Donna Napoli, 36 North 23rd Street; Thomas Franco, 112 North 23rd Street; Courtney Brumback, 225 Friedensburg Road, Ryan Maurer, and Joseph Cunliffe, Earl Gables Court, voiced their concerns, issues, and opinions regarding the return of the parking spaces in lieu of the turning lanes since the Perkiomen Avenue project is complete. Discussion followed. The vote taken at the prior meeting did not reflect returning the spaces. Mr. Goodman made the motion to rescind his prior motion keeping the turning lane on North 23rd Street, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried. Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to authorize Mr. Mohn to reach out to PennDot requesting they reinstate the North 23rd and Dengler Street parking spaces as it was prior to the PennDot construction project. Mr. Reto made the motion seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to reinstate the parking spaces on North 23rd Street. President Staron requested a roll call. The motion carried.

President Staron	No
Mr. Cocuzza	Yes
Mr. Goodman	Yes
Ms. Hurwitz	No
Mr. Lombardo	No
Mr. Miller	Yes
Mr. Reto	Yes

- Mr. Reto requested the speed limit be reduced on North 23rd Street. Mr. Miller explained the study outcome might not be in favor of what was requested. Discussion continued.
- Hong Nguyen, Lily Nails, 107 N. 23rd Street, is requesting 2 hours parking during working hours 9:00 AM-7:00 PM. Mr. Klonis stated it is a state road and Mr. Mohn should contact PennDot.
- Frank Fraser, 2432 Grandview, conveyed there was a pothole on Grandview at South 25th. Mr. Okonski will cold patch.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Moved by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Reto, that the minutes of October 08, 2019 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

III. FINANCE REPORT

- Mr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to ratify checks #18171 through #18184, dated October 24, 2019 in the amount of \$17,207.92 from the General Fund; and check #1296 through #1298, dated October 24, 2019 in the amount of \$40,087.16 from Liquid Fuels. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Miller reported on the budget, and reported a shortfall. The police budget will possibly show an increase of 8%. Discussion followed. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto to advertise a special budget workshop meeting Thursday, November 07, 2019 at 6:30 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS:

- Chief Serafin reported on the request from St. Catherine's principal requesting a one-way direction stop at Woodvale Avenue during specific times. Discussion continued. A suggestion made was to make part of S. 24th Street one-way. Chief Serafin will speak with St. Catherine's regarding incurring the expense of signage, advertising, and an ordinance. Prior to moving forward and advertising the ordinance, it was recommended the residents be informed. Mr. Bender offered to write and distribute the letter of notification.
- Mr. Cocuzza reported on a safety issue regarding the leaf picker. He is requesting the purchase of a video camera allowing the driver to see the person operating the boon, and mounting a bench seat. The quote received for the camera was \$395.00. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto to approve the purchase of the camera not to exceed \$395.00. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to sell the salt spreader on MuniBid offsetting the cost of the camera. The motion carried unanimously.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY: No Report

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:

- Mr. Goodman reviewed the bids obtained and the Bid Tabulation Sheet was distributed. Mr. Goodman along with Mr. Mohn will thoroughly review all bids. J.B. Mascaro was low bidder for trash. Charles Blosenski was low bidder for recycling and yard waste. Discussion continued regarding the financial increase in municipal taxes for trash.

- Mr. Goodman reported Paul Fiori, APPI Energy that with the current rates he suggested we think about locking in now for the next contract period that commences January 2021. New figures should be available for the next meeting.
- Discussion began regarding notices received from UGI notifying Mount Penn of appliances being “Red Tagged”. Notices received will be forwarded to Brian Sands.

D. PERSONNEL: No Report

E. INSURANCE/PENSION:

- Ms. Hurwitz reviewed and reported on various health benefits that she did not deem acceptable. Mr. Hurwitz will touch-base with Mr. Hauck for additional options.
- Ms. Hurwitz also discussed property, liability, auto, etc. insurance. We are waiting for formal numbers. The estimate is approximately \$38,000.
- Ms. Hurwitz reported the Minimal Municipal Obligation for 2020 is \$23,566.00.

F. CODES:

- Mr. Bender reported 1951 Woodvale Avenue. HUD will not allow the lenders to get out of the loan. The lender will be responsible for repairs.

V. LIASION REPORTS:

A. Fire Company: No Report

B. MPBMA: No Report

C. AVMA: No Report

D. Planning Commission: No Report

E. Police Commission: No Report

F. MPP:

- Ms. Hurwitz suggested we look into our commitment to Mount Penn Preserve. Mr. Klonis and council will be review the contract to see how we can withdrawal.

G. RCAV: No Report

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor:

- The Mayor suggested council review all contributions listed under miscellaneous.

B. Motley Associates:

C. Solicitor:

- Mr. Klonis reported Mr. Cunliffe is able to serve on the Planning Commission. He continued that one officer of the Borough may serve. Ms. Lawler as an employee of Mount Penn may not. Ms. Hurwitz made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to appoint Mr. Cunliffe to the Planning Commission. The motion carried unanimously.
Mr. Klonis suggested it me made by way of a resolution.
- Ms. Hurwitz made the motion, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, to appoint Darryl Lawler, 2429 Cumberland Avenue, to the Zoning Hearing Board by way of resolution. The motion carried unanimously.
- Council needs to address the vacancy on the MPBMA.

D. Secretary:

- Ms. Petrov reported the Zoning Hearing Board granted Mr. Sweeny his zoning appeal to move forward with his Vintage Vehicle Restoration business.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Mr. Goodman will present the proclamation to Pennside Presbyterian.
- ARL has reduced their per capita to \$1.00 per head. Mr. Klonis reported Shillington and Mohnton did not go with ARL. Mr. Klonis will advise whom Shillington is currently utilizing. Mayor Nowotarski reported the Humane Society is off limits for 1.5 years due to renovations.

X. CORRESPONDENCE: No Report.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

- The Christmas Party will be December 24, 2019.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

- Mr. Lomabardo made the motion for adjournment at 9:40 PM, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 PM, November 12, 2019 at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bette E. Petrov
Secretary/Treasurer