

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
October 08, 2019

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 08, 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: Troy Goodman, Claudia Hurwitz, Rick Lombardo, and Roger Reto. Also in attendance were Mayor Nowotarski, Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineering Representative James Mohn, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Assistant Secretary Camiel Lawler. Randall Miller and Jim Cocuzza were not in attendance.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- Joseph Cunliffe, 7 Earl Gables Court, asked Council if he would be allowed to serve on the Planning Commission while being employed by the County as a poll worker. Mr. Klonis will investigate. Additionally, he asked Council if they would support him working as a Block Party organizer. Mr. Staron stated that council would be in favor of Mr. Cunliffe organizing the Block Party. Mr. Cunliffe will be meeting with the Borough and Municipal Authority Secretaries and will report back.
- Christian Paris, 2333 Perkiomen Avenue, with his attorney, addressed council concerning his neighbor. Mr. Paris has made numerous complaints to the Codes Department over the course of several years. He states his house smells of cat urine and believes his neighbor is to blame. Mr. Bender responded to council stating he has been to Mr. Paris's residence and inspected the neighbor's home on several occasions and has not been able to cite the neighbor for any violation. He stated he is unaware of a Property Maintenance Code or Borough Ordinance that he could cite if he were able to locate a smell, which to date, he has not been able to identify. Discussion continued. Mr. Bender and Mr. Klonis will review existing ordinances that may address pet odor inside a residence. Mr. Staron volunteered for Mr. Paris to call him directly if the smell persists, and he will visit Mr. Paris's residence personally.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Moved by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Ms. Hurwitz, that the minutes of September 24, 2019 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

III. FINANCE REPORT

- Mr. Lombardo made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto, to approve the September 2019 Treasurers Report. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported:

Checking-	\$	26,209.88
Savings-Metro	\$	549,012.33
Liquid Fuels Fund-	\$	112,910.67
Fire Tax-	\$	10,781.00
Ambulance Tax-	\$	3,202.93
PIB Loan-	\$	40,126.59
Petty Cash-	\$	50.00

- Mr. Lombardo made the motion, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz to ratify checks #18158 through #18169, dated October 08, 2019 in the amount of \$143,703.14 from the General Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS:

- Mr. Okonski reported the South 20th Street paving project had been completed under \$3,500.00 budget.
- Resident, Monika Geisler, 1980 Perkiomen Avenue, submitted a letter to council expressing concerns of limited parking since the temporary no parking signs were placed near her residence on September 30, 2019. Mr. Mohn addressed Council and suggested we meet with PennDot to ask for parking spaces at the 2200 Block of Perkiomen Avenue. Mr. Goodman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Lombardo to have Mr. Mohn speak to PennDot.
- A letter was submitted to Council by St. Catharine's School asking for traffic restrictions near the school during student pick-up and drop-off times. After different options were discussed, Council recommends that Mr. Mohn and Chief Serafin meet with the school representative to see if a solution can be reached.
- Mr. Mohn shared an email from the PennDot following up on the lack of a handicap curb ramp at the intersection of Center Street and Cumberland Avenue. Mr. Mohn reported that while we are not out of compliance with the DOT and ADA regulations, he and Mr. Cocuzza will go together through the Borough to evaluate ramp placement and look into possible grant funding.
- Mr. Mohn reported that he, Mr. Cocuzza, and Mr. Reto attended a meeting with Penndot regarding a punch list of concerns resulting from the Perkiomen Avenue project. Mr. Mohn stated the meeting went well and future meetings with Penndot will occur to address street repairs needed as a result of the detour. Ms. Hurwitz asked if the left turn signal at 23rd Street and Perkiomen Avenue will be re-timed and Mr. Mohn stated Penndot assessed the timing and according to Penndot, the light is timed appropriately.
- President Staron requested the Secretary reach out to Met-Ed for a status on replacement poles and lights at the 2000-2100 block of Perkiomen. Dave Okonski will provide pole numbers to the Secretary.
- Mr. Goodman made a motion seconded by Mr. Lombardo to keep the temporary turning lane on 23rd Street open permanently. Discussion followed and Mr. Goodman withdrew his motion. After further discussion Mr. Goodman made the motion seconded by Mr. Lombardo to keep the 23rd Street turning lane open permanently. Mr. Staron requested a roll call vote. The vote was taken as follows:

President Staron -- Yes
 Mr. Goodman ----- Yes
 Ms. Hurwitz ----- Yes
 Mr. Lombardo ---- Yes
 Mr. Reto ----- No

The Motion carried. Mr. Mohn will send a letter to PennDot asking they leave the turn lane open.

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. To date, two companies have requested a copy of bid specifications. Council requested the Secretary send an email to other local trash haulers making them aware of the waste management bid opportunity.

D. PERSONNEL: Ryan Maurer submitted a letter of interest to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Klonis stated that since Mr. Maurer is a candidate for Council, he will not be able to serve on the board. Mr. Mohn will reach out to Attorney Sobotka to make him aware at this time the Board has two members for the upcoming meeting scheduled for October 22nd.

E. INSURANCE/PENSION:

- Ms. Hurwitz reported she is waiting for Insurance renewal documents from Hart Insurance.

F. CODES:

- The Borough office received a response from Lower Alsace asking that any and all matters regarding the operation of the Central Berks Codes Department be directed to the Central Berks Police Commission. Mr. Klonis asked the Secretary to address the previously mailed letter to the Police Commission and await a response.
- Mr. Paris voiced concern about ADA ramps around the Borough. Discussion followed and Mr. Mohn stated it is being looked into.

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:** No Report
- G. RCAV:** No Report

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor: Mayor Nowotarski would like an insert about Borough news and announcements in lieu of a newsletter to be included with the Municipal Authority water bills.

B. Motley Associates:

Mr. Mohn received a letter from ARRO regarding a PENNVEST loan in the amount of \$1,700,000.00 applied for by the Municipal Authority. The loan will be used to reimburse PennDot for the water main replacement that was done in conjunction with the Perkiomen Avenue Paving Project. Council has asked the Secretary to write a letter in support of the loan.

C. Solicitor: No Report.

D. Secretary: Borough office received an email from Reverend David Duquette inviting Borough Council to a special worship service to be held on 03 November, 2019. The service will be celebrating Pennside Presbyterian Church's 100 years. The Secretary will create a Proclamation to be presented to the Church.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Ms. Lawler reported to council that no record of a pay increase could be found for Brad Prater in the previous years and he is currently earning \$12.00 per hour. Discussion followed and Ms. Hurwitz made a motion seconded by Mr. Lombardo to increase Mr. Prater's hourly wage to \$13.00 an hour. The motion carried unanimously.

At 8:57 President Staron requested an executive session. Regular session resumed at 9:07. The record shows matters of Krafczek litigation were discussed. No action was taken at this time.

X. CORRESPONDENCE: No Report.

XI. NEW BUSINESS: No Report.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

- Mr. Lomabardo made the motion for adjournment at 9:08 PM, seconded by Ms. Hurwitz. The motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 PM, October 29, 2019 at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Camiel Lawler,
Assistant Secretary*