

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
February 23, 2021

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on February 23, 2021 via Zoom. President Goodman brought the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were, President Goodman, and Council Members: James Cocuzza, John Fielding, Ryan Maurer, Roger Reto, and Tom Staron. Also in attendance were Mayor Nowotarski, Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineer Christopher Falencki, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Secretary Bette Petrov. Richard Lombardo and Chief Serafin did not attend.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- Various residents attended and expressed their concern over paid parking required at the 23rd and Perkiomen Avenue lot. Discussion continued and Mr. Reto fielded the questions and concerns.
- Robert DeLong, 2528 Glenn Terrace, questioned what can be done to prevent nicking of vehicles from salting streets for snow. Mr. DeLong requested a ride-a-long. The Borough will question the insurance carrier regarding this issue.
- President Goodman addressed council on behalf of Michael Frankhouser. The Pagoda will be undergoing some restoration and Mr. Frankhouser has asked to store some of their items in the Borough Hall basement. Mr. Frankhouser will take full responsibility of the items stored. Mr. Cocuzza questioned how much room will be utilized, and wants to see the quantity.

II. ENGINEERING

- Engineering Report January 20 – February 16, 2021 submitted to Council. Discussion took place regarding the special exception /variance for 270 Friedensburg Road. Mr. Staron made the motion, seconded by Mr. Maurer, stating the Borough is in favor of forwarding a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board in support of the variance. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Falencki suggested that the letter request the developer to follow the storm water ordinance. Mr. Klonis suggested Mr. Falencki write the letter addressing the issues of concern.
- Mr. Staron questioned Mr. Falencki if 2613 Perkiomen Avenue had adequate parking to run their business. Mr. Falencki confirmed number of employees and square footage. There is adequate parking.
- Mr. Falencki spoke on the road projects. Particularly Endlich Avenue. He presented and explained the cost estimate breaking it down into four (4) sections. It does not include handicap ramps that must be done at the time of the street repair.
- Mr. Falencki sent the cost estimate to Krafczek.
- Grant application accepted for funding although it has not yet been funded.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Moved by Mr. Cocuzza, seconded by Mr. Maurer to approve the minutes of January 26, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. FINANCE REPORT

- Moved by Mr. Maurer, and seconded by Mr. Reto to accept the Treasurer's Report for January 2021. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported.

Checking	24,179.06
Savings	159,627.28
Liquid Fuels	65,659.04
PIB Loan	40,314.76
Fire Tax	17,710.77
Ambulance Tax	16,617.94
Petty Cash	50.00

Mr. Maurer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto, to ratify check #18637 - #18650 dated February 08, 2021 inclusive of on-line payments for a total of \$32,454.59; and check #18654 - #18668 dated February 23, 2021 inclusive of an on-line payment for a total of \$94,349.13 from the General Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. STREETS:

- Mr. Cocuzza spoke on two quotations received. The first in reference to snow removal received from Steven Rothenberger. Discussion continued. The second in reference to vegetation management behind the parking lot received from Ehrlich. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion, seconded by Mr. Maurer, to accept the Ehrlich quotation. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Okonski conveyed there was some damage incurred as a result of the snow.

B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

- Mr. Reto discussed the business, David's Cleaning, who will use the parking lot from 7:15 –8:00 AM. A time span of 45 minutes. Discussion continued.
- Mayor Nowotarski brought up the issue of shoveling the crosswalks at the elementary school. Discussion continued.
- Mr. Maurer discussed the issue of raises for crossing guards. No raises allocated in budget for this year. Additionally, Mayor Nowotarski conveyed increases for crossing guards may not be given without school board participation and approval.

C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES: - No Report

D. PERSONNEL:

President Goodman stated a meeting would take place with James Geist, Mr. Cocuzza, and Mr. Okonski regarding the salary for Mark Stufflet.

E. INSURANCE/PENSION: - No Report

F. CODES:

- Mr. Janssen spoke on codes and the impact on the budget. The three forthcoming ordinances, Rental Operating License, New Property Registry, and Crime Free, serve more than one issue. The consolidation of the Codes Department, the health and welfare of citizens, and restoration of expenses. The adopting of the new fee schedule also will help restore the budget correctly as far as the codes department is concerned.
- Mr. Janssen brought up the issue of commercial and industrial, and institutional properties and asked Council to consider doing an annual inspection of commercial properties. Mr. Fielding made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto, to have Mr. Klonis investigate comparable ordinances in other boroughs involving inspection of commercial units. The motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion was held whether rental inspections are to resume and from whom Mr. Bender is to take direction.
- Discussion continued regarding the consolidation of the Joint Program.

VI: LIASION REPORTS:

A. Fire Company: - No Report

B. MPBMA:

- Representatives of water company will help with snow removal.

C. AVMA: - No Report

D. Planning Commission:

- An appeals meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021 regarding 270 Friedensburg

E. Police Commission:

F. RCAV: No Report

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

A. Mayor:

- Mr. Durlak will not be returning to his crossing guard position. Mr. Maurer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to advertise for the position of crossing guard. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mayor Nowotarski brought the issue up of temporary no parking signs during the snow that are not being enforced. Discussion continued.

B. Solicitor: No Report.

C. Secretary:

- Requested all elected council and appointed officials to complete and return the Statement of Financial Interests.
- Approval was requested to purchase additional hours for website. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto to purchase an additional seven hours. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. ORDINANCES:

- Mr. Klonis read the verbiage on Ordinance #862 for additional No Parking on Endlich Avenue. Mr. Cocuzza made the motion, seconded by Mr. Maurer, to adopt Ordinance #862. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Klonis read the verbiage on Ordinance #863 establishing regulations for Rental Operating Licenses, and Tenant Registration. Mr. Cocuzza, made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fielding to adopt Ordinance #863. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Klonis conveyed the verbiage on Ordinance #864 Registration of Defaulted Mortgage Property. Mr. Fielding made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to adopt Ordinance #864. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Klonis delivered the verbiage on Ordinance #865 Crime Free Residential Rental Housing Program. Mr. Fielding made the motion, seconded by Mr. Maurer to adopt Ordinance #865. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

- Mr. Fielding made the motion, seconded by Mr. Maurer, to accept Resolution #24-21, an adjusted Fee Schedule superseding Resolution #19-21 of January 26, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

X. CORRESPONDENCE:

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

- Mr. Staron made the motion for adjournment at 9:33 P.M. seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

Workshop meeting scheduled for 7:30 P.M. Thursday, March 25, 2021

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 P.M., Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bette E. Petrov
Secretary/Treasurer