

MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL
November 24, 2020

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on November 24, 2020 via Zoom. President Goodman brought the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were, President Goodman, and Council Members: James Cocuzza, Roger Reto and Tom Staron. John Fielding, Richard Lombardo, and Ryan Maurer arrived late. Also in attendance were Mayor Nowotarski, Solicitor Tom Klonis, Chief Raymond Serafin, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Secretary Bette Petrov. Engineer Christopher Falencki did not attend.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- Mr. Konstostahis, owner of 2423 Fairview Avenue, had some questions regarding the Rental Program. Mr. Konstostahis conveyed property values in Mount Penn are considerably lower than neighboring areas, and offered to forward statistics. Discussion continued. Mr. Klonis conveyed it should be understood that costs are not for the Borough to make money, but rather to offset the expense of the program.
- Rodger Krause, Auditor, attended the meeting. He responded to President Goodman's questioning by conveying how long he has been with the Borough. President Goodman requested Mr. Krause submit costs for the coming year.
- Mr. Janssen, Director, Center for Excellence in Local Government, has the framework for the 2021 budget, projected out for five years. He will submit a document to council regarding the major issues the Borough is facing. The following discussions took place:
 - CELG is now working with CBRPD;
 - Mr. Janssen spoke regarding the rental program; the need for the program; and the capability of paying for the program. The budget reflects a revenue adjustment based on once a year license per unit and every other year inspection.
 - Shifting the cost of streetlights (\$32,000 annually) from Liquid Fuels to property taxes. It would represent a tax increase of .33 mils allowing the Borough to utilize the money for road maintenance. Additionally, applying for certification from the District Dirt and Gravel Road Program, allowing an annual grant, when applicable, from District Low Volume Road Maintenance.
 - Krafczek (\$90,000) and Glenn Terrace (\$515,000). Mr. Janssen explained the financing for the projects. Finance the balance of the PIB Loan.
 - Mr. Janssen will continue working with CBRPD and the Borough for a comprehensive plan. Discussion continued on the five-year projection.
- Mr. Reto made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fielding, to consider the .33 mil increase, preparation of ordinance, and advertising for streetlights. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Reto made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fielding to advertise the budget. The motion carried unanimously.

II. ENGINEERING

- Engineering Report October 21, 2020 – November 18, 2020 submitted to Council.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Moved by Mr. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Reto to approve the minutes of October 27, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. FINANCE REPORT

- Moved by Mr. Reto, and seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to accept the Treasurer's Report for October 2020. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported.

Checking	44,982.07
Savings	335,954.73
Liquid Fuels	80,774.29
PIB Loan	40,297.98
Fire Tax	15,137.40
Ambulance Tax	16,095.33
Petty Cash	50.00

Mr. Maurer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cocuzza, to ratify check #18538 - #18547 dated November 09, 2020 inclusive of on-line payments for a total of \$108,666.79; and check #18548 - #18568 dated November 24, 2020 inclusive of an on-line payment for a total of \$27,358.27 from the General Fund. Additionally, check #1320 - #1321 dated November 09, 2020 for \$8,381.10; and check #1322 dated November 24, 2020 for \$2,618.64 from Liquid Fuels. The motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Maurer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Lombardo to appoint Herbein Associates as the auditor for 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **STREETS:** No Report
- B. **PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY:** No Report
- C. **SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:** No Report
- D. **PERSONNEL:** No Report
- E. **INSURANCE/PENSION:** No Report
- F. **CODES:**

- Mr. Bender conveyed the County now owns 1951 Woodvale Avenue. The County informed Mr. Bender the property will not be demolished; and they are beginning to apply for permits.

V. LIASION REPORTS:

- A. **Fire Company:** No Report
- B. **MPBMA:**
 - Mr. Staron conveyed rates are increased effective the first quarterly bill of 2021.
- C. **AVMA:**
 - President Goodman conveyed the AVMA budget was passed. No increase forthcoming.

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

- Chief Serafin stated the Towing Service contract was forwarded to members and Orth for review;
- Chief Serafin, working with Mr. Janssen, conveyed CBRPD Budget might not show an increase for Mount Penn or Lower Alsace.
- Chief Serafin met with Alsace regarding being included in full time police service.
- December 08, 2020 is the Shop with a Cop function. Also trying to provide the families with a Christmas meal.
- Regarding the Police Contract, Mayor Nowotarski conveyed they are waiting on their Solicitor who is finalizing some of the language.

F. RCAV: No Report**VI. OTHER REPORTS:****A. Mayor:****B. Solicitor: No Report.****C. Secretary:****VII. ORDINANCES:**

- Ordinance #859 Mr. Klonis delivered the verbiage of Ordinance #859 regarding the addition of various No Parking areas. Mr. Maurer made the motion seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to adopt Ordinance #859. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****X. CORRESPONDENCE:****XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- President Goodman spoke on the holiday. He advised against the luncheon; and spoke on a gift for employees. Mr. Maurer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Lombardo to present full time employees a \$50 gift certificate and the part time employee a \$25.00 gift certificate. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

- Mr. Lombardo made the motion for adjournment at 7:35 seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

Workshop meeting scheduled for December 24th cancelled.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 P.M., Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at Borough Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bette E. Petrov
Secretary/Treasurer