

Myerstown, PA
Tuesday, February 10, 2015

President Bryan L. Rittle called the regular monthly meeting of the Myerstown Borough Council to order at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers in the Myerstown Municipal Center, 101 East Washington Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067.

ROLL CALL:

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a roll call was taken. Present were: President Bryan L. Rittle, Vice President Michael D. Behm, Park W. Haverstick, II, , Jeffrey L. Thomas, Dana Reich, Mayor Gloria R. Ebling; Treasurer Lee C. Smith; Solicitor Frederick S. Wolf; Public Works Department Supervisor David C. Fake; Wastewater Department Supervisor Barry A. Ludwig; Code Enforcement Officer John Neely, Deputy Secretary Lisa A. Brubaker and Manager Christopher J. Moonis. Absent were; Teresa Allwein and Keith Fox.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Michael D. Behm, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the January 13, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

CITIZENS' AND VISITORS' COMMENTS:

Duane Andresen - 143 Gable Drive – He represents Energy Professionals. He was involved with the current electric choice program the Borough has and knows the contract will be up for renewal this year. The Council President asked him to meet with the Borough Manager during business hours. The Manager stated he is entertaining several brokers and Mr. Andresen can call the office to schedule an appointment.

There was no additional public comment.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

The Council received written reports from the Mayor, Department Supervisors, Manager and the Solicitor. Staff was present to provide any additional information on their report and answer any questions from the Council.

The Mayor Gloria R. Ebling presented the report. There were no additional comments.

The State Police Report was received. The Mayor stated the call numbers are up. Councilmember Park W. Haverstick, II asked if they could provide a graph with year to date information. The Mayor will contact Sergeant Tice. There were no additional comments.

The Recreation Board Report. Councilmember Jeffrey L. Thomas reported R&B Snacks is going out of business. The Recreation Board would like to purchase some snack bar equipment. A motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Dana Reich, to authorize to proceed with purchasing equipment from R&B Snacks. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

Councilmember Jeffrey L. Thomas reported he read that coaches must now be certified. The Solicitor stated under the new law, coaches of youth/children must be reviewed by Children and Youth. After review, they provide a Clearance Certificate to the organization and the municipality.

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People that are interested in coaching should be referred to James Holtry, Executive Director of Lebanon County Children and Youth. There were no additional comments

The Code Enforcement Officer John Neely presented the report. He has been working on abandoned vehicles and snow removal issues. Councilmember Dana Reich stated she received some complaints regarding the snow pile on Maple Street. Residents are shoveling the snow onto one big pile on the street. Mr. Neely asked if there is an alternative for those residents and unless he sees who is placing it there he has no one to cite. The Public Works Director stated there are snow piles like that in different places and they go and remove them as soon as they can. They have removed the pile on Maple Street. Councilmember Jeffrey L. Thomas stated the Public Works Department is doing a good job with snow removal. The Public Works Director will tell the staff and appreciates the acknowledgment

Councilmember Dana Reich voiced concerns regarding parking at the shirt factory building. The Code Enforcement Officer stated he spoke to the owner Mr. Landis and informed him to tell his tenant's warnings and tickets are going to be issued especially around the Broad Street and E. Main Avenue area. They also discussed the parking lot and Mr. Landis said he will start the process to place lightening down the alley along the building to make it safer to walk from the lot to the building.

The Manager commented that John Neely is doing a good job. The Code Enforcement Officer asked if a resident has a concern to inform them to please contact the Borough Office to fill out the complaint form needed for him to investigate the issue.

Wastewater Supervisor Barry A. Ludwig presented the report. The Solicitor asked if there will be new limits again. The Wastewater Supervisor stated that is being worked on and they are trying to convince EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) not to change them again. There were no additional comments.

The ARRO Engineering report was presented. The Wastewater Supervisor stated he would like the approval to bid the Phase I Sewer Rehabilitation work. A motion was made by Michael D. Behm, seconded by Park W. Haverstick, II, to approve the advertisement for bids for the Phase I Sewer Rehabilitation work. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried. There were no additional comments.

Public Works Supervisor David C. Fake presented the report. The Council President complimented him on the new format of his report. The Public Works Supervisor stated there is a correction on page three under the Recreation Safety Program. It should say December 2014 not December 2015. The lights have been set at the pond for skating. There were no additional comments.

The Solicitor's report was presented. A lien has been placed on 301 S. Railroad Street. Demolition Funds have been applied for and approved for funding, however we are waiting for the award notification from Lebanon County Redevelopment. A copy of the Bahney Trust has been received. The Resolution regarding EDU's has been reviewed. The Council President asked that a copy be given to the Water Authority. An unpaid sewer status report should be given to the Borough from the billing clerk. The Manager stated it will be given on a monthly basis. There were no additional comments.

The Manager gave a review of the Borough status. Work continues with ARRO Engineering and Lebanon County Planning Department to prepare a proposed Zoning Amendment. The Economic Development Team has requested an extension to DCED (Department of Community and Economic

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Development). They wanted to partner in the analysis of the acquisition of real estate here in the borough for economic development.

The Manager would like authorization to develop and apply for a grant through DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources). There are two recreational grants. One is to develop a master park plan study and the second part is an implementation grant. That would be for the purpose of the revitalization of the swimming pool. A motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Dana Reich, to authorize the Manager to apply to DCNR for recreation grants. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

The letters to the property owners on Broad and Cherry Street regarding the upcoming resurfacing of Broad Street and the reconstruction of Cherry Street have been sent. Calls have been received regarding costs, so a call has been placed to Steckbeck Engineering to give a cost estimate per linear foot. The Planning/Zoning/Public Safety Committee and the Mayor need to schedule a meeting to discuss the contracting of police services. There were no additional comments.

Committee Reports:

The Council President stated the Isaac Meier Homestead is still looking for a contractor for the new roof. Also, they are inquiring if the borough is willing to insure the contents in the building, since the borough owns the building. The insurance company will be contacted. There were no additional comments.

Treasurer Lee C. Smith prepared and presented Borough Council with the monthly Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Michael D. Behm, seconded by Dana Reich, to approve the Treasurer's Report and have it on file for audit. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

The monthly listing of invoices was presented. A motion was made by Michael D. Behm, seconded by Park W. Haverstick, II, to approve payment of all invoices as listed. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The communications were reviewed. There were no additional comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Council President read the list of current Committee and Board vacancies. If anyone is interested in volunteering to serve on any of these boards contact the Borough office.

NEW BUSINESS:

In December, the Borough Council received information from the State of Pennsylvania regarding requirement changes, Act 164, for local tax collectors. Tax Collector's will now be required to receive certification and continued education. Also a deputy tax collector must now be appointed. The Lebanon County Tax Claim Bureau was contacted and Director Sallie Neuin stated the county is willing to be the Boroughs Deputy Tax Collector. A motion was made by Dana Reich, seconded by Michael D. Behm, to appoint the Lebanon County Tax Claim Bureau Director Sallie Neuin as the Deputy Tax Collector for the Borough. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

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The Recreation Committee would like to hold the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. A motion was made by Jeffrey L. Thomas, seconded by Dana Reich, to approve the Easter Egg Hunt for Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. with the rain date of Saturday, April 4, 2015. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

We received a Use of Facilities Request and a Certificate of Insurance from the ELCO Youth Baseball Association. A motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Jeffrey L. Thomas, to approve the Recreation Request from the ELCO Youth Baseball Association to use the Small North Baseball Field for the 2015 season. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

Lebanon County Children and Youth have requested to use the Fish Pond and the Lower West Pavilion to hold their annual Youth Only Day of Fishing Event. A motion was made by Michael D. Behm, seconded by Jeffrey L. Thomas, to approve the recreation request from Lebanon County Children and Youth to use the Fish Pond and the Lower West Pavilion for their Annual Youth Only Day of Fishing Event on Saturday, April 11, 2015 and waive the pavilion fee. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

We received request from the Myerstown Church of the Brethren to use the recreational park for their Easter Sunrise Service. A motion was made by Michael D. Behm, seconded by Jeffrey L. Thomas, to approve the request from the Myerstown Church of the Brethren to use the recreational park for their Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. on April 5, 2015. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

The information for the Government Finance Officers Association Conference has been received. A motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Dana Reich, to approve the Managers attendance at the Government Finance Officers Association Conference in Philadelphia on May 31 – June 3, 2015. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

The information for the Borough Association Annual Conference has been received. A motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Dana Reich, to approve the Managers attendance to the Borough Association Annual Conference in Lancaster on April 26 – April 29, 2015. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

The Manager stated he received a letter from the Lebanon County Commissioners regarding the county decertifying the existing designated tourist promotion agency and then creating a new agency to promote tourism in Lebanon County. A representative from the new agency will be attending the March meeting.

The Council President opened the floor for any additional public comment.

Ron Weidman from the Myerstown Jaycee's stated the Jaycee's are discussing the possibility of having a craft show on September 12, 2015. They would need Center Avenue closed and if they could use of the pool parking lot and electric. They will provide more information at a later time.

Councilmember Dana Reich asked if the Managers e-mail address can be added to the Borough website. The website is being going to be redone but that can be added.

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The Council President raised a talking point for conversation. The borough alleys are being used by the garbage trucks for trash pickup; it has been suggested to eliminate the garbage trucks from using the alleys for trash pickup. One topic that could be discussed is a single waste hauler, a contracted service, and require the trash be picked up at the front of the property, or require all haulers to pick up on the streets. John Neely voiced concerns on the price and is afraid the price would start low for a company to start but then raise their prices. The Manager stated the concept is you would get a multi-year contract with a single hauler through a bid process and then you would know the price per year, but you would have one hauler, one day a week and they would stay out of the alleys. Price and service is a big issue and you want to get the lowest responsible price with the best amount of service. The President stated this is only discussion, but the Public Works Department is not able to maintain the alleys standards with the current truck traffic. So this is just for thought to try to determine a way to keep the alleys from further deterioration.

Ordinance 827 has been advertised for adoption. The Solicitor stated the Ordinance has been prepared for the zoning text amendment requested for by the Evangelical Theological Seminary (OI, Office and Institutional District) regarding student housing requirements and an amendment to the sign regulations for the C-2 District (Highway-Oriented Commercial District). The borough has received a letter of support to the amendment from the Lebanon County Planning Department. The Solicitor read the proposed Ordinance. Questions were raised and answered by the Manager. A motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Michael D. Behm, to adopt Ordinance 827. All those in favor: On a roll call vote – Michael D. Behm – yes; Park W. Haverstick, II – yes; Jeffrey L. Thomas – yes; Dana Reich – yes; and Bryan L. Rittle – yes; Motion unanimously carried.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOROUGH:

There were no additional comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Michael D. Behm, seconded by Dana Reich, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Lisa A. Brubaker
Deputy Secretary

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