

Myerstown, PA
Tuesday, August 11, 2015

President Bryan L. Rittle called the regular monthly meeting of the Myerstown Borough Council to order at 6:34 p.m., on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers in the Myerstown Municipal Center, 101 East Washington Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, The Council President announced that the Mayor has sworn in Vince Podolski as a member of Council and welcomed him to the Council.

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

The Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2015 and July 14, 2015 were presented. After a review of spelling corrections, and an addition of directional wording to the section on sidewalk repairs for Smith's Candies open lot at their warehouse. A motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Michael D. Behm, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes with corrections of the July 13, 2015 Planning Meeting and the July 14, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

The Council President opened the floor for Citizens and Visitors Comments: There were no comments.

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

The Mayors Report was presented. There were no additional comments.

The State Police Awareness Report was presented. There were no comments.

The Recreation Board Report was given by Councilmember Dana Reich from the Recreation Board meeting. Jackson Township would like to be part of the holiday lighting contest this year. Some possible community events were discussed. The Recreation Board will wait until the 501(c)3 group is in place to help work on these ideas.

The Wastewater Report was presented. The Council President reported the replacement of the sewer main on Broad Street encountered major problems during excavation. The road pavement started cracking due to the sub-base being unstable. Even with trench boxes, the trench and roadway was collapsing. Another concern was there is also a gas main in the street. A site meeting was held to discuss restoring the entire roadway. As a result project costs could double or triple. The decision was to stop the excavation plan and to now slip-line the sewer mains from manhole to manhole to stop the infiltration. The lines will still have sags, so the routine flushing will continue. This was the most cost-effective alternative for the project.

The ARRO Engineering Report. No report was received.

The Code Enforcement Officer presented the report. Property maintenance and violations were discussed, he will continue to monitor these issues.

The Public Works Report was presented. The Manager informed the Council the speedhumps have been received. One has been installed on Locust Street at Main Avenue and Carpenter Street. The Manager observed the area and vehicles did slow down. A list of potential sites for placement of speedhumps has been compiled. Councilmember Jeffrey L. Thomas asked if parking spaces will be painted on Broad and Cherry Street after they are paved. The Manager stated the Council can discuss that after the project is completed.

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The crosswalks are being painted. Questions were asked regarding oil and chipping roads. The Manager stated the borough will contact the companies in our area to get information on the benefits and cost. PennDot will be resurfacing SR 501. Councilmember Dana Reich asked if a sign stating "No Trucks" be placed on S. Broad Street. The Manager stated he is meeting with LTAP on Wednesday. He will discuss signage with them in conjunction with the traffic study. It could require a change to the Ordinance. Councilmember Jeffrey L. Thomas asked once the speedhumps are placed, can a list be given to the Fire Companies. The Manager will provide a list.

The Solicitor's report was presented. The delinquent water and sewer bills, liens and Sheriff Sales were discussed. The Beautification Trust was discussed.

The Manager gave a report. A Special Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to review with the intend to award the bid for the ADA Ramps, sidewalk and curb as part of the 2015 Road Project for Broad and Cherry Street.

The Manager again stated he is meeting on Wednesday with LTAP and John Fitzkee, Transportation Planner for Lebanon County to discuss Traffic Impact Studies.

There will be technology expenses for the office, one computer is unusable and another is headed that way. The Manager will be introducing to the Finance & Administration Committee a proposed employee handbook for review and discussion. In September, preliminary budgets will be prepared.

Wilson Consulting was at the Borough office to review the Bi-Annual Bridge Inspection Report. There is some maintenance work to be completed, but the bridges are faring well. The maintenance items will be reviewed with the Public Works Supervisor.

The Manager informed the Council a Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to meet with the consultant for a strategic plan for the borough.

Committee Reports: The President stated the Isaac Meier House roof replacement has started and should be finished within two weeks.

Treasurer Lee C. Smith prepared and presented Borough Council with the monthly Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Michael D. Behm, 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.

The communications were reviewed.

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.

Councilmember Michael D. Behm asked about the letter of interest to serve on the Borough Zoning Hearing Board that was received from Barry Lutz. The Council President stated last month, the motion failed for lack of a second but asked if anyone would like to discuss it again or make the appointment. A motion was made by Michael D. Behm, no second was received. The motion fails for lack of second.

Two items were tabled from the July 14, 2015 meeting. July Agenda item # 33 - General parking issues in the E. Main Avenue Lot - tabled until better language is received, and July Agenda item #34 - the Borough's Insurance Coverages - tabled with all policies being extended until October 1, 2015 to allow for pricing to be received. These items will be on the September meeting agenda.

The Council President proceeded to the agendas order of the business;

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We received a recreation request from the Myerstown Soccer Club. A motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Michael D. Behm, to approve the recreation request from the Myerstown Soccer Club to use the Legion Field from August 31 through November 1, 2015. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

We received a request from Womelsdorf Borough for Fire Police assistance. A motion was made by Jeffrey L. Thomas, seconded by Park W. Haverstick, II, to approve the request for Fire Police assistance from Womelsdorf Borough for the 22nd Annual Ride for Freedom Event on Sunday, August 30, 2015. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

The Wastewater Project contractor Mr. Rehab has requested the second pay application for the project. The request is for \$99,204.90. The Wastewater Department Supervisor and the Manager reviewed the payment request and both are recommending the Council approve the payment. A motion was made by Michael D. Behm, seconded by Dana Reich, to approve the payment request from Mr. Rehab for \$99,204.90 for the Wastewater Project. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

We received the Notice of Sheriff's Sale for 301 S. Railroad Street. The sale will be held in the Auditorium of the Lebanon County Courthouse on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

The Tax Collector Nicole Berger has given written notice to rescind her letter dated July 8, 2015 regarding the collection of Real Estate Taxes for the Borough. The Manager informed Council he met with Nicole Berger and at this time her intent is to continue as the Borough Tax Collector.

We received a request from Joann Steffy to close Pear Alley from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 22, 2015 for a neighborhood party. A motion was made by Michael D. Behm, seconded by Jeffrey L. Thomas, to approve the request to close Pear Alley on Saturday, August 22, 2015 between 305 S. Broad Street and 16 E. Mill Avenue. All those in favor: By a majority vote, motion carried. Councilmember Dana Reich abstained.

The Borough had been informed the Lebanon Daily Newspaper will no longer provide a reporter to the borough meetings. The Council President read a letter received from Douglas Stump, the reporter who attended the meetings. The letter thanked the Council and staff for their courtesy that was extended to him during the time he covered the borough and hoped Council found his reporting to be fair. In his opinion, Council meetings were conducted efficiently and decisions were made in the best interest of the community. If the newspapers management changes this decision maybe he will be able to report again for the borough in the future.

State Representative Russ Diamond was present and introduced himself. Representative Diamond thanked the Council for their work. He feels it is important for him to interact with the community. His door is always open to us. He feels he cannot represent us if he does not hear from us.

The Council President asked if there were any additional comments for the good of the borough. Seeing none, a motion was made by Park W. Haverstick, II, seconded by Jeffrey L. Thomas, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Without objection, meeting adjourned.

Lisa A. Brubaker
Deputy Secretary