

Minutes – September 11, 2019

McSherrystown, Pennsylvania

Council of the Borough of McSherrystown met at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday September 11, 2019 in the Municipal Building at 338 Main St. McSherrystown, Pennsylvania with Patricia McKim-Bortner presiding.

President McKim-Bortner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, the Invocation for Divine Guidance, and a moment of silence for those who lost their lives as a result of the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attack.

Present on roll call were the following members of council constituting a quorum: Patricia D. McKim-Bortner, Joseph E. VonSas, Michael J. Calderone, James A. Forbes, Lisa B. Koontz, Robert D. Niedererr, Stephen J. Pascoe. Other Borough Officials in attendance included Robert Campbell, Esq. (Solicitor) and Gerald C. Walmer (Secretary/Treasurer.) Absent from the meeting were Scott J. Cook (Manager,) and Michael F. Woods (Chief of Police.)

Minutes of the regular meeting held August 14, 2019 were approved on a motion moved by Councilmember Calderone, seconded by Councilmember VonSas. Motion carries.

The Financial Review and Budget Analysis reports were given to all council members by the Secretary/Treasurer. Secretary/Treasurer Walmer reported the expenses incurred since the meeting prior as follows:

General Fund: \$19,912.48
Highway Fund: \$8,961.84
Payroll Fund: \$46,142.28
Total: \$75,016.60

COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary/Treasurer Walmer announced to the Council that the Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC) was to hold renewal meetings in the month of October for calendar year 2020.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sarah Murren of 304 Ridge Ave. expressed concern over the proposed water line being run to the dog park and the associated costs. Councilmember VonSas explained that the materials and the labor to install the water line would be donated and that it was a win-win for the Borough. In addition, he said that the project was only in the planning stage and that the cost of the water would be negligible.

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REPORTS

Mayor Weaver reported that he had attended a SAVES appreciation event where Officer Steven Smyers was given a citation for his part in a clinical save of a cardiac arrest victim on July 27th in the Turkey Hill parking lot.

Mayor Weaver also reported that he attended a meeting at SAVES on August, 27th. At the meeting, it was stated that paid firefighters could be five-to-ten years away due to a lack of response from donation solicitations and fewer individuals willing to volunteer.

He ended his report by announcing that trick-or-treat night would be held in McSherrystown on October 29th from 6p-8pm.

Police Chief Woods, who was not in attendance, sent his report to the Borough Council and Mayor. His report for the month of August included 144 calls for service. There were 4 criminal arrests and 51 summary arrests. Patrols traveled 2,812 miles using 316.5 gallons of fuel averaging 8.8 mpg.

Manager Cook, who was not in attendance, had his report distributed to the Borough Council and Mayor. His report included the following:

- 1) Backfilled and sowed grass seed at existing gas line at the public works complex.
- 2) Replaced lid and grate at the storm water box in the 600 block of Willow St. Alley.
- 3) Replaced lid and grate at the storm water box at the intersection of Delone Ave & S. Fifth St.
- 4) Rebuilt the storm water box and replaced lid at Delone Ave. & S. Sixth St.
- 5) Painted all crosswalks and police lines throughout town.
- 6) Installed temporary parking lot at Fairview Ave. Recreation Park.
- 7) Swept all miscellaneous streets.

Note: Trash containers at all parks and the borough office were emptied. Daily maintenance and repairs of police and borough vehicles and equipment was performed. All recreational areas were mowed and maintained as needed. Ball diamonds were dragged and lined as needed. Gasoline usage totaled 152.9 gallons. Diesel usage totaled 98.9 gallons. SAVES used 360 gallons of diesel fuel and 17.5 gallons of gasoline.

Safety Committee Chairman Pascoe commented about the stones that had fallen out of a truck on Main Street. Because personnel from the quarry were not able to immediately clean them up, the McSherrystown Public Works Department used the street sweeper to remove the stones from the roadway on Main Street to avoid any safety issues.

Finance Committee Chairman Forbes asked Solicitor Campbell about progress towards collecting on delinquent accounts for both sewer and garbage. Solicitor Campbell reported that over \$6,000 had been collected in the last month. He outlined the status of certain accounts and the related efforts to collect attorney fees and past-due balances on them.

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President Mckim-Bortner asked Planning and Zoning Committee Chairman Forbes about rumors related to Turkey Hill purchasing a neighboring property and expanding their operations. Chairman Forbes said that no plans or related approvals had been given to the Borough Manager regarding the expansion.

Civil Service Committee Chairman Neidererr asked Mayor Weaver if there had been advertisements placed to fill the vacant officer position in the Police Department. Mayor Weaver said that the position had been advertised.

Councilmember Koontz requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Council President McKim-Bortner acknowledged the request and stated that they would have an executive session at the end of scheduled business.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Forbes reported that Secretary/Treasurer Walmer's probationary period of ninety days had been met. He made a motion to continue Secretary/Treasurer Walmer's employment. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Calderone. Motion carries.

Councilmember Pascoe let it be known that he had not yet been able to secure any donations from the community to help fund Community Media recording Borough Council meetings.

Councilmember Pascoe read from a letter prepared by the Borough's labor relations attorney. The letter, among other things, outlined the McSherrystown Police Association's proposed rate increases for the new contract. In addition, the letter stated that the industry standard for newly hired Police Officers is not to be covered under a municipality's insurance plan upon retirement. Councilmember Pascoe stated that by instituting this industry standard in the new contract, McSherrystown Borough would save a substantial amount of money in the future. Mayor Weaver and Councilmember Pascoe disagreed about the potential savings related to eliminating health insurance benefits upon retirement for newly hired officers.

Councilmember Pascoe disputed aspects of the letter read by Police Chief Woods during the prior month's Borough Council Meeting. He claimed that before arbitration in 2018, the Borough's negotiating committee offered a higher wage increase than that which was reached through the arbitration process. He further disputed the claim in the letter that the negotiating committee left a voicemail claiming that they were too exhausted to continue contract negotiations. Councilmember Pascoe let it be known that he was disheartened about lies and truths being twisted. Mayor Weaver outlined contract negotiations in the past and stated that an impasse letter does not necessarily mean negotiations are over.

At 7:50, Dan Colgan was told by Councilmember Neidererr that he could leave the meeting because of an inappropriate gesture.

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NEW BUSINESS

Approval to pay listed expenditures of \$75,016.60 (General Fund- \$19,912.48; Highway Aid - \$8,961.84 and Payroll - \$46,142.28) was given on a motion moved by Councilmember Niedererr, seconded by Councilmember Vonsas. Motion carries.

Secretary/Treasurer Walmer reported that he was contacted by Crystal Cramer, coordinator of Hanover Healthy Kids Running Series. Their organization is a non-profit that has a series of running events to combat childhood obesity. Their organization was interested in using the North Street Park on five Sundays in the fall and spring to hold their events. Councilmember Koontz moved a motion to approve Hanover Healthy Kids to use the park pending receipt of insurance verification. Councilmember Neidererr seconded her motion. Motion carries.

President Mckim-Bortner asked for a motion to name Secretary/Treasurer Walmer as the Chief Administrative Officer for the McSherrystown Borough pension plan and as the Open Records Officer. Councilmember Forbes made the motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Calderone. Motion carries.

Recess was declared at 7:54 p.m. on a motion moved by Councilmember Koontz and seconded by Councilmember Vonsas. Motion carries.

The room was cleared of public participation at this time.

The regular meeting was called back to order at 8:06 p.m. by President Mckim-Bortner.

Councilmember Koontz stated that the executive session was held to discuss the hiring of a part-time secretary for fifteen-twenty hours per week at a pay rate of \$15 per hour. She made a motion to offer the position to the chosen candidate. Councilmember Pascoe seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Adjournment was declared at 8:08 on a motion made by Councilmember Forbes and seconded by Councilmember Vonsas. Motion carries.



Gerald C. Walmer
Borough Secretary