

McSherrystown, Pennsylvania
Borough Council Meeting
May 27, 2020

Council of the Borough of McSherrystown met virtually via Zoom Video Conferencing at 7:01 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 with President William Smith presiding.

President Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the Invocation for Divine Guidance.

Present on roll call were the following members of Council constituting a quorum: William F. Smith, Daniel P. Colgan, Lisa B. Koontz, Joyce E. Murren, Steven J. Pascoe, Joseph E. Vonsas.

Other Borough Officials in attendance:

Anthony J. Weaver – Mayor

Justin M. George, Esq. – Solicitor

Gerald C. Walmer – Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes:

President Smith asked if there were any needed changes to or omissions in the meeting minutes from May 13, 2020.

Councilmember VonSas made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes from the May 13th regular council meeting. He was seconded by Councilmember Koontz.

Roll call vote results were as follows:

William F. Smith (Yes)

Daniel P. Colgan (Yes)

Lisa B. Koontz (Yes)

Mark A. Lookenbill (absent)

Joyce E. Murren (Yes)

Stephen J. Pascoe (Yes)

Joseph E. VonSas (Yes)

With a majority vote, the motion carried.

Communications / Notifications:

There were no communications or notifications.

Reports:

Personnel Committee Chairman President Smith announced that in conjunction with

Minutes – Borough Council Meeting – May 27, 2020

Mayor Weaver, an employee handbook would be written using other borough handbooks as templates. The Personnel Committee will review the handbook and make suggestions for approval by the entire Council. A progress report on the status of the handbook is to be presented at the June 10th meeting.

Planning and Zoning Committee Chairman Colgan relayed that the Zoning Hearing Board met on May 20th to evaluate the request by Life Discovery Church for variances to various McSherrystown zoning ordinances. He reported that the request was approved.

Recreation Committee Chairwoman Murren spoke of communications she had with baseball director Eric Bodvin. He hoped that Council would reconsider its decision to cancel the baseball season. If the season was not reinstated, registration fees would need to be refunded. Council discussed whether or not hats and shirts should be retained for next season or given to those who had signed-up to play since they had already been ordered.

Councilmember Murren made a motion to refund all baseball registration fees and to make the baseball shirts and hats available for pick-up when the Borough office reopens. She was seconded by Councilmember Colgan.

Roll call vote results were as follows:

William F. Smith (Yes)

Daniel P. Colgan (Yes)

Lisa B. Koontz (Yes)

Mark A. Lookenbill (absent)

Joyce E. Murren (Yes)

Stephen J. Pascoe (Yes)

Joseph E. VonSas (Yes)

With a majority vote, the motion carried.

Councilmember Colgan inquired about sponsorship checks from local businesses for the baseball teams. Councilmember Murren stated that a letter had been sent to all sponsors giving them the option to be issued a refund or to donate their sponsorship monies towards the maintenance and repair of recreational facilities in the Borough.

Public Safety Committee Chairwoman Murren reported that a public safety meeting was held earlier in the day, but that nothing was ready for presentation to the full Council.

Secretary/Treasurer Walmer relayed to Council that the office had received a number of calls asking when yard sale permits would begin to be issued. Solicitor George will look into the various aspects of the matter with regards to facemasks and social distancing and report his findings at the next meeting.

Minutes – Borough Council Meeting – May 27, 2020

Public Participation:

Secretary/Treasurer Walmer read an email that was received after the last meeting from Mark Wherley of Community Media. Mr. Wherley stated that Community Media does charge per meeting unless a donation or commitment of the percentage of the franchise fees are shared to cover public, education, and government events. He stated that other municipalities will have a regular meeting once a month and a "workshop" meeting once a month. No motions are passed at the workshop, just more time to discuss issues. A summary of the workshop topics discussed are given at the regular meeting and voted upon.

A discussion related to having multiple meetings per month and the possibility of having workshops ensued.

Unfinished Business:

President Smith spoke about the possibility of having Neiderer Sanitation take over the role of garbage billing for the Borough. Because the current contract with Neiderer Sanitation does not include a clause or option for them to do the billing, but once the current contract ends, they would entertain the option to do the billing in the next contract.

President Smith passed on a recommendation from the Personnel Committee that there were no set deadlines for changing insurance carriers. More details on the matter would be gathered and the issue would be tabled for the time being.

New Business:

President Smith asked Solicitor George to review guidelines concerning pavilion rentals in light of the pandemic. The handling of upcoming rentals, for which deposits have been paid, was discussed. It was decided that the issue would be revisited during the June 10th meeting, at which time Covid-19 restrictions may be lifted or eased by the governor. Solicitor George will provide updates to Council as necessary. Secretary/Treasurer Walmer will contact those who have reserved the pavilion up to June, 10th.

President Smith announced that the e-cycling event would be reschedule to October 3rd.

Councilmember Koontz moved a motion to change the e-cycling event from June 6th to October 3rd. She was seconded by Councilmember VonSas.

Roll call vote results were as follows:

William F. Smith (Yes)

Minutes – Borough Council Meeting – May 27, 2020

Daniel P. Colgan (Yes)
Lisa B. Koontz (Yes)
Mark A. Lookenbill (absent)
Joyce E. Murren (Yes)
Stephen J. Pascoe (Yes)
Joseph E. VonSas (Yes)

With a majority vote, the motion carried.

Councilmember Pascoe brought up the recent resignation of Borough Manager Cook and asked if there was a plan to replace him. A heated discussion, lasting nearly seven minutes, about an email, past actions, and events took place. Order was then regained.

President Smith addressed the Code of the Borough of McSherrystown and the need to have it updated. Secretary/Treasurer Walmer said that he had made a request for a quote from the third-party used by the Borough to update its Code books. Solicitor George said that it may be in the Borough's best interest to provide a digital code via the website. The quote will be provided to Council when it's received by the Secretary for two Ordinances to be added to the Code and for its digitization.

Public Participation:

There was no public participation

Adjournment was declared by President Smith at 7:56p.m.

Gerald C. Walmer
Borough Secretary