

Minutes – October 9, 2019
McSherrystown, Pennsylvania

Council of the Borough of McSherrystown met at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday October 9th, 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 and the Invocation for Divine Guidance.

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 Scott J. Cook (Borough Manager,) Robert Campbell, Esq. (Solicitor,) Gerald C. Walmer (Secretary/Treasurer,) and Anthony J. Weaver (Mayor.) Absent from the meeting was Michael F. Woods (Chief of Police.)

Minutes of the regular meeting held September 11, 2019 were approved on a motion moved by Councilmember Koontz, seconded by Councilmember Calderone. 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 were as follows:

General Fund: \$85,716.90
Highway Fund: \$2,438.57
Payroll Fund: \$44,162.29
Total: \$132,317.76

COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary/Treasurer Walmer announced that Amy Kolander will be assuming the office assistant/clerk role. He remarked that he will miss Pamela Wildasin, but that he's looking forward to working with Amy when she starts her regular schedule at the end of the month.

Manager Cook announced that brush and limb collection would take place through the month of October and that it may extend in to November depending on volume and weather.

President McKim-Bortner let it be known that a few local organizations have requested consideration for support in the 2020 budget. Among the organizations requesting donations from McSherrystown Borough were the Adams County SPCA, Adams County Office of Aging, and SAVES.

Councilmember Steven Pascoe clarified figures given to him by the Borough's labor relations attorney and relayed during the September 11th, 2019 Council meeting. Mayor Weaver had expressed concerns about some of the figures given, specifically, post-retirement medical benefits. Councilmember Pascoe stated that money to be saved by not offering newly hired police officers health benefits upon retirement would be \$575,490 per officer over a fifteen-

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year period. The actual number would be lower than that because it did not take in to account officers' pretax, health insurance contributions to the healthcare plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dan Colgan of 355 Ridge Avenue questioned the Council as to what their position was in relation to the PennDOT proposal for the Eisenhower Extension. President Mckim-Bortner said that the Council had attended the public meetings. Councilmembers Pascoe and Vonsas said that they had not been contacted individually, but that there could be impacts on businesses and residents in the Borough depending on which of the three options were chosen by PennDOT. Councilmember Koontz spoke of the potentially positive impact of less traffic on Main St. and that because the proposed bypass does not go through McSherrystown, they have little input on the matter as a governing body. Manager Cook said that it was his understanding that a decision would be made by the end of the year.

Richard Groft of Center St. spoke of the approaching election. He asked his fellow residents to consider and reflect about what has happened at Borough Council meetings over the last year and a half. He specifically noted the mob-like behavior, sudden outbursts, and childlike behavior. He said that he would be voting for candidates who display a higher level of self-control who would in turn make good, important decisions.

REPORTS

Mayor Weaver reported that Prescription Drug Take-Back day would be held on Saturday, October 26 from 10am-2pm at the McSherrystown Moose. He also said that Trick-or-Treat night would be held on Tuesday, October 29th and that additional patrolling would be done on Ridge Ave. because of speeding complaints made from the prior year. Mayor Weaver asked for a motion to take Officer Ryan Blessing off of probation. Councilmember Forbes made a motion to take Officer Blessing off of probation and was seconded by Councilmember Koontz. Motion carries.

Police Chief Woods, who was not in attendance, sent his report to the Borough Council and Mayor. His report for the month of September included 131 calls for service. There was 1 criminal arrest and 46 summary arrests. Patrols traveled 2,856 miles using 349 gallons of fuel averaging 8.2 mpg.

Manager Cook requested a motion to order three truckloads of rock salt. The joint bid with Hanover resulted in the winning bid of \$69 per ton for a total of roughly \$5,100 to be paid from the liquid fuels budget according to Manager Cook. Councilmember Calderone made a motion to order the rock salt. He was seconded by Councilmember Niedererr. Motion carries.

Manager Cook also mentioned that there has been a roof leak at the Public Works building. He stated that money had been budgeted in the amount of \$3,000. He was given a quote to repair the leak and eliminate the existing chimney at a cost of \$2,500 by Leatherman Contracting. Should any roof sheathing need to be replaced, an additional \$45 per installed sheet would be charged. Councilmember Pascoe moved a motion to approve repairs of the

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roof at the public works building. He was seconded by Councilmember Vonsas. Motion carries.

Manager Cook's report for the month of September included the following:

- 1) Replaced blacktop around miscellaneous storm sewer boxes and sewer ditches.
- 2) Replaced damaged blacktop at three locations in the first block of Maple Alley.
- 3) Replaced storm box lid at Oak Lane and Pin Oak Place.
- 4) Planted six donated trees at the dog park.
- 5) Raked and dragged all ball diamonds to remove dead weeds.
- 6) Street swept 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. Gasoline usage totaled 128.1 gallons. Diesel usage totaled 109.2 gallons. SAVES used 286.7 gallons of diesel fuel and 8 gallons of gasoline.

Safety Committee Chairman Pascoe inquired about the hiring of a new officer. Mayor Weaver reported that physical testing of potential new hires would take place on November, 2nd and that nine or ten candidates would be taking the test. Councilmember Pascoe also asked Mayor Weaver why Chief Woods was not in attendance. The Mayor said that he had to meet with a builder about a home addition.

Finance Committee Chairman Forbes made a motion to approve McSherrystown Borough's Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for calendar year 2020 totaling \$116,915 (\$90,867 for the police pension and \$26,048 for the non-uniformed pension.) Councilmember Calderone seconded the motion. Motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS

President McKim-Bortner reported that three letters had been sent out soliciting donations to have Community Media record Council meetings. One donation from McSherrystown Home Association was received totaling \$500. Councilmember Pascoe reported that the Knights of Columbus was unable to make a donation at this time due to a major, unexpected expense. The McSherrystown Moose was expected to make a donation, but had not yet made a decision pending an upcoming meeting. President McKim-Bortner requested having money budgeted for calendar year 2020 in the amount of \$3,000 to have Community Media record all monthly meetings. Councilmember Pascoe made a motion to use the donation from McSherrystown Home Association to cover Community Media's fees to record the Council meetings for the remainder of 2019 and to approve a budgetary allocation for the same, less donations received for 2020. Councilmember Vonsas seconded the motion. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval to pay listed expenditures of \$132,317.76 (General Fund- \$85,716.90; Highway Aid - \$2,438.57 and Payroll - \$44,162.29) was given on a motion moved by Councilmember Niedererr, seconded by Councilmember Pascoe. Motion carries.

SAVES requested additional funding of \$38,400 in a letter sent to Borough Council members

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for 2020. Manager Cook reported that \$24,640 per year had been given towards the building project, which was in addition to pass-thru, State funding of \$13,947. Fundraising and a lack of volunteers have led to additional money needed for operations according to Councilmember Vonsas. It was decided to add the full amount requested to the 2020 budget, but was subject to projected expenses.

President Mckim-Bortner read a letter from Adams County Borough Association (ACBA) stating that the Association passed a resolution to hold PennDOT accountable for municipal stormwater issues associated with their road work within boroughs. Manager Cook said that McSherrystown has a limited number of linear feet of storm pipe going down state roads and outlined PennDOT's responsibilities related to storm water management. He recommended adopting the resolution proposed by ACBA. The resolution was adopted on a motion by Councilmember Niedererr and seconded by Councilmember Pascoe. Motion carries.

Council President McKim-Bortner recognized Pamela Wildasin for her years of service to McSherrystown Borough and stated that she would be missed.

Councilmember Pascoe inquired about the budgeting status of non-uniform Borough employees. Manager Cook stated that the budget was being worked on and would be ready for review soon. Councilmember Pascoe also recommended adopting a nepotism policy for the Borough. He volunteered to serve on a committee to write and implement that policy. Councilmember Neidererr and Councilmember Calderone also volunteered to assist.

Adjournment was declared at 7:37 on a motion made by Councilmember Koontz and seconded by Councilmember Vonsas. Motion carries.

Gerald C. Walmer
Borough Secretary