

**BOROUGH OF MECHANICSBURG
BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
2 West Strawberry at North Market Street**

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6282

November 5, 2001

7:30 P.M.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS - COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance: President Rider, Vice President Eichelberger; Councilmen: Forry, McDermott, Ritter, Seagrist, Winchell; Solicitor Sunday, Mayor Ritter, Chief Spotts, Secretary-Manager Stough, Assistant Secretary Boyer & Cress- Sentinel; Others: Bob Dietrich, Ron Blaugh, Nancy Cichocki, Anne Hessler, Nancy Hanlon, Tom Imphong, Evelyn Stoner & Ron Thomas.

GUESTS

President Rider called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed Nancy Cichocki who addressed the Borough Council on the subject of composting. Ms. Cichocki introduced her friend, Evelyn Stoner and explained that Ms. Stoner and herself are master gardeners with an interest in the composting of leaves collected by the Borough each fall for the use by Borough residents. Ms. Cichocki reviewed the efforts of Camp Hill Borough and Lower Allen Township in regard to their composting facilities. Ms. Cichocki encouraged Borough Council to proceed with the creation of a compost site through utilizing grant funding available from the State. Borough Council discussed some options available and instructed the Borough Manager to investigate the options further and report back to Borough Council. It was suggested that the Manager arrange a presentation for Council in the near future.

Nancy Hanlon, 38 West Allen Street, spoke in favor of composting and suggested the Borough parcel located behind the football stadium, which was used in the past as a dump area.

Tom Imphong, Solid Waste Authority of Cumberland County, spoke on 902 recycling grant funding changes for the 2002 award year. Future grants for leaf processing equipment will require a "No Burn" ordinance to be in place and will require the processing of yard waste. Mr. Imphong stated that grant funding is available to pave the access to a composting facility and will also provide for paving at the composting facility site. A three-acre site was suggested by Mr. Imphong for a Borough the size of Mechanicsburg.

President Rider welcomed two Mechanicsburg High School students who are observing the proceedings this evening.

CORRESPONDENCE

Manager Stough noted that the Borough received notification that Clement A. Matta, PSAB 1st Vice President passed away on October 29th. Cards of condolence can be addressed to his widow, Judy, at 128 Bellwood Drive, Mnuhall, PA 15120.

Information was received from Blue Cross on changes to the prescription drug program and the Opti-Choice vision program.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Stough asked for a brief Executive Session, after the meeting adjournment, with no action to be taken. The Manager introduced the Borough's new Zoning and Codes Officer, Cliff Ressler to the Borough Council.

- ◆ Attended West Shore COG, Manager's Luncheon where the statewide building code & possible joint appeals board was discussed.
- ◆ Met with representative regarding the replacement of the postage meters at the Police Department and Administrative Office.

- ◆ Acted as Zoning Officer for the Zoning Hearing on the Neibert property.

Following the Managers report, President Rider read a letter which was published in the Patriot News on October 28, 2001 which he felt exemplified the effort and dedication of Chief Spotts in the twenty-two months he has served as Chief of Police in Mechanicsburg Borough. President Rider expressed his appreciation for the response on the part of Police and Fire Department personnel in Mechanicsburg to the events of September 11, 2001.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- ◆ The Mayor attended the Mechanicsburg Area Public Library's 40th Anniversary Dinner at the Church of the Brethren.
- ◆ Attended the Saturday session of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Fall Leadership Conference with Councilmen Forry and Ritter.

Mayor's Trivia Question: What is another name for the Project? Why was it built and what is there now?
Answer: Broad Marble Heights was built at the beginning of the Second World War to house families of people working at the NAVY. It is not the High School. Ron Blaugh knew the correct answer and received a CD of Christian music from the Mayor.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

- ◆ Chief Spotts reported on the Police Department's participation in the School Pledge Against Gun Violence. Over 800 students, of the 1100 participants, signed a pledge to avoid violence with firearms. The students participated as part of their social studies classes.
- ◆ A letter of thanks was received from the Intermediate School for the participation of the Police Department in the Month of the Youth adolescents program.
- ◆ Operation Safe Stop to promote safety at school bus stop locations was held on October 24th. One driver was cited.
- ◆ Bicycle Patrols were out for Streets for Treats and Trick-or-Treat.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

NONE

PSAB FALL CONFERENCE UPDATE

Councilman Forry reported on the activities at the Fall Conference as follows:

- ◆ Jim Lombardy, Executive Director for Local Government, spoke on the availability of computers through PSAB and the state surplus program. Manager Stough has the information provide by Councilman Forry and will research this option.
- ◆ Act 45, the uniform building code was discussed at length and PSAB is encouraging in house inspections. This will keep inspection revenues in the Municipal revenues. Joint review boards were also discussed.
- ◆ Training for certified tax collectors is available for \$195.00.
- ◆ Dr. David Kozack, Director of the Institute of Policy and Development, spoke on Emergency Services and Emergency response plans. He encouraged the formation of committees at the local level to review and revise emergency response plans. President Rider suggested PEMA might be able to help us with this project. Chief Spotts noted that the Fire Chief and himself have discussed this and will be updating the plan. The Chief suggested the Manager and a Council member could help with the preliminary plan. Solicitor Sunday noted that a School District representative should be included in the discussion. Chief Spotts will coordinate the formation of a committee to do some preliminary work and will including a school district representative in these preliminary discussions.
- ◆ Councilman Forry noted that he and Mr. Ritter approached DEP on the bridge issue. The Manager added that he has received notice of some technical difficulties with our application and Ron Secary is reviewing the concerns and making the required design changes.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recycling Committee - Winchell: NONE

Finance-Appropriations-Insurance - Rider: The Finance Committee will meet Wednesday, November 14th at 6:30 p.m. The Manager is directed to properly advertise the meeting.

Health-Recreation -McDermott: Next Recreation meeting will be November 13, 2001, 7:30 p.m.

Public Safety-Highways - Forry: Councilman Forry reported that the truck traffic on Allendale Road is still presenting a problem to residents. Manager Stough said that Upper Allen has their signs on order and will be enforcing the Ordinance as soon as the signs are posted. The Borough has posted weight restriction ahead signs on Allendale Road. President Rider thanked the Manager for the no outlet sign place on the cul-de-sac at Sharon Avenue.

Public Communications - Eichelberger: Councilman Eichelberger reported that the fall newsletter will be out soon. He requested to be involved in the Web site negotiations with the Mechanicsburg Chamber.

Ordinance-Administration-Legislative Action -Seagrist: Councilman Seagrist brought up the issue of signs at the Little League ballfields. Mr. Seagrist reviewed the information provide by Borough staff on the issue from the minutes of 1995. Solicitor Sunday noted that an amendment of the Zoning Ordinance relative to signage would be required for the signs to be erected, as they are off premise advertising. Off premise signs are permitted only in the manufacturing district under the Borough's current Zoning Ordinance. The possibility of a variance and the process for a zoning ordinance change were discussed at length. Solicitor Sunday said that it would be very difficult to justify a variance for this use purpose. Councilman Winchell noted that he would like to help the Little League, but felt that the regulations had to be such that the signs were maintained and not allowed to become unsightly. Solicitor Sunday explained the implications of possible signage regulation changes. Councilman McDermott will take the matter to the Recreation Commission for their input. The Manager will contact Little League representative, Jeff Shatzer to discuss the matter and present him with the options and time frame involved in the process. The Manager suggested that if we are going to amend the Zoning Ordinance, we consider a complete review and revision of the Zoning Ordinance.

Property-Buildings - NONE

School Board Liaison - McDermott: NONE.

Community Development - McDermott: The Wildcat football team will be playing Spring Grove on Friday night in the district play-offs. Crime Watch will meet Monday, November 12th at the Senior Center, 7 p.m. Downtown Committee minutes from the last meeting were distributed to Council. The primary focus of discussion was on the two hour parking regulations. Cost of installation of signs for two-hour parking was discussed and Manager Stough noted that the cost per sign would be about thirty dollars each. There are no distance regulations; however, each space must be in view of a sign, so visibility of the signs would determine the number of signs required. Councilman Winchell added that he felt the meeting had been very productive.

W.S.C.O.G. – Ritter:

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 20, 2001 REGULAR MEETING

- ◆ **Consider adoption of Ordinance 1032 eliminating Member Contribution to Police Pension Plan.**
- Solicitor Sunday noted that a letter has been received from ARIS and this Ordinance will be properly advertised in the Sentinel.
- ◆ **Consider adoption of 1033 amending Ordinance 1002 with regard to the Board of Health.** – Solicitor Sunday made a revision to include the language Health Officer or Health Officers in case the Borough has more than one Health Officer in the future.
- ◆ **Consider Resolution appointing COG compliance agent for Mechanicsburg Borough's Cable Franchise agreement.** – Solicitor Sunday noted that the sample provided is the COG approval Ordinance, not the Ordinance for the Borough to appoint COG. Mr. Cohen, Attorney for Comcast, told the Manager that the contract language was sufficient to appoint COG. After some additional discussion, the Manager was directed to look into an Ordinance with neighboring municipalities, who have adopted such Ordinances.
- ◆ **Appointment of a Representative and Alternate to the West Shore Tax Bureau.** –The Manager stated that item this could be finalized at the meeting on November 20th.
- ◆ **Discussion on parking of pop-up campers parking on Borough streets.**
- ◆ **Discussion on proposals for Legal and Engineering Services for the 2002 fiscal year.** – The Borough has received inquiries from several engineering firms. This matter can be discussed further at the next meeting. Solicitor Sunday asked if we had a release from Hartman Associates. The Manager said that we have no written contract with Hartman, and a verbal release has been received.
- ◆ **Discussion on removal billboards at Borough ball fields.** – This item was discussed under Committee reports at length.
- ◆ **Discussion on possible locations for the "Hoops for Hope" basketball tournament.** – The Manager spoke to representatives from "Hoops for Hope" and the portion of Main Street from Market Street east to Walnut Street is being considered.

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Manager Stough informed Borough Council that the Borough has received a \$3,000 grant for the purchase of GIS Arc View Software. Mr. Adams and the Manager will be attending a two-day seminar at Penn State the first weekend in December on implementation of this software.

GUESTS

NONE

OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. to be followed by an Executive Session with no action to be taken.

Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary