

MECHANICSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BOROUGH OFFICE BUILDING
2 West Strawberry @ North Market Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6282

March 19, 2002

7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: President Rider called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Rider led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ATTENDANCE: Roll call was taken with the following present: Council President Rider, Vice President Eichelberger, Councilmen McDermott, Ritter, Seagrist, Whitcomb, Winchell, Junior Councilman Lopez, Mayor Ritter, Chief Spotts, Solicitor Schorpp, Secretary Stough, and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Also present Cress – Sentinel, Miller- Patriot News, Shawn Barrick, Carl Becor, Tom Bender, Ron Blauch, Bob Charles, Jason & Lisa Corman, Rich. Corman, Bob Dietrich, Bill Dunkelberger, Ryan Edgar, Jim Geiling, Doug Hench, Paul Hunt, Marty Kaberle, Floyd Kautz, Jr., Alan Kennedy-Shaffer, Ron Klair, Brian & Kathy Klinger, Blake Lawrence, Keith. Marston, P. Miller, Mike Mills, Jack Neibert, Jack Otstot, Jeff Sanders, Larry Seagrist, Lee Seitz, Charles Sheriff, Jonathan Sheriff, Brian Smithmyer, Jay Stoner, Tom Viehman and Al Whitcomb.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- (1). Approval of request of the Halloween Parade Association for date of Halloween Parade.
- (2). Discussion on request of Recreation Director, Tonya Brown, for inspection of playground equipment.
- (3). United Water concurrence letter on drought restrictions.
- (4). Follow-up questions on Delta Development proposal.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilman McDermott moved, Seagrist second, approval of the agenda with the additions as stated. The motion carried, 7:0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

- ◆ Fire Chief Seagrist asked that the item on the agenda, rental space to house truck 8, be removed from the agenda to allow time to explore other possible solutions.
- ◆ Al Whitcomb, downtown business owner, spoke in support of the two hour parking regulations for the downtown business district.
- ◆ Jack Otstot, 2 Cedar Road, distributed hand outs to Borough Council regarding the housing of Fire Truck # 8 at the Borough highway department building and a copy of the future planning of the Washington Fire Company. Mr. Otstot explained the problems with the current housing of the truck and the difficulty involved in navigating the truck around cars and equipment in use at the Borough facility. The lack of access to restrooms, water for cleaning equipment and lack of phone access was also reviewed. Mr. Otstot also suggested that Citizens Fire Company is withholding fireman's relief money for the care and maintenance of Truck 8. Mr. Otstot stated that all equipment and maintenance for this vehicle is being provided by Washington Fire Company. Mr. Otstot stated that he is of the opinion that if the truck is to be moved to an existing Fire Station that it be moved to the Company 28 (Washington) fire station. A discussion followed on the operation statistics for Fire Truck 8.
- ◆ Ron Klair, 52 West Strawberry Alley, expressed concern about the proposed two hour parking ordinance for the downtown business district. Mr. Klair expressed his displeasure with three commercial vehicles that have been parked for extended periods in the municipal lot. These vehicles are unregistered and unlicensed and he would like to see them removed. Manager Stough stated that since his arrival in May of last year he has not received any complaints about the trucks parked in the Municipal lot. Chief Spotts stated that he has not received any complaints to date, but if the vehicles are unlicensed and abandoned, he can address the problem and he will look into the matter.
- ◆ Jeff Sanders, 501 North Market Street, spoke in support of the fire companies and encouraged the Borough's continued financial support of their efforts. Mr. Sanders asked who owns Finkenbinder Field. Manager

Stough indicated that the Borough owns this field. Mr. Sanders reported speaking with Jeff Shatzer of the Mechanicsburg Little League Association after the meeting of March 5th. Mr. Sanders stated that he thought the article in the Sentinel on the ball field issues was very nice. Mr. Sanders noted that he has not heard anything from the Borough since his attendance at the meeting on March 5th. He did thank John McDermott for his e-mail asking the various interested parties to plan a meeting to discuss the ball field and the issues brought up at the last meeting. Councilman McDermott stated that he has not been able to schedule the meeting, however, he would be setting a meeting date this evening. Councilman Seagrism asked Mr. Sanders if Finkenbinder field was in place when he purchased his home. Mr. Sanders stated that it was a park, and later the ball field was added. Mr. Sanders noted that the parents of the children playing the sport are not considerate of the residents.

- ◆ James Geiling, 29 East Factory Street, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the pipe that was installed on the top of fence. Jr. Councilman Lopez noted that he had a friend break his teeth on that fence and this type of protective measure could have prevented that injury. Mr. Geiling stated that the traffic and trash are two of the biggest problems for neighborhood residents. Mr. Geiling noted that he is opposed to advertising signs at this location.
- ◆ Carl Becor, 3 East Factory Street, stated that parking is a major concern of residents. He said that parents and umpires of the Little League Association have no consideration of the residents. He relayed his outrage that the umpires strip down and change clothes right on the street, without consideration of the small children in the neighborhood.
- ◆ Tom Viehman, Main Street business owner, spoke in support of two hour parking regulations in the downtown business district.

GUESTS: Manager Stough said that a Delta Development representative was available to answer any questions that Borough Council may have about the strategic plan proposal. No one had any questions at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- (1). Manager Stough stated that he has received a letter from the "Foot Traffic Group" and the Mechanicsburg Art Center asking Borough Council for support of their proposed Art Walk on May 18th from 10a.m to 4 p.m. The Manager suggested that the office be open for tours and possibility have an exhibit on the sidewalk in front of the station. Council had no objections to the use of the space and opening of the building for the May 18th art walk.
- (2). A letter was received from the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce expressing interest in the current Borough office building when the Borough Offices move to West Allen Street. Councilman Seagrism asked if the Museum Association has also expressed interest in the building. Manager Stough stated that the museum association has verbally stated that they intend to approach Borough Council, however, nothing has been received in writing.
- (3). Manager Stough noted that The Cumberland County Redevelopment has informed the heirs of the property owners of 720 South Frederick Street of the County's intention to declare this property as blighted if a reconstruction proposal is not received within thirty days.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman McDermott noted a correction to the date of the Community Breakfast; the correct date should be March 29th. Councilman Seagrism moved, Councilman Whitcomb second, approval of the minutes of the February 19, 2002 Regular Council meeting with the correction noted. The motion carried, 7:0.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS: Councilman Eichelberger moved, Councilman McDermott second, approval of the monthly reports as submitted. The motion carried, 7:0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- ◆ Manager Stough reported that he attended the PSAB conference yesterday and Councilman Ritter attended today. The presentations were very informative.
- ◆ To date this month the Borough has had 4,400 hits on the web page. That is an average of 245 people per day. A link was added to the site today for elementary age children call Government for Kids.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- ◆ Crime Watch Meeting was held March 11th. Mechanicsburg Police Department Officer Keith Anthony gave an excellent review of the Cumberland County SRT Team.

- ◆ Downtown Committee meeting was held March 13th to discuss Downtown parking.
- ◆ St Joseph's 5 K Race was held March 16th with approximately 100 runners participating.
- ◆ Friends of the Library need volunteers to help with the Community Book Sale April 20 and 21. Interested parties should contact Sue Erdman at the Library – 766-0171.
- ◆ Mayor attended the PSAB Spring Legislative Conference reception and exhibits on Sunday, March 17th.

Trivia Question: What was the first extracurricular sport offered by Mechanicsburg High School?

Answer: Baseball was the correct answer given by Joe Cress.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

- ◆ Monthly reports were distributed to Borough Council
- ◆ A letter of commendation was received from a citizen for Officer McCreary.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The Solicitor had no report at this time.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recycling Committee: Winchell: NONE

Finance-Appropriations-Insurance: Rider: NONE.

Health-Recreation: Rider: NONE

Public-Safety-Highway: Eichelberger: NONE

Public Communications: Eichelberger. Councilman Eichelberger announced that he would be accepting information for the newsletter through April 18th. Volunteer writers and advertisers are also needed.

Ordinance-Administration-Legislative Action: Seagrist: NONE

Property-Building: Ritter: NONE

School Board: McDermott. Councilman McDermott reported that School Board tabled for further study the issue of changing school start and end times for 2002-2003 school year. This matter will be discussed at the work session next Tuesday. Councilman McDermott noted that the School Board acknowledges receipt of the Borough's letter on the matter. Manager Stough said that he and Chief Spotts will be meeting with School District representatives on Thursday to discuss the Borough's concerns.

Community Development: McDermott: Parents Festival at the Intermediate School is this Saturday, 8:30 a.m. till noon. Saturday will be the Easter Egg hunt at Memorial Park at noon, weather permitting. Community Development Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 27th at 7 p.m. to discuss the issues of concern regarding Finkenbinder field.

W.S.C.O.G.: Ritter: Councilman Ritter deferred to Councilman McDermott who attended the last meeting on his behalf. Councilman McDermott reported that C.O.G. is working to reinstate their seat on the Harrisburg Area Transportation Board. He reported that there are two vacancies on the County Planning Commission and that West Shore COGis planning a retreat for the fall. East Pennsboro Township is urging municipalities to write to their representatives to encourage grant funding be restored in the 2002-2003 state budget. Councilman Eichelberger reported that Comcast and AT& T are merging and a packet of information was received by the Borough. Comcast has requested a signed Resolution accepting the conditions, as outlined in documents received. Attorney, Dan Cohen, will be engaged to review the documents, before the municipalities enter into these Resolutions. The cost to the municipalities will be \$500. Solicitor Schorpp indicated that he would want the Resolution changed and that could be discussed after Dan Cohen completes his review.

FIRE COMMITTEE: Winchell: Councilman Winchell reported on the items discussed at the March 11th meeting. He indicated that Truck 8 housing was discussed and recommendations made by Mr. Tochterman in the Fire Study were reviewed. The reserve status for equipment was discussed and it was decided to bring all equipment up to standard before any equipment is put into reserve. Hose testing was reviewed and it was deemed desirable to contract with an outside agency for this work. Councilman Winchell noted that Councilman McDermott has agreed to approach the school district about allowing recruitment of volunteers at the High School. It was discussed to form a Committee to approach businesses about discounts for volunteer fire fighters and possibility approaching the school district about discounts for sporting events and the Recreation Commission for additional pool passes. Based on the discussion from that meeting, Councilman Winchell made a motion that the Borough Fire Committee, the Fire Chief and representatives from both Fire Companies sit down and put together a plan to purchase a new truck and be prepared to purchase the new truck at the beginning of 2003 to replace engine 127.

Councilman McDermott seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7:0. Councilman Winchell stated that at this time he would like to schedule the next Fire Committee meeting for April 15th at the Washington Fire Company, 7p.m

BUSINESS ITEMS:

- ◆ Consideration of Ordinance 1038 amending Code of Ordinances descriptions for Handicapped Parking Spaces – Manger Stough indicated that the Ordinance was advertised in the March 9th issue of the Sentinel. Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve Ordinance 1038 as advertised. Councilman Winchell seconded the motion, which passed by a roll call vote, 7 in favor, no one opposed.
- ◆ Discussion on Street Sweeping in regard to the drought situation. – Manager Stough reported that during the rain, they have been able to run the sweeper without water. If the rain continues as predicted, they should be able to go over all the Borough streets once and the downtown area twice. The Manager indicated that DEP restriction includes not washing paved areas and he recommended continuing to sweep as the weather permits until next month's meeting when the matter could be reviewed again, unless the drought emergency is lifted.
- ◆ Review and discussion on parade policy draft. – Solicitor Schorpp stated that a final policy would be distributed after the Manager and Chief have review the draft and made changes.
- ◆ Approve disbursement of \$150 contribution to Veterans Council – Councilman Whitcomb made a motion to approve the disbursement of funds for the Memorial Day Parade. Councilman McDermott second the motion, which passed, 7:0.
- ◆ Consider approval of application for FEMA Grant by the Fire Department. – Manager Stough noted that he and Chief Seagrist have reviewed the application and it is complete except for the narrative. Councilman Whitcomb asked if the \$400,000 grant would be applied to the purchase of the Fire Truck discussed earlier this evening. Manager Stough indicated that it would. Councilman Winchell made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief and Borough Manager to make application to FEMA for grant funding for a new Fire Truck in the amount of \$400,000 dollars. Councilman McDermott second the motion which passed with all in favor.
- ◆ Review and approval of 2002 proposed paving program. – Manager Stough asked how the program is usually presented. Councilman Eichelberger indicated that a list is presented and projects completed as funds become available. All work will be bid through West Shore C.O.G.
- ◆ Consider approval of two-hour parking proposal for the downtown area. – Councilman McDermott reported on the downtown committee meeting last week. Councilman Winchell said that the Committee is recommending that the two hour parking be designated as Main Street from High Street to Race Street, Frederick Street from Stouffer to Strawberry, Railroad Avenue from Strawberry to Main, South Market Street from Main to Simpson and the Municipal lot on Strawberry Alley. Councilman McDermott noted that the parking regulations are suggested to be in force Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 5 p.m. with a fine of \$10 within the first forty-eight hours. A discussion followed about the parking regulations on the streets involved and the signage and enforcement of the parking regulations. Councilman McDermott made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to draft an Ordinance to set a two hour parking limit on Main Street from High Street to Race Street and on Frederick Street from Stouffer to Strawberry and Railroad Avenue from Strawberry to Main and South Market Street from Main to Simpson and in the Municipal lot on Strawberry Alley from 9 am. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Councilman Winchell seconded the motion. Councilman Seagrist spoke against the motion due to the fire company and funeral home located in that area and the fact that he feels that enforcement will be difficult. A discussion followed about the need for signage and church parking facilities. After some clarification on the signage and enforcement by the Solicitor and Chief of Police, President Rider called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5:2 as follows: voting yea, Eichelberger, McDermott, Rider, Whitcomb and Winchell; voting nay, Ritter and Seagrist. The Solicitor will draft and advertise the ordinance.
- ◆ Request of the Halloween Parade Association to hold this year's parade on Tuesday, October 15th. – Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve October 15, 2002 as the date for the Halloween Parade and to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise the October Council Meeting date for Monday, October 14, 2002. Councilman Winchell second the motion, which passed, 7:0.
- ◆ Discussion on memo from Tonya Brown, Recreation Director, on the condition of the playground equipment. The Manager reviewed the letter from Ms. Brown recommending that she perform a playground equipment survey of the Borough owned facilities. Councilman McDermott explained how this matter has been handled in the past. Council directed that Manager to write a letter to the Recreation Commission with the Borough's recommendation that a playground equipment survey be performed by Ms. Brown.

- ◆ Letter of concurrence from United Water – The Manager advised Council that he has copied the packet of information received from United Water for Borough Council. United Water is asking the Borough to sign a letter of concurrence, recognizing the Borough has received this information from the public water supplier and will comply with the drought restriction as outlined. Councilman McDermott made a motion to authorize the Council President to sign the letter of concurrence for United Water, Councilman Whitcomb second the motion, which passed, 7:0.
- ◆ Discussion on Delta Development proposal – The Manager asked if Council had any recommendations or questions on the Strategic Plan proposal from Delta Development. Council asked to table this item until the work session.

The Manager noted that he has been in contact with Terry Barley, of the Cumberland County Office of the Aging and they are coming to some resolution on a lot of the outstanding issues at the Senior Adult Center. The Manager also asked for a brief executive session at the close of the meeting with no action to be taken.

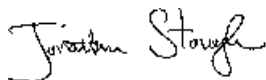
APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES PAID: Councilman Whitcomb moved, Ritter second, approval of expenditures paid from February 1, 2002 through February 28, 2002 in the amount of \$163,575.35. The motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS: NONE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- ◆ Councilman Seagrist asked members of the audience about the make up of the Fireman's Relief Association Committee. It was stated that it is made up of an equal number of members of the Citizens and Washington Fire Department. Councilman Seagrist asked about requests for funding for Truck 8 that have come before that Committee. A discussion followed on the request for funding and their denial as well as the structure of the committee. After much discussion it was announced that the next meeting of that committee would be April 8, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Fire Company and this meeting is open to the public.
- ◆ Councilman Eichelberger questioned the scheduled time of the Fire Committee meeting. It was discussed and restated that the meeting will be held on April 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Fire Company.
- ◆ Councilman McDermott noted that this is Emergency Services Week and commended all Emergency Service Personnel here in the Borough of Mechanicsburg.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Eichelberger motioned, second by Councilman Whitcomb, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m., with an executive session to follow on a personnel matter, with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Manager

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