

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

August 20, 2002

7:30 P.M.

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

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

ATTENDANCE: Roll call was taken with the following present: Vice President Eichelberger, Councilmen McDermott, Ritter, Seagrist, Whitcomb, Jr. Councilperson Lopez, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Chief Spotts, and Secretary Stough. Also present were Miller – Patriot, Cress – Sentinel, Tom Bender, Ron Blauch, Bob Dietrich, Asma Emadi, Ata Emadi, Charles Forgman, Bob Herman, Janet Herman, Floyd Kautz, Jr., Keith Marston, Gay McClintock, Bill Mumma, Larry Seagrist, Tracey Shambach, Andy Sheely, Kirk Stoner, Martine Sowers, Tom Viehman, Murrell Walters, Darrell Westby, Al Whitcomb, Linda Willis and Janice Witmer. President Rider and Councilman Winchell were absent.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilman Whitcomb moved, Councilman McDermott second, approval of the agenda. The motion carried, 5:0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

- ◆ Andrew Sheely, Martine Sowers, Tom Viehman, Murrell Walters, Darrell Westby and Al Whitcomb all spoke in favor of the 2-Hour parking ordinance, citing the improvement in doing business. Charles Forgman spoke against the 2-Hour parking, as it is inconvenient for him as a resident without available off-street parking.
- ◆ Bob Herman, 415 Valley Street, spoke in support of the declaration of the Ritter property at 422 Valley Street a public nuisance.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- (1) A letter was received from the PA DEP along with a check for \$70,802.20 in accordance with Act 339 regarding sewage treatment. The letter also addressed the Water Resources Initiative, Operator Certification and Security Issues
- (2) A letter was received from Toni Tarell at 306 W. Simpson Street, regarding installation of a streetlight in the vicinity of her address, citing vandalism and loitering as reasons for the request. It was the Manager's recommendation that Public Safety and Highway and the Police Department monitor the area to assess the situation before making a determination as the Borough is charged monthly for each streetlight and the granting of this request may prompt additional ones.
- (3) A letter was received from Janice Witmer, Mechanicsburg Chamber Manager, regarding the annual Streets of Treats event, which will take place on October 19, 2002 from 10AM until 2PM.
- (4) A letter was received from Janice Witmer, Mechanicsburg Chamber Manager, regarding a request to hold a prayer vigil to include the ringing of church bells and perhaps fire sirens at 8:50 AM on September 11th. They wish to invite members of the fire companies, police departments and EMS along with members of the military, clergy, Borough Council and local politicians including the Mayor. A discussion followed in which it was revealed that the VFW, on the Carlisle Pike, will be holding a similar event to which the local fire and police personnel have been invited. Councilman Seagrist also suggested that the sounding of sirens should not be included in the vigil due to the nature of the occasion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman McDermott moved, Councilman Whitcomb second, approval of the minutes of the July 16, 2002 Regular Council meeting as submitted. The motion carried, 5:0.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS: Councilman McDermott moved, Councilman Whitcomb second, approval of the monthly reports as submitted. The motion carried, 5:0.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- ◆ The Manager had no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- ◆ August 10th - Presented awards at the Mechanicsburg Area Public Library for the Children's Summer Reading Program.
- ◆ August 12th - Crime Watch Meeting at the Senior Citizens Center was a fast-paced, one-hour program, providing information on residential protective measures, home security, rip-offs, scams and local crime activities.
- ◆ August 13th – Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce mixer at Diener's Restaurant.
- ◆

Trivia Question by Mr. Floyd Kautz: There was a dress factory at the corner of York and Factory Streets. What was its name and to where did it move?

Answer: The Quaker Dress Company, which moved to Cheryl Ave. and was then called Orweco Frocks. The building is now owned by John Gross & Co.

As no one could answer, Mr. Kautz received two tickets to the Ox Roast.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

- ◆ Monthly Report has been distributed.
- ◆ Sgt. Pellman was commended by Domestic Violence Services for his assistance in getting an at-risk Victim safely to a shelter.
- ◆ Park Security Officer Marisa Hoopert was given a Letter of Commendation for her help in identifying a suspect in an Indecent Exposure case.
- ◆ After a T & E study, PennDOT has refused the request of the Borough to implement a Multi-Way Stop at Walnut and Allen Streets.
- ◆ We have applied to PennDOT for the necessary Permit to close streets for the Halloween Parade.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The Solicitor had no report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

- ◆ Chief Seagrist reported that the fire report for July was filed and all Council members have received it.
- ◆ A letter was received from FEMA indicating that the grant request was turned down. Out of 19,600 requests only 5,500 grants are awarded and of \$3,360 million requested, only \$2.2 billion is awarded. Chief Seagrist did indicate that the companies who were awarded monies are needy companies in outlying areas.
- ◆ On August 7th there was a garage fire in the rear of W. Keller, which was the second within a week. Both fires are under investigation by PA State Police.
- ◆ Also on August 7th an annual pump maintenance test of two engines.
- ◆ On August 9th, there was a structure fire on Filbert St. in a building containing 12 apartments. One apartment was occupied and that is likely the origin of the fire. One person was taken to the hospital. It was investigated by the State Police Fire Marshall and ruled accidental with an estimated loss of \$50,000.
- ◆ On August 13, the Chief met with Bob Kauffman at Mechanicsburg Senior High School for an update on the construction and to receive new floor plans for the two fire stations.
- ◆ On August 14, the Chief met with plumbing contractor for water line testing for a new sprinkler system for Mechanicsburg Senior High School, all required tests were passed.
- ◆ On August 15, the Chief attended class at Station 27 with someone from the PA Task Force that went to NYC Ground Zero for information on how to handle a mass-casualty situation.
- ◆ On August 16 the Chief met with Cumberland County 911 dispatchers in reference to 1)updates and upgrades to comply with the new CAD (Computer Assisted Dispatch) system and 2) a fire study resulting in putting company 37 on first alarm structure fires within the Borough.
- ◆ The New Borough Fire Engine Specs Committee met at Company 27 and 28 on August 17. Committee members went to Lewistown to see an engine that meets the specs and the Chief presented Council with the proposal to begin the process of the purchase of the new truck.
- ◆ On August 20, the Chief met with Cumberland County 911 dispatchers again. The upgrades and testing are complete on the new CAD system and there can now be no further changes to the County 911 system until after the first of the year.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recycling Committee: Winchell: NONE

Finance-Appropriations-Insurance: Rider: NONE

Health-Recreation: Councilman McDermott discussed the feasibility study for the pool and indicated that this would be a part of the agenda for the Council Work Session on September 3, 2002.

Public-Safety-Highway: Vice President Eichelberger indicated that he and the Chief of Police recommend that the requests for handicapped parking permits before the Council be approved. (Action taken under separate agenda item.)

Public Communications: Vice President Eichelberger noted that the newsletter will go out at the end of September and requested that all materials be turned in as soon as possible so that it might be finalized.

Ordinance-Administration-Legislative Action: Councilman Seagrist continues to investigate COLA for non-uniformed pensioners and will report again at the next Council meeting.

Property-Building: Ritter:

- ◆ Bid-opening for the Municipal building project held on August 13, 2002.
- ◆ Highway Department salt shed has been torn down with plans for its replacement.

School Board: McDermott:

- ◆ School opens August 27
- ◆ The project at the Senior High School is on schedule with some minor modifications underway.
- ◆ School Board Director regions have been redrawn and the entire Borough will be in one region. Three School Board Directors will be elected next year.
- ◆ The School Board elected new officers as the President has stepped down after 12 years. The Vice President was elevated to President and Sandy St. George was elected Vice President.

Community Development: McDermott:

- ◆ Public meeting with Delta Development to be held on August 21, 2002 at the Church of God Community Center. A vehicle will be provided for the input of those people unable to attend.
- ◆ Mechanicsburg Museum Association Dinner to be held September 9 at the Church of the Brethren.
- ◆ Downtown Committee: Councilman McDermott thanked everyone who commented on the various parking matters. He provided Council with a memo regarding recommended changes to the 2-Hour Parking including removing Frederick Street, revising East Main Street and modifying the restrictions in the Municipal lot to "Not to Exceed 24 Hours".

W.S.C.O.G.: Ritter: NONE

Fire Committee: Manager Stough requested that Fire Chief Seagrist speak with Councilman Winchell to request possible dates to schedule the next meeting.

Agenda Items:

- ◆ **Consider award of bids for the renovation of the new Municipal Center**
Manager Stough reviewed with Borough Council the results of the bid opening held August 13th and discussed several methods for reducing the overall costs including a rejection of the bids for the fire-suppression and security systems with the option of re-bidding at a later date.

Subject to review of the bid documents by Solicitor Schorpp:

Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Ritter, to award Contract #1, with alternate #2 & #3. The motion carried, 4:0 (Vice President Eichelberger abstained due to a relation to ECI.)

- ◆ #1 - General Trades to ECI at \$345,359
- ◆ Alternates 2&3 – To ECI for Elevator Installation at \$35,430 & Aluminum Entrances at \$6,200

Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Seagrist, to award Contracts 2, 3, 7 and 8. The motion carried, 5:0.

- ◆ #2 - Flooring to Spectra at \$40,000
- ◆ #3 - Wallcovering to Ellison at \$22,400
- ◆ #7 – Mechanical to O.L. Jacobs at \$92,700
- ◆ #8 – Electrical to Secco at \$185,000

Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Ritter, to reject the bids for Contracts 5, 6 and 10. The motion carried, 5:0.

Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Ritter, to re-bid the fire-suppression and security systems. The motion carried, 5:0.

◆ **Consider revisions to the two-hour parking regulations in the downtown business district.**

There was a detailed discussion regarding the Municipal Parking Lot and how to fairly restrict the lot while maintaining the enforceability of the restriction. Revisions to the restrictions on Market and Frederick Streets were discussed as well as ending the 2-Hour Parking zone on East Main Street in the area of Jumper Shoe Repair on the South side and Cabin Crafts on the North side. Councilman McDermott indicated that the committee did not have a complete solution addressing the various issues at this time, but that the Ordinance was necessary so that business might be rejuvenated downtown. Councilman Seagrist spoke against restricted parking altogether because of the inconvenience it causes to property owners and residents and the time it will take for police to enforce these restrictions. Councilman Whitcomb said that the residents are not overly inconvenienced by the restrictions and that it is part of the duty of police officers to enforce parking, so that is not an issue. Vice President Eichelberger expressed that the Ordinance is a work-in-progress, but that it is a positive step necessary in order to benefit businesses downtown.

- 1a. Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Ritter, to repeal the 2-Hour Parking Ordinance.
2. Vice President Eichelberger made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to table any action on the 2-Hour Parking Ordinance until all Councilmembers could be present. The motion failed, 2:3, with Councilmen McDermott, Ritter and Seagrist voting “no” and Vice President Eichelberger and Councilman Whitcomb voting “yes”.
- 1b. The motion to repeal failed 2:3 with Vice President Eichelberger and Councilmen McDermott and Whitcomb voting “no” and Councilmen Ritter and Seagrist voting “yes”.
3. Vice President Eichelberger made a motion, second by McDermott, to adopt the proposed changes to East Main Street. The motion carried, 5:0.
4. Vice President Eichelberger made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to adopt the 24-Hour restriction on the Municipal Lot. The motion carried, 4:1 with Councilman Seagrist voting “no”.
5. Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Ritter, to remove Frederick and Market Streets from the 2-Hour Parking restrictions. The motion failed, 2:3, with Vice President Eichelberger and Councilmen McDermott and Whitcomb voting “no” and Councilmen Ritter and Seagrist voting “yes”.

◆ **Consider declaring the property of Sam Ritter, 422 Valley Street, a public nuisance.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, seconded by Councilman McDermott, to declare the property of Sam Ritter, 422 Valley Street a public nuisance. The motion passed by a vote of 5:0.

◆ **Consider action on the special events request for a block party at the 900 block of East Coover Street.**

Manager Stough explained that the resident making application for this event has withdrawn her request.

◆ **Consider Ordinance 1041 updating the Boroughs Parking Ordinance.**

Councilman Whitcomb motion, seconded by Councilman McDermott to adopt Ordinance 1041 updating the parking restrictions in the Borough Parking Ordinance. The motion carried, 5:0.

◆ **Consider resignation of Russell Baker from the Planning Commission.**

Councilman Seagrist motion, second by Councilman Ritter, to accept the resignation of Russell Baker from the Planning Commission. The motion carried; 5:0.

◆ **Consider Resolution 11-02 honoring Katherine Adams for her community service to the volunteer Fire Company.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion to adopt Resolution 11-02 honoring Katherine Adams for her community service. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

- ◆ **Consider Resolution 12-02 honoring Russell Baker for his service to the Borough Planning Commission.**
Councilman Whitcomb made a motion to adopt Resolution 12-02 honoring Russell Baker for his service to the Borough Planning Commission. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:0.
- ◆ **Action on Handicapped Parking Permit application for Louette Hopple of 12 East Locust Street.**
Councilman Seagrist made a motion to approve the application for Louette Hopple of 12 East Locust Street for a handicapped-parking permit. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:0.
- ◆ **Action on Handicapped Parking Permit application for Anna Henninger of 11 East Keller Street.**
Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve the application for Anna Henninger of 11 East Keller Street for a handicapped-parking permit. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:0.
- ◆ **Consider hiring of James Ruth and Edward Kodish at school crossing guards for the 2002-2003 school year.**
Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Whitcomb, to appoint James Ruth, and Edward Kodish as school crossing guards for the 2002-2003 school year. The motion carried; 5:0.
- ◆ **Consider addition of Marisa Hoopert, Renee Wilson and Thomas Weber as substitute school crossing guards for the 2002-2003 school year.**
Councilman McDermott made a motion to appoint Marisa Hooper, Renee Wilson and Thomas Weber as substitute school crossing guards for the 2002-2003 school year. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Action on request of United Way to hang banners in the downtown business district.**
Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve the request to hang the banners, Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5:0.
- ◆ **Action on request of the Vietnam Veterans of the Mechanicsburg, PA area request for use of the square in front of PNC Bank on September 20th from 7 p.m. till 10 p.m. for their annual candlelight vigil honoring those service men and women missing in action.**
Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve the request of the Vietnam Veterans of Mechanicsburg for use of the square on September 20th from 7 to 9 p.m. for their annual candlelight vigil honoring service men and women missing in action. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Consider approval of the update to the Police eligibility list as recommended by the Civil Service Commission.**
Councilman Seagrist made a motion to approve Police Civil Service Resolution 04-2002 creating an eligibility list for Patrol officers and to approve Police Civil Service Resolution 05-2002 appointing the test administrators for the civil service examination process. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:0.
- ◆ **Consider action to extend the refuse/recycling contract with Waste Management through December 31, 2002.**
Councilman Ritter made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to approve extension of the current Refuse/Recycling contract with Waste Management through December 31, 2002. The motion passed, 5:0.
- ◆ **Update on the Delta Development strategic plan.**
Manager Stough reminded everyone that the public meeting will be held on August 21st and that all stakeholder meetings have already been held.
- ◆ **Consider approval of the Fire Engine specifications as submitted and recommended by the Fire Specification Committee.**
Discussed as a part of the Fire Chief's report.
- ◆ **Discussion on Street Sweeping in regard to the drought situation.**
Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott to extend the ban on street sweeping. The motion passed, 4:1, with Councilman Seagrist voting "no".

- ◆ **Consider request of Cumberland County Commissioners for letter of support of Interstate 81 Corridor project.**
No action taken.

- ◆ **Consider funding options for the Mulberry Drive Bridge, Church Road Bridge and stormwater improvement projects.**
Manager Stough met with Engineer Bruening and representatives from Norfolk Southern on August 20, 2002 at the Mulberry Bridge location. It was determined that the Mulberry Bridge is almost entirely within the Railroad right of way. Therefore, the Norfolk representatives stated that they be responsible for part of the re-building costs. The Borough Engineer will be preparing a packet of information & forwarding to Norfolk Southern's Engineering department.

- ◆ **Update on sidewalk and curb reconstruction project.**
Nothing additional to report at this time.

- ◆ **Update on the salt shed project.**
As previously reported, the old shed is down and the new building should be started in the next week, or so.

- ◆ **Consider setting the date for Trick or Treat in Mechanicsburg Borough as Thursday, October 31, 2002, from 6 to 8 p.m.**
Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott to set the date for Trick or Treat in Mechanicsburg Borough as October 31, 2002 from 6 to 8 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES PAID: Councilman Ritter moved, Councilman McDermott second, approval of expenditures paid from July 1, 2002 through July 31, 2002 in the amount of \$196,470.39 from the General Fund and \$7,755.83 from the Highway Aid fund. The motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS:

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Brief birthday celebration for Fire Chief, Larry Seagrist.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before Council, Vice President Eichelberger adjourned the meeting at 9:35 PM, with a brief executive session on a personnel matter to follow with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Manager