

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

January 6, 2003

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 in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ATTENDANCE: In attendance were, President Rider, Councilmen McDermott, Ritter, Seagrist, Whitcomb, Winchell, Jr. Councilman Miller, Mayor Ritter, Chief Spotts, Acting Solicitor Denlinger, Secretary Stough, and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Also present Cress – Sentinel, Eric Clancy, Jim Clay, Kirk Corliss, Dave Harnish, Thomas Gabel, Roger Kitchen, Toppie Robinette, Larry Seagrist, Glenn Swank, Dom Tarquin, Stanley Walton, Vice President Eichelberger was absent.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- ◆ Discussion and possible designation of a public nuisance at 34 East Keller Street.
- ◆ Move the discussion and possible action on the telephone system at the new Municipal Center to the business agenda for this evening.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to approve the agenda with the additions as noted. The motion passed, 6-0.

GUESTS

1. **Presentation of Resolution to Thomas Gabel**
President Rider read the Resolution approved at the December 17th meeting and presented a framed copy to Mr. Gabel. He thanked Mr. Gabel for his dedicated service to our community.
2. **Michael A. Wolf, of Dolphin & Bradbury & Frank Leber of Rhoads and Sinon.**
Manager Stough introduced Michael Wolf and Frank Leber to Borough Council. Mr. Wolf distributed a draft of the preliminary statement for the bond issuance. He reviewed with Borough Council the Investment Banking Presentation that was included in the Borough Councilmember's meeting packets on Friday. He reviewed two repayment Options with the Borough Council. Option 1 does not incorporate the two current five-year loans the Borough took out to purchase and renovate the new Municipal Center. Option 2 includes the payoff and inclusion of the two existing loan amounts into the bond structure. Option 2 would provide a consistent repayment, while increasing slightly the interest paid. Option 1 would hold down interest but require larger debt service payments in the years two through four of the bond processes. Mr. Wolf stated that either option would be acceptable, he wants to provide Borough Council with all available information, so they can make the decision that best suits their situation. Much discussion followed on the advantages of each option, and at conclusion of the discussion, Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Winchell to direct Mr. Wolfe to proceed with Option 1 and the time outline provided to Council and direct the Solicitor to advertise to the Debt Incurring Ordinance for action at the regular Council meeting on January 21st. The motion passed with all in favor, 6:0

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

President Rider asked for comments from citizens and there were none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough stated that he has received the following correspondence:

1. Manager Stough noted that he has received a draft copy of the stormwater drainage feasibility study for Shepherdstown Road to Cedar Run, which was prepared by Pennoni Associates, and a meeting will be scheduled with Upper Allen Township and the three property developers interested in development in that area.

2. Mr. Kevin Jayne submitted a letter to Borough Council outlining his views on the skateboarding in the streets and copies have been provided to Borough Council members.
3. The Tri – County Borough Association meeting will be held on January 28, 2003 at the New Cumberland VFW. Interested Councilpersons should RSVP to Manager Stough.
4. West Shore Chamber – COG meeting will be held on January 20th at 5:45. Mr. Ritter and Mr. McDermott will be attending as delegate and alternate. Any other interested Council members should RSVP to the Borough Manager.
5. A copy of the letter received from Martha Kohlhaas of Portland Street regarding sewer rates was distributed to Borough Council, as was the Borough Manager's response letter.
6. We have received a letter of resignation from Sue Starr of the Shade Tree Commission.
7. Samples of coins for a possible 175th Anniversary fundraiser were received by the Manager and will be distributed to Council members for their review and discussion; the matter will be added to the agenda for the meeting on the 21st.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough had no report at this time.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Ritter reported the following:

- ◆ One civil wedding was performed in the Mayor's office.
- ◆ December 20th – attended briefing at the Navy Supply Depot, it was reported that 200 civilian jobs would be lost within the next year.
- ◆ January 4th – The First United Methodist Church honored Ernie Zimmerman for serving over ten years as their youth leader. This was Ernie's last year. He was given on of the Mayors highest awards, the Bald Eagle Award, thanking him for his time and effort given to the youth of this community.
- ◆ January 9th – next meeting of the 175th Anniversary of Mechanicsburg Committee.
- ◆ January 11th – The Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School will hold a Dedication Ceremony for their new and expanded facilities at 500 South Broad Street.
- ◆ January 13th – Chief Spotts is the guest speaker at the Crime Watch Meeting discussing year-end 2002 report and crime prevention.

Trivia Questions: As of December 31, 2002, how many employees does the borough have on its payroll? Highway, Sewer, Uniform, Administrative - Clerical

Answer: 35 total, 7 Highway, 8 Sewer, 14 Uniform, 6 Administrative-Clerical.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Chief Spotts reported that he has received notification that the grant from the Bullet Proof Vest Alliance was approved in the amount of \$1,192.00 to offset the cost of purchases made in 2002.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The acting Solicitor had no report at this time.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recycling Committee: Winchell: NONE

Finance-Appropriations-Insurance: Rider. NONE

Health-Recreation: Rider: Councilman McDermott noted that the Recreation Commission will meet on January 14th.

Public-Safety-Highway: Eichelberger: Manager Stough noted that the Committee met last Monday to review the matter of RV and Trailer parking and skateboarding in the street.

Public Communications: Eichelberger: NONE

Ordinance-Administration-Legislative Action: Seagrist: NONE

Property-Building: Ritter: NONE

School Board: McDermott: Councilman McDermott noted that January is the month of School Director Recognition and Appreciation and Mechanicsburg School District is fortunate to have three excellent directors. Next Tuesday will be the School Board's voting meeting.

Community Development: McDermott: NONE
W.S.C.O.G.: Ritter: NONE
Fire Committee: Winchell: NONE

AGENDA ITEMS for January 6, 2003:

- ◆ **Authorize proper officers to make application for County Liquid Fuels Funding.**
Councilman Seagrist made a motion, seconded by Councilman Whitcomb, to authorize the Borough Manager to make application for County Liquid Fuels Funding. The motion passed, 6-0.

- ◆ **Motion to approve appointment of Fire Police and Special Police as follows:**

Fire Police	Special Fire Police
R. H. Herman	Ron O'Neil
Mike Mills	R.C. Herman
Paul Askey	Troy O'Neil
Craig Gower	Mike Oylar
Elmer Adams	Dave Boch
	Terry Magee
	Bill Dunkelburger
	Russ Fernbaugh

Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Whitcomb, to approve the appointment of Fire Police and Special Fire Police as listed. The motion carried with all in favor, 6-0.

- ◆ **Consider contracting with Delta Development for services related to obtaining Grant funding for traffic signalization improvement project.**
Manager Stough read an e-mail received from Chris Gulotta regarding the percentage of grant funding that would be used to pay the administrative costs if the Redevelopment Authority administered grant funding for the traffic signalization project. The e-mail indicated that the administrative costs would range between 10 and 15 percent of the grant funding, depending on the scope of work performed on behalf of the Borough. Manager Stough noted that Scott Tochterman of Delta Development was in attendance to answer any questions from Borough Council.

Councilman Seagrist made a motion to contract with Delta Development for a twelve month period for the purpose of assisting the Borough in securing Federal and State funding for the traffic signalization project. The monthly fee for services to be \$4,500 dollars with the provision included that would allow for the termination of the contract with a thirty day written notice at any time after the first thirty days of the contract period and subject to the review of the contract by the Borough Solicitor. Councilman Ritter seconded the motion. Councilman Winchell asked if we could still work with the County on other projects. Manager Stough noted that the Council could ask Mr. Gulotta for a letter of support for the project and continue to work with his office to assist with Community Development projects, as he has a great deal of experience with the DCED Block Grant Program and other state funding agencies. Councilman McDermott noted that if the Borough decides to go with the County for this project, Mr. Gulotta indicated that he could be ready to go to the Senator for support as early as next week. After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed with all in favor, 6-0.

- ◆ **Accept resignation of Sue Starr from the Shade Tree Commission.**
Councilman Winchell made a motion to accept the resignation of Sue Starr from the Shade Tree Commission. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Consider appointment to fill position vacated by Sue Starr for a term to expire December 31, 2005.**
Councilman McDermott made a motion to nominate Nancy Cichocki to fill the vacancy. President Rider seconded the motion. Councilman Seagrist asked if any other residents had expressed an interest. Manager Stough noted that Patrick Stohl and Nancy Hanlon have both expressed an interest in the open position created by Mr. Gabel's resignation last month, as did Nancy Cihocki. Discussion followed on whether this position needed to be filled at this meeting or if the appointment could be done at the next meeting, after Council had time to review all the applicants' requests for appointment. Much discussion followed on the matter, after which President Rider called for a vote on the motion of Councilman McDermott. The motion failed by a vote of 4:2. At that time Councilman Seagrist made a motion to table this matter till the Council meeting on the 21st of January. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:1.
- ◆ **Declaration of 34 East Keller Street as a public nuisance.**
Manager Stough explained the codes violations and public safety concerns with this residence. The property owner is not living in the property and an open window in the attic is creating a problem for the other three

property owners whose homes adjoin this row home. They are having high heating bills and problems with animals in the attics and they are asking that the Borough board the window opening to prevent animals from entering the structure, and help them with their heating bills, since the owner cannot be located to make the needed repairs. Declaring the property a public nuisance would allow the codes officer and staff to enter the building and board the window and secure the premises. President Rider made a motion to declare 34 East Keller Street public nuisances for the purpose of securing the structure. Councilman Winchell seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

◆ **Discussion on a telephone system for the new Municipal Center.**

Manager Stough reviewed the memo he provided to Borough Council regarding the new phone system and compared the two price quotes provided. Manager Stough asked Council to purchase the phone system from Dauphin DataCom at the prices listed in the memo, which are off the State Contract and would not require the Borough to go out to bid. Some discussion followed on the differences in the two quotes and the services covered in each of the quotes. Councilman Seagrist asked about the current phone systems at the new building and also at the Police Station. Manager Stough noted that the system currently at the new building was installed in either 1985 or 1986 and parts for the system are not available. Chief Spotts indicated that the phone system at the Police building is not really adequate for their needs, and Manager Stough noted it would be left in place for use of the Highway Department. Councilman Winchell made a motion to direct the Manager to contract for the new telephone system with Dauphin DataCom at the prices outlined in his memo and provided for by State Contract. Councilman Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed, 6-0. Councilman Winchell commended Chief Spotts for securing a \$10,000 communication grant to help offset the costs.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR January 21, 2003

◆ **Action on Ordinance 1046 revising the schedule for fixture count base rates for the use of wastewater treatment services and Action on Ordinance 1047 setting tax certification fees**

The Solicitor will provide copies of these Ordinances for Borough Council and will properly advertise them for action at the meeting on the 21st of January.

◆ **Action on Ordinance 1048 authorizing a Cost of Living increase for the non-uniform retirees and Resolution 1-2003 setting the Cost of Living increase for non-uniform retirees at 5% for 2003.**

Acting Solicitor Denlinger noted that Solicitor Schorpp had some issues with this Ordinance and has not advertised it as yet. This item will be changed to a discussion item for the next Council meeting.

◆ **Consider directing Solicitor to draft and advertise changes to the Skateboard provisions in the Borough Code and Consider directing the Solicitor to draft and advertise changes to the Trailer Parking provisions in the Borough Code.**

These items will both be changed to discussion on possible changes to the Skateboard regulations and the trailer and oversized vehicle parking regulations. A memo on skateboard incidents has been provided to Borough Council by Chief Spotts.

◆ **Discussion on addition of an alternate position to the Zoning Hearing Board.**

The Borough has an option of adding from one to three alternate positions to the Zoning Hearing Board under the Pennsylvania Borough Code. The matter came up last month when two interested individuals were listed to fill only one opening. An alternate would attend all the meetings, but vote only if a regular member was not in attendance. This would require an amendment to the Borough Ordinance.

◆ **Update of Joint Recreation Agreement**

The Solicitor is trying to contact the School District Solicitor to review the matter.

◆ **Update on Mulberry Road and Church Road Bridge Replacement project.**

The Borough has sent a letter to the PUC and Norfolk Southern saying that we do not feel we should be required to construct an at-grade gate crossing. We are currently awaiting a response from Norfolk Southern on the matter.

GUESTS:

- ◆ Wayne Schweitzer, 3 East Elmwood Avenue, asked if the Borough could address the trees and shrubs that are overgrown onto the sidewalk areas in many locations throughout the Borough. Manager Stough indicated that the Codes Officer has been sending letters, which include a picture of the violation, to residents and gives them an allotted time to correct the problem or the Borough trims the trees and shrubs and bills the resident. When a violation is brought to the attention of the Borough staff or if a staff member observes a violation, the Codes Officer will follow up, and action will be taken.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- ◆ Councilman Whitcomb asked if the Council would consider a 25 mph speed limit for Allison Avenue, between the 400 and 600 block. The School District is directing parents to pick up children at this location, and this has created an area where the possibility of lowering the speed limit would be in the interest of public safety. Manager Stough noted that this matter would be added to the next meeting agenda for Council's consideration.
- ◆ Councilman McDermott noted that the 175th Anniversary Committee will meet on Thursday at the Borough Office at 7:00 p.m. and the Strategic Plan Steering Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 14th at 7 p.m. at the Senior Adult Center.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before Council, President Rider moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. An Executive Session on a personnel issue to follow with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Manager