

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

February 4, 2003

7:30 P.M.

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

ATTENDANCE: In attendance were, President Rider, Vice President Eichelberger, Councilmen McDermott, Ritter, Seagrist, Whitcomb, Winchell, Jr. Councilman Miller, Mayor Ritter, Chief Spotts, Solicitor Schorpp, Secretary Stough, and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Also present Cress – Sentinel, Walde- Patriot, Jim Clay, Floyd Kautz, Jr., Wayne & Lois Schweitzer, Larry Seagrist, and Jay Stoner,

GUESTS

There were no guests in attendance this evening.

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 Council members have in front of them a request from the Museum Association to use the Borough seal on some pottery that they are having made as a fund raiser in honor of the 175th Anniversary of the Borough. The Solicitor noted that Borough Council should officially approve this request at the next Council meeting. Manager Stough will add this item to the agenda for the meeting of February 18th.
2. A letter was received from the Halloween Parade Association stating that their first organizational meeting was to be held on February 3rd and that the Parade date this year will be October 14th.
3. The Knights of Columbus have requested permission to hold their annual 5 K run on March 22nd and this will be added to the February 18th Agenda for consideration of Borough Council.
4. The Office of Emergency Preparedness about CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) and more information will be distributed in the future.
5. PSAB Scholarship information was received and distributed in packets to Borough Council and also forward to Mr. Harris at Mechanicsburg High School.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough had no report at this time.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Ritter reported the following:

- ◆ January 23rd - Swore in Nancy Hanlon to her appointment on the Shade Tree Commission.
- ◆ January 28th – Attended the Central Tri-County Boroughs Association dinner meeting at the New Cumberland VFW.
- ◆ February 6th – the 175th Anniversary Committee will meet at 7 p.m. at the Borough Office.
- ◆ February 10th – Crime Watch meeting will feature Barry Heckard, Borough Tax Collector, as guest speaker.
- ◆ Mechanicsburg Museum Association currently is exhibition Acquisitions 2002 “Our Town” This exhibit and the Museum Store are both open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Trivia Questions: Attached to the Borough building is a benchmark. It gives the height above sea level. I know of one more benchmark in the Borough, where is it?

Answer: On the High Street side of the Old High School Building.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Chief Spotts reported that he would like to request an addition to the agenda of February 18th, the review of the Handicapped Parking Permit application of Katherine Fenstermaker of 8 East Portland Street. He noted Council has received his memo in their packets on this matter.

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 February 11th.

Public-Safety-Highway: Eichelberger: Vice President Eichelberger noted that he sees no need for changes in the Skateboard ordinance based on review of the information received from Chief Spotts regarding the matter. He noted that he will be meeting with Chief Spotts regarding the Trailer parking issue and both items will be addressed at the meeting on February 18th. Mr. Schweitzer asked if a vote would be taken on the trailer parking at the next meeting and Vice President Eichelberger noted that the Solicitor may be directed to advertise changes, but the changes must be advertised before Council can vote to enact them, so that could not be done until the March meeting at the earliest. Some discussion followed on the matter. Mr. Schweitzer indicated that he understands the problems that long-term on-street parking creates for the Highway Department; however, he is hoping to have a time frame that he can park on street for loading and unloading his RV. He stated that he tries to get his vehicle off of the street as quickly as possible in consideration of his neighbors and to avoid visibility problems for traffic. Mr. Schweitzer asked about lowering the speed limit on Elmwood Avenue to 25 mph. Chief Spotts noted that he could get the traffic counter out on Elmwood when the weather get a little warmer and then Council could consider lowering the speed limits based on the information obtained.

Public Communications: Eichelberger: Copy deadline for the spring edition of the Newsletter is Friday February 7th.

Ordinance-Administration-Legislative Action: Seagrist: Councilman Seagrist requested the addition of a Resolution honoring the late Larry Zimmerman for his community service to the meeting of February 18th.

Property-Building: Ritter: Councilman Ritter noted that the new Municipal Building is progressing on schedule.

School Board: McDermott: NONE

Community Development: McDermott: The Strategic Plan Committee will be meeting next Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. Chris Ortwin of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center will be the guest speaker.

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

Fire Committee: Winchell: Councilman Winchell stated that the Fire Committee met on January 27th and Manager Stough was present to ask both companies for letters of support for the Borough's Traffic Signalization upgrade. The Fire Committee will be asking Borough Council to consider authorization of the Fire Engine bid at its next meeting, based on the specifications submitted by the Fire Committee. A meeting will be held on February 19th at Washington Fire Company at 7 p.m. to discuss the job description for the Fire Chief position.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR February 18, 200

◆ **Settlement 2002 Per Capita Tax and 2002 Real Estate Tax with Barry Heckard and submission of 2003 tax duplicates to the Tax Collector.**

These items will be on the agenda with the figures for finalization of the 2002 tax year and submission of the 2003 tax duplicates as prepared for us by Cumberland County Tax Assessment.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on authorizing bid specifications for the new fire engine.**

Councilman Winchell covered this item under Committee.

◆ **Discussion on changes to the Skateboard and Trailer Parking regulations in the Borough Code.**

Vice President Eichelberger covered this under this Committee report.

◆ **Update on Traffic Signalization upgrade.**

Letters of support have been received from both Fire Departments, the School District, the Chamber and other many others and all information is being compiled in support of our efforts to secure some funding for this project.

◆ **Update of Joint Recreation Agreement**

Solicitor Schorpp reported that at the next meeting he is going to ask Borough Council to direct him to draft an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for the Joint Recreation Board. He has discussed this with both Upper Allen Township and the School District's Solicitors.

◆ **Discussion on implementation of possible Cost of Living Increase of 5% for non-uniform retirees.**

Manager Stough noted that he spoke with our Labor Counsel, Joe Rudolph, and he will be giving his written legal opinion to the Borough, as requested.

Manager Stough stated that he has spoke to the School District relative to Mr. Strauss's request earlier this year for ownership the unopened right-of-way adjacent to his property. The School District was receptive to the request; however, some details still have to be worked out.

Manager Stough asked if anyone knew who owns the property that the Men's Garden Club maintains and plants flowers on at the entrance to the Borough on East Main Street. Some discussion followed, but no one was sure who owned the property. It was asked if anyone knew what happened to the sign that had been there and Mr. Clay noted that Keith at Letterworks had donated it and may have taken it down for repairs.

Councilman Winchell asked if any progress had been made in scheduling a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the plan to assist the elderly with the upcoming Sewer rate increase. Manager Stough noted that he has met with New Hope Ministries and will have information to Borough Council shortly. Manager Stough asked if President Rider would like to schedule a Finance Committee meeting at 7 p.m., prior to the Council meeting on February 18th.

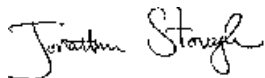
GUESTS:

Jay Stoner, 124 East Locust Street, asked Borough Council if they were aware of the additional traffic congestion created by the additional school bus stops that were added as a result of the Intermediate School moving to its new location. He also asked the Police Department to look into a traffic problem at Northside Elementary. President Rider asked Manager Stough to contact Allen VanDrew at the School District to discuss these traffic concerns. Chief Spotts noted that he would look into the problem at Northside Elementary.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

President Rider asked Council and those citizens in attendance if there were any other concerns to come before Council this evening and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before Council, President Rider moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Councilman Seagrist invited everyone to stay and enjoy a piece of cake in honor of President Rider's birthday. Manger Stough invited Borough Council members and the Mayor to tour the 34-36 Allen Street building, to see the progress of the construction project.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Manager