

MECHANICSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BOROUGH OFFICE BUILDING
36 West Allen Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6282

July 1, 2003

7:30 P.M.

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

ATTENDANCE: The following were present: President Rider, Vice President Eichelberger, Councilmen McDermott, Ritter, Seagrist, Whitcomb, Winchell, Jr. Councilperson Miller, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer.

Also in attendance: Cress – Sentinel, Robert H. Davis, Esq., Bob Dietrich, Floyd Kautz, Jr., Reverend Messersmith, Richard Parsons, John Stough

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

- ◆ Richard Parsons, St. Luke's Church, 8 East Keller Street, addressed Borough Council regarding the possible elimination of the two on-street handicapped parking spaces in front of the Church. Manager Stough stated that a resident had attended the last Council meeting and asked if the Church would be providing handicapped parking in their off-street lot and eliminating the on-street spaces, as they are only used on Sundays and parking is at a premium in that block of Keller Street. Mr. Parsons stated that the spaces have been there for fifteen or twenty years and the church would like to continue to have the spaces available for the use of handicapped parishioners.
- ◆ Reverend Messersmith, St Luke's Church, echoed Mr. Parsons views, adding that the parking area that will be provided will be porous block, not macadam, and would be difficult for handicapped individuals to use and he had safety concerns with putting the spaces in the lot, as a planting buffer was required by the Planning Commission which will limit easy accesses to the walkways leading to the Church. Reverend Messersmith also stated that the church put \$120,000 into the purchase and development of the parking lot, not to benefit the Church, but to help alleviate the parking problem during church functions for neighborhood residents. Councilman Whitcomb asked if people from the Church, such as the handyman, or other employees, use these spaces during the week. Mr. Parsons indicated that if he is dropping off items at the church, he parks in the spaces for a short time.
- ◆ John Stough, East Keller Street, indicated that throughout the week the Church personnel use the spaces as personal parking, including to park construction equipment being used to work in the parking lot.
- ◆ Robert Davis, St. Luke's Church Parishioner, addressed Borough Council regarding the handicapped parking issue and stated that the Americans with Disabilities Act provides for this type of parking, and we are obligated to provide parking for disabled citizens; if those parking spaces sit open and unused, it does not matter, they are still required. He stated that those parking spaces are for any handicapped person, not just church parishioners. Councilman Eichelberger stated that Borough Council is just trying to determine if there is a miss-match of need and supply.

After some additional discussion, it was suggested that if a problem exists in the neighborhood, perhaps a petition could be submitted for Council's consideration. Mr. John Stough indicated that he would do so. President Rider thanked the members of St. Luke's Church for bringing their concerns to Borough Council and noted that Borough Council would ponder the matter for another two weeks and discuss what action, if any, needs to be taken at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Manager Stough noted that a representative from Representative Nailor's office was in today and dropped off a variety of interesting pamphlets, which are available to residents in the lobby.

- 1) June 24th – A letter was received from Groundwater Services expressing interest in purchasing the train station.
- 2) June 26th – A letter was received from residents of East Coover Street expressing their concerns about speeding vehicles in their neighborhood. Councilman Eichelberger asked Chief Spotts if a speed study had been done in that area. Chief Spotts indicated that it was and he will provide the results to Borough Council prior to the next meeting. Chief Spotts noted that the speed counter was stolen and has not been replaced, so the Department is not conducting any studies at this time.
- 3) June 20th – A letter was received from the Library thanking the Highway Department for their hard work and patience in hanging the banner across Main Street.
- 4) June 30th – Received a letter from Dominic Tarquin, on behalf of Mechanicsburg Crime Watch, asking to have the timing adjusted on the light at Walnut Street. Chief Spotts indicated that a request to change the timing was made to PennDOT and PennDOT denied the request within the last two years.
- 5) June 26th – A letter was received from Roy Cook Agency regarding renewal rates for the Borough Insurance Program. The premium went down from last year to \$77,869.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough reported on the events of last weekend, he thanked the Sentinel and Mr. Cress for the coverage that the 175th Anniversary events received. Manager Stough reported that there was a steady flow of visitors to the encampment on Saturday morning. About 80 people attended the program at the Church of God Community Center given by Mr. Schmick. The Mayor's ball raised \$1,230 for the Library Capital Campaign. The reenactment on Sunday was well attended and a wagon of food valued at \$450 was donated to New Hope Ministries. Mr. Stough thanked Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Strock of Mechanicsburg for providing the wagon on the square and Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Bunning of Newville for providing the covered wagon and team of horses used at the reenactment on Sunday. A commemorative coin and thank you letter will be sent to both of them.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported:

June 21st – Mechanicsburg Area Foundation announced a new "Town Pride Fund" in honor of the Borough's 175th Anniversary. The event was held at Eckel's Drug Store.

June 21st – Citizens Fire and Rescue's Banquet celebrated 100 years of service.

June 28th & June 29th – Living History Encampment at Memorial Park, slide show and dance at the Church of God Community Center, night artillery firing, chicken Bar-B-Que, food collection for New Hope Ministries and Confederate Invasion and capture of Mechanicsburg. Thanks to Civil War Roundtable, Camp Curtin Historical Society, Arcona Reel Band, Victorian Dance Ensemble, Joseph T. Simpson Library, Church of God, Parks and Recreation, Police Department, Washington Fire Company, Union Church, Borough Council and Staff and the 175th Anniversary Committee for making this 140th Confederate Invasion of Mechanicsburg and the 175th Anniversary Celebration a memorable event.

The next Crime Watch Meeting will be held July 14th at the Senior Adult Center. Leo Davidovich, Chief of Operations and Maintenance of Pennsylvania State Parks, will be our guest speaker.

Trivia Question: What did Potts Mfg. Co. give to the Borough of Mechanicsburg in remembrance of Jesse L. V. Smith in 1926?

Answer: The jungle gym at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park, located near the southeast corner of the tennis courts, the plaque remains, but the jungle gym is gone.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Chief Spotts requested a short Executive Session with no action to be taken. He also reported that he would not be at the July 15th meeting, but Lt. Myers would be in attendance.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The Solicitor reported that he would be unable to attend the July 15th meeting, but would have another attorney from his firm present.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Seagrist reported that Truck 8 has received its annual servicing. A pump test was performed on all four pumpers and they all passed. This was the first Jubilee Day in which the Fire Departments received no fire calls during the day's festivities. Hose testing will be performed next week, and ladder and aerial tests will be performed by the end of the month.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recycling Committee: Winchell: Councilman Winchell reported that the first Citizen Advisory Committee meeting will be held on August 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Finance-Appropriations-Insurance: Rider: President Rider stated that he would like to schedule a Finance Committee meeting prior to the next Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. At this time President Rider stated that he would like an update of the year-to-date finances.

Health-Recreation: Rider: President Rider indicated that a joint meeting with the Recreation Commission and Council is scheduled for July 8th at 7 p.m. Information from the pool will be provided by Tonya Brown this week for inclusion in Council packets.

Public-Safety-Highway: Eichelberger: Vice President Eichelberger noted that Solicitor Schorpp has provided Council with a draft of the ordinance revisions that will be considered at the meeting on July 15th.

Public Communications: Eichelberger. No Report

Ordinance-Administration-Legislative Action: Seagrist: Councilman Seagrist asked Chief Spotts about the status of the Police Contract binding arbitration. Chief Spotts indicated that he has been told a few minor issues remain and resolution should be coming in the near future.

Property-Building: Ritter: Councilman Ritter indicated that he would like to discuss the Train Station, under the agenda items later in the meeting.

School Board: McDermott: Councilman McDermott reported that the School Board met to discuss the closing of the Shiremanstown Elementary School. Many residents in attendance were against the closing. Alan Vandrew at the School District will be accepting written comments on the matter, through July 24th and the School Board will discuss the matter at the August meeting.

Community Development: McDermott: The Crime Watch group will be addressing Senior Citizens on July 9th at 11:00 am. at the Senior Center. This year is the 175th Anniversary of the First Church of God, and he requested a Resolution honoring this anniversary be added to the July 15th agenda. Mr. McDermott will provide historical background for preparation of the Resolution.

W.S.C.O.G.: Ritter: No Report

Fire Committee: Winchell: No Report

AGENDA ITEMS FOR July 15, 2003

- ◆ **Consider authorization to advertise Ordinance 1052 amending the street sweeping ordinance, changing the section of the Borough Code which deals with temporary parking bans and restricting on-street parking of oversized vehicles.**

Council can review this Ordinance revision and if appropriate authorize the Solicitor to advertise the Ordinance for action at the August meeting.

- ◆ **Consider Resolution 6-2003 changing regulations for temporary parking prohibition.**

A draft copy has been provided by the Solicitor for Council to review before the July 15th meeting

- ◆ **Consider Resolution 7-2003 honoring Rakestraw's on its 100th Anniversary & Resolution 8-2003 honoring Pastor Coffman on his retirement & also Resolution 9-2003 in honor of the First Church of God's 175th Anniversary.**

Copies will be provided to Borough Council for review prior to the meeting on July 15th.

- ◆ **Consider request of Chief Spotts for a "Ride Along" program for Police Officers' spouses and significant others.**

Chief Spotts stated that he provided the information requested by Borough Council in a memo included in Friday's Council packets. Councilman Winchell asked if this program and its implementation was part of the contract negotiations. Chief Spotts indicated that it is not part of the contract. Chief Spotts indicated that several officers have asked him over the last six months about the possibility of implementing such a program. Councilman Whitcomb asked if we have a problem that this program is being considered, or if there is a problem that may be overcome by instituting this program. Chief Spotts responded by stating that the program would provide spouses with a better understanding of the job. Chief Spotts indicated that Police Officers have a divorce rate above the national average.

- ◆ **Discussion and possible action on acceptance of DCNR Grant to rehabilitate the Borough Swimming Pool.**

Manager Stough indicated that Council could discuss this further with the Recreation Commission next week.

- ◆ **Authorize payment of the annual allocations for 2003 to civic organizations in the following amounts:**

- **Meals on Wheels - \$2,500**
- **Museum Association- \$1,500**
- **Union Church- \$1,000**
- **Mechanicsburg Public Library - \$3,500**
- **Cemetery Association- \$500**
- **New Hope Ministries - \$1,000**
- **Citizens Fire Company – \$16,000**
- **Washington Fire Company - \$16,000**

Manager Stough indicated that staff would be asking for authorization to pay the civic allotments for 2003 as budgeted.

- ◆ **Update on implementation of a Downtown Manager Program through DCED and formation of a 501.C.3 organization to implement the program.**

Councilman McDermott noted that he has nothing new to report at this time.

◆ **Discussion on future use of the train station property.**

Manager Stough noted that the Museum has requested to meet with the Building Committee to discuss the Train Station. Councilman Ritter stated that a meeting would be scheduled for Wednesday morning at 11 a.m.

GUESTS


President Rider asked if any residents wished to address Borough Council, and there were none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

President Rider asked if any other Council members had any items to bring before this meeting, and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:00 p.m. with no further business to come before Borough Council, President Rider adjourned the meeting and reminded Borough Council that there would be a short executive session with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary