

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

August 5, 2003

7:30 PM

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

ATTENDANCE: Roll call taken with the following present: President Rider, Vice President Eichelberger, Councilmen McDermott, Ritter, Whitcomb, Winchell, Jr. Councilperson Miller, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Councilman Seagrist was absent.

Also in attendance: Cress – Sentinel, Walde – Patriot News, Jim Clay, Lawrence Fry, David Hoover, Floyd Kautz, Jr., B Knisely, Ed Messersmith, Margaret Myers, Jack Neibert, David Sheely, and John Stough.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Manager Stough asked for a brief Executive Session at the conclusion of the meeting for discussion of a personnel matter with no action to be taken.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Lawrence Fry – 607 West Main Street, Apt 2, asked about any plans for a skateboard park in the near future. Councilman McDermott stated that a meeting will be held next Wednesday, August 13, at 7 p.m. to discuss what would be needed to create a skateboard park and about possible funding options.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) Manager Stough reported that the PSAB fall conference information was distributed and the conference will be held October 24th – 26th in Pittsburgh. Interested Council members should get their reservations to the Manager. The registration deadline is mid September.
- 2) A letter was received from the Museum thanking Council for their annual allotment
- 3) A letter was received from Meals on Wheels thanking Council for their annual donation.
- 4) A letter was received from George Stahl thanking Council for the recent improvements to the scoreboard and food stand and suggesting Council consider installing roofed dugouts and team shelters for inclement weather.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- ◆ The Cumberland County Work Release Program provided four gentlemen last week. The labor was used to clean an overgrown property and to clean the upper portion of the 34 side of the building and moving everything from the old municipal building basement to the upper side of 34 West Allen Street. The work was completed without incident and the Highway Department was happy with the work performed.
- ◆ Norfolk Southern and PUC representatives will be meeting with the Manager on Monday, August 18th at 10 a.m. to discuss at-grade rail crossings in the Borough. President Rider requested that a reminder be placed in Council packets in case any members wish to attend.
- ◆ Manager Stough reported that the new phone system tracks calls received. In June the Borough Office and Police Department received 2,827 calls, that is 123 calls per day.

Councilman McDermott asked if using rain water for street sweeping would increase the frequency of sweeping; Manager Stough reported that the Highway Department is sticking to the schedule and cannot increase the time spent sweeping, as they have been busy with other projects.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported:

July 19th – the Museum Association held their Annual Sunflower Garden Show.

July 26th – Rakestraws celebrated 100 years of service to Mechanicsburg with an ice cream cake and a proclamation. A special gift was presented to the Citizens Fire Department of \$1,000 - ten dollars for every year they were in business.

August 2nd & 3rd – Washington Fire Company held a Monster Muster at Williams Grove Park. Over 30 fire companies attended from as far away as Northern Virginia.

August 5th – National Night Out Against Crime from 7 to 10 p.m. Mechanicsburg residents were asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors. Extra police were on patrol during this time.
August 11th – Crime Watch speaker will be Dale A. Davenport, Editorial Page Editor for the Patriot-News.

Trivia Question: What is a “Nosey Nellie” and or a “Busy Body Box?”

Answer: They are a set of mirrors mounted generally near a second story window allowing the owner to look out the windows and see up and down the street and who is at the front door. One can easily be seen at the southwest corner of Main and Walnut streets.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Chief Spotts reported that he received a letter of commendation for Officer Demmy for his work at a recent traffic incident.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The Solicitor had no report

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

1. Chief Seagrist reported that all the required equipment testing is complete.
2. He participated with the Health Officer and Codes Officer in inspections of several business and residential properties with building and fire code violations.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recycling Committee: Winchell: Councilman Winchell reported that interested residents met this evening regarding formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee on recycling. Plans to improve recycling rates and possibly change the Borough's recycling ordinance were discussed. Councilman Winchell asked that approval of formation of this committee be added to the next Council agenda. He also asked Council members to review the recycling study and please give any input to the Committee. (Minutes Attached- Exhibit A)

Finance-Appropriations-Insurance: Rider: No Report.

Health-Recreation: Rider: Councilman McDermott reported that the Recreation Committee will meet at 6:30 next Tuesday. He asked the Solicitor for guidelines for a 501.C.3 to help with generating funding for pool repairs. The Solicitor stated that funds donated to the pool, through the Borough, would be tax deductible.

Public-Safety-Highway: Eichelberger: Vice President Eichelberger stated that he would like to discuss oversized parking, handicapped parking, and the Walnut Street traffic signal under his committee this evening. He suggested that the traffic signal be discussed first. Chief Spotts indicated that a letter was sent to PennDOT and it could be a month or so before he receives a response.

Vice President Eichelberger then moved on to the handicapped parking spaces on East Keller Street. He indicated that Borough Council did receive correspondence from Saint Luke's Church on the matter in their packets. He stated that after visiting the site, he sees no evidence of a parking problem; spaces are available during most times of the day. Councilman Winchell suggested waiting until the parking lot is finished, then review the parking situation again. Councilman McDermott suggested removing the handicapped status from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., to provide additional overnight parking to residents. Councilman Whitcomb asked Chief Spotts if this would be enforceable. Chief Spotts stated that in his opinion it is a matter of convenience of parking available, not lack of spaces, he indicated that it makes more sense to ask the healthy person to walk a little further for parking, but indicated that the Department would do their best to enforce the parking regulations as approved by Council. A discussion followed about painting parking spaces and if that would add or reduce the number of spaces within the block. John Stough, of 15 East Keller Street indicated that the neighbors feel that the spaces are not being used daily and should be moved to the church property, as they serve only the church, and all other churches in Mechanicsburg have the parking in the lots. Dave Sheely, 411 West Simpson Street, spoke on behalf of St. Luke's Church and thanked Council for their time and consideration in regard to the needs of the church parishioners. Vice President Eichelberger stated that at this time the Public Safety Committee is recommending to Borough Council that no action be taken in the matter, but reserves the option to revisit the matter in the future. With no action to be taken, the item will be removed from the Council agenda for the 19th.

The next item for discussion is the proposed ordinance and resolution regarding the parking of oversized vehicles. Vice President Eichelberger stated that Borough Council has received the draft of both the Ordinance and Resolution containing the proposed streets provided by Chief Spotts, and he would like to see Council take action at the next meeting on this matter. He indicated that no posting of signs would be required on the experimental parking prohibitions outlined in the Resolution. Solicitor Schorpp noted that while no signs would be required on the experimental parking, enforcement would have to include proper notice before a citation could be issued. Councilman Winchell questioned if

West Locust Street, South of York Street, should be included in the parking restriction, as it is really more like an alley. Manager Stough voiced his concerns that residents would park on other streets not included in the ban, creating many calls to the Borough and Police Departments. After some additional discussion, Council may direct the Solicitor to advertise the Ordinance on August 19th, as prepared.

Public Communications: Eichelberger. Manager Stough indicated that August 29th is the deadline for submissions for the fall newsletter.

Ordinance-Administration-Legislative Action: Seagrist: Manager Stough asked for direction on distribution of minutes. He explained that minutes are currently being distributed before they are approved by Borough Council. Councilman McDermott questioned not releasing the minutes prior to approval, as that would mean residents would not receive information about the events of the meeting for two weeks and some information would already be outdated. Councilman Whitcomb suggested that the minutes be marked subjected to change until approved by Council. Solicitor Schorpp noted that questions regarding draft minutes may not arise for long periods of time and can create problems of researching accuracy down the road. Councilman Winchell stated that he is in favor of waiting till the minutes are approved to release them. Vice President Eichelberger is in favor of posting minutes to the Web with a disclaimer. Manager Stough noted that PDF's are posted, and the last set did include a notice that the minutes were draft until approved. Manager Stough indicated that he would add this item to the next agenda.

Property-Building: Ritter: Councilman Ritter stated that the Museum Association will be discussing the possible purchase or lease of the Train Station building at its Special Board Meeting on August 18th. CAT Transit is still interested in possibly purchasing the station, for future use with light rail service. The former Police Station, 102 West Allen Street, will be renovated to make some additional space for the Highway Department. After the in-house renovations are completed the Borough will have about 1,000 square feet of office space available for lease.

School Board: McDermott: Councilman McDermott reported that the School Board will meet next Tuesday.

Community Development: McDermott: Councilman McDermott asked the Manager to advertise a Community Development meeting for Wednesday, August 13th at 7 p.m. to discuss options for creating a skateboard park in Mechanicsburg.

W.S.C.O.G.: Ritter: Vice President Eichelberger reported on COG auction, stating attendance was below average but sales were high. Councilman Ritter stated that COG has set Trick or Treat for Thursday, October 30th from 6-8 pm. Councilman Ritter also stated that COG is considering the feasibility of forming Capital Region Council of Governments, with municipalities on both the East Shore and West Shore. Councilman Ritter asked for direction from Council on this matter.

Manager Stough noted that 1260 lbs of cardboard was collected in the recycling dumpster over the first six weeks it was in place, and it is already half full again. The increased tonnage will help the Borough next year with its 904 Recycling Performance Grant.

Fire Committee: Winchell: No Report

AGENDA ITEMS FOR August 19, 2003

- ◆ **Consider possible revisions to 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 and Resolution 6-2003 changing regulations for temporary parking prohibition. Authorize advertisement**

Manager Stough noted that this item was discussed under the Public Safety Committee report. It will be on the agenda for August 19th to authorize advertising.

- ◆ **Discussion and possible action on changes to the two handicapped parking spaces on East Keller Street.**

As per discussion under Public Safety Committee, this item will be removed from the agenda.

- ◆ **Accept resignation of Mr. Thomas Bell from the Planning Commission.**

Manager Stough noted that Council has received Mr. Bell's letter of resignation and that his term expires December 31, 2003. Council can appoint a replacement at this time, or allow the position to remain open till the end of this term. Manager Stough stated that Mr. Tim DeWire has expressed an interest in the position and his letter of interest was also sent to Council for review. President Rider asked the media to let the public know of the opening.

- ◆ **Consider request of Chief Spotts for a ride-along for Brandon Jones as part of the Law Enforcement Explorer program.**

Chief Spotts asked if Council was not considering ride-alongs at this time. Vice President Eichelberger indicated that Council only voted not to approve ride-alongs for spouses. Chief Spotts indicated that Mr. Jones is part of the Law Enforcement Explorer program with Lower Allen Township and is required to ride along with other departments to complete his requirements. A brief discussion followed about the history of the Law Enforcement Explorer program.

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

Manager Stough indicated that Tonya Brown, Recreation Director, e-mailed him today regarding some of the

additional information requested about the grant funding for pool repairs. She indicated that the Borough must take the entire grant allocation, and has until 2005 to complete the project. Some additional information will be provided to Borough Council prior to the next meeting.

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

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

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

Manager Stough indicated that this was discussed under Building Committee.

◆ **Discussion on MMO payment for the 2004 fiscal year for the non-uniform and uniform pension plans.**

Manager Stough discussed with Mr. Taylor from ARIS how the repayment of the pension monies to the State would impact the MMO due for next year. Mr. Taylor has indicated that it would not affect the MMO due this year. The Manager will try to contact the Auditor General's Office to find out how much money is anticipated from the State for the pension funds this year.

◆ **Up date on Composting.**

Manager Stough indicated that he had to reschedule his visit to South Middletown Township's composting site and will have some more information for Council by the next meeting.

GUESTS

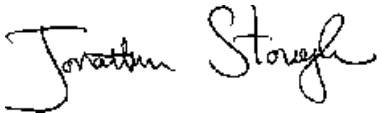
President Rider asked for comments from the audience and there were none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

President Rider asked Council if anyone had any other matters to come before Council and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:35 p.m. President Rider adjourned the Public meeting and reminded Council that there would be an Executive Session for discussion on a personnel matter with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary

***** Correction – the Recreation Commission meeting will be at 7:30 pm, not at 6:30 pm, as noted in the minutes *****

Recycling Committee

Tuesday, August 5, 2003

6:30 p.m.

Councilman Winchell called the meeting to order with Councilman McDermott, Jr. Councilman Miller, Manager Stough, Assistant Secretary Boyer and Larry Seagrist, Fire Chief were attendance. Also present were Richard Heinick, Diane Hollinger, Mark Vetiero, Carl Hursh, Arleen Shulman, David Hoover and Paul Heeter.

Manager Stough asked everyone if they have received a copy of the Recycling Feasibility Study. He stated that the purpose of this evening's meeting is to discuss what we can do to promote recycling in Mechanicsburg Borough. Manager Stough noted that the recent addition of a cardboard and office paper recycling drop-off has been a success. The dumpster was recently emptied and 1260 lbs of cardboard were collected in a six-week period.

Carl Hursh asked some questions of those assembled to generate discussion on the topic at hand. He inquired about the quality of the service provided to residents. Everyone assembled expressed the opinion that the new waste hauler does a better job with the recycling pick-up then our last hauler did. Manager Stough noted that the office does not receive many complaints on the refuse or recycling service, but does receive many inquires about the bulk item pick-up process.

Mr. Hursh asked those assembled if they feel there is sufficient information available to them about the recycling program. Most residents felt that more information could be available. Mr. Hursh asked if everyone knew that they could recycle all of their junk mail, and many did not know they could do that. The information presented in the Newsletter was discussed. It was discussed that additional ways to get the information out may be required other than just the Newsletter and the Web site.

Composting regulations in the Borough were discussed and Manager Stough indicated that the Borough is attempting to implement a yard waste collection program. Programs on composting available through the County and the Penn State Extension Office were discussed. Mr. Hursh asked if residents would use a drop off location to compost, some said they would, but some felt that they would not have a means to transport the yard waste to the site.

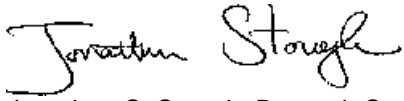
The collection programs available through the County were discussed and the location of these programs, in the western part of the County, deters some residents from participation. Councilman Winchell asked for suggestions on how the Borough could encourage these types of collection programs in the eastern part of the County.

A discussion ensued about the enforcement of recycling regulations, and the need to possibly change the Borough's Recycling Ordinance to allow for easier enforcement. It was discussed that incentives to recycle may result in more compliance, but that fines and penalties have more impact. Manager Stough noted that we have identified some businesses and multi-unit residential structures that are not currently in compliance. The trash collection rates and performance grant monies were discussed. The idea of reducing cost of collection by limiting the number of bags of trash that can be placed curbside was discussed. The tag-a-bag program was discussed as well as programs that provide residents with an optional tag-a-bag or limited collection. Manager Stough stated that he is sure we pay a higher rate for service because we have unlimited trash pickup. South Middleton's refuse and recycling program and rates were discussed.

Manager Stough indicated that the Citizen's Advisory Committee could help to identify and encourage the commercial properties to recycle. It was suggested that possible businesses that are doing a lot of recycling could be highlighted in the Borough Newsletter. Before the next meeting it was suggested that committee members review the recycling ordinance related to commercial recycling, which is available on the Borough's Web site and see if changes are needed to enact penalties for non-compliance. Councilman Winchell suggested that the Advisory Committee meet and then bring its recommendations to the Recycling Committee who could then recommend items to Borough Council for implementation.

The next meeting will be scheduled to discuss needed ordinance revisions and implementation of ideas on how to improve the participation by commercial entities. Mr. Stough suggested that the upstairs conference room could be used for the next meeting. Suggested dates for the next meeting are September 15th, September 22nd or September 23rd.

Please e-mail availability at the 6:30 time slot for those dates so a date can be selected. When a date is determined, everyone will receive notice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan Stough". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jonathan S. Stough, Borough Secretary