

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BOROUGH OFFICE BUILDING
36 West Allen Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6257

May 18, 2004

7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: At 7:30 PM President Winchell called the Council meeting to order.

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

ROLL CALL: Roll call taken with the following present: President Winchell, Vice President Whitcomb, Councilmen McDermott, Rider, Ryder, Seagrist, Jr. Councilperson Geiger, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Engineer Barber, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Humes was absent.

Also in attendance: Cress – Sentinel, Elias – Patriot News, Bob Dietrick, Floyd Kautz, Jr, Raymond Martin, John Murphy, Kate Procopio, David Russell, Charlie Sheriff, Jay Stoner, Frank Tamanini & Craig Yinger

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

President Winchell announced that Council had an Executive Session on a personnel matter at 6:30 PM this evening.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

President Winchell asked for citizen input.

David Russell, 139 East Main Street, addressed Council about his concerns regarding property maintenance of rental structures along Main Street. He also asked that the abandoned vehicles on properties along Main Street also be investigated. Manager Stough explained that the Codes Officer sends out the property maintenance and abandon vehicle letters and he would investigate the areas in question and send letters where appropriate.

Charlie Sheriff, 431 West Keller, addressed Council regarding an accumulation of weeds and a rodent problem at the site of the Mechanicsburg Commons subdivision. Manager Stough advised Mr. Sheriff that the property had been sold last week and the Codes Officer would review the violation and send a letter if needed.

GUESTS:

Manager Stough recognized Craig Yinger, Highway Department Superintendent for 30 years of service to the Borough of Mechanicsburg. Mr. Yinger was presented with a watch to commemorate his 30 year anniversary of employment as well as a Certificate of Appreciation.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

1. Manager Stough added discussion and possible action on sound system for the Council Chambers.
2. Chief Spotts added a matter of potential litigation to the Executive Session.

Councilman Seagrist made a motion to remove the discussion on Engineering Services from the agenda this evening. Councilman Rider seconded the motion and President Winchell opened the floor for discussion. Councilman Seagrist stated that if the Borough is going to consider a change in Engineering Services, he feels that RFP's should be obtained from all interested firms. Councilman Rider concurred with Councilman Seagrist. Councilman Ryder spoke in favor of an open process and requesting RFP's for this service. President Winchell stated that Mr. Bruening has provided a valuable service to the Borough in the past, and he felt that Council should consider the proposal he submitted. Councilman Seagrist stated that the Borough has received good service from Pennoni Associates. After some additional discussion, President Winchell called for a vote which passed, 5:1 with President Winchell voting in opposition.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilman Seagrist made a motion, Councilman Rider second, approving the agenda with the deletion of the discussion on Engineering Services. The motion carried 6:0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough report:

1. A letter was received from HATS regarding the 2005-2008 TIP. The signal project is currently 23 of 149 projects on the list for 2005 with construction slated for 2007.
2. A letter was received from Donna Lucas, 403 North Filbert Street, regarding noise relating to animals, and her letter was forwarded to Chief Spotts for review.

3. The Mechanicsburg Area Veterans' Council invited the Council and Manager to attend the Memorial Day Parade as honored guests
4. A Certificate of Liability Insurance was received from Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. naming the Borough of Mechanicsburg as an additional insured during the display of Engine 127.
5. A letter was received from Alpha Consulting engineers requesting relocation of the school flashing warning devices further south on Williams Grove Road, in conjunction with the Trindle Station Subdivision Plan.
6. United Water extended an invitation to Borough Officials to attend a meeting regarding several issues of importance to Municipal Governments on May 19th at 7:30 AM.
7. Handicapped application was received from Richard Griffith
8. An Invitation was received for the Cumberland County Planning Commission outreach meeting May 25, 2004 at the Upper Allen Township Office at 11:30 AM.
9. A letter was received from Alpha Consulting engineers granting the Borough a 90-day time extension for action on the Trindle Station preliminary subdivision plan.

President Rider read from a letter submitted to the tax collector from Joseph Huffman (Exhibit A), which voiced concern over rising tax rates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Ryder made a motion, Councilman Seagrist seconded, to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2004 Council meeting. The motion passed with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS:

Councilman Rider made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott to approve the monthly reports as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- ◆ Manager Stough reported that the Uniform Construction Code Ordinance will be advertised and ready for action at the June 1st meeting
- ◆ Pennsylvania Association of Borough has awarded Mechanicsburg first place in the Manager's Report contest.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor reported:

- May 8th – The Mayor delivered a citation and "Key to the City" to Nicholas Rogers at this Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Nicholas' project was upgrading the Welcome Mechanicsburg signs on East Main Street.
- May 10th – Crime Watch guest was Carlisle Borough's K9 Eagle and his handler Officer David Miller. Eagle is trained as a general patrol and drug dog.
- May 11th – The Mayor's office provided a hot dog lunch for Beth Burkholder's monthly safety committee meeting.
- May 15th – Officiated two weddings.
- May 15th – The Great Strides walk to cure Cystic Fibrosis started at Memorial Park. Last years walk raised \$42,000. Thanks to all who participated to help make CF stand for cure found.
- May 17th – Attended the Navy's Change of Command Ceremony. Captain Higgins was relieved by Captain Donney.
- Upcoming
- May 31st – Mechanicsburg Area Veterans' Council's Memorial Day Parade moves out at 10 AM.
- June 5th – Citizens Fire and Rescue's Company holding their annual banquet at the Mechanicsburg Club.
- June 12th – the Vietnam Veterans' of the Mechanicsburg Area American Flag Retirement Ceremony on the square at 10 AM.
- June 17th – Jubilee Day, walk down the center of Main Street while taking in the sights, sounds and smells.

Trivia Question: How many miles of under ground sewer line service the Borough of Mechanicsburg?

Answer: Approximately 25-30 miles of pipe. Question and answer courtesy of Ron Adams, Superintendent of the Sewer Department.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

- ★ Monthly Report has been distributed.
- ★ Officers Dyer and Vincent received citizen letters of commendation for their efforts at recent incidents.
- ★ The Traffic Counter Report indicates that there is not a significant speeding problem on W. Coover St.
- ★ We will obtain noise level readings over the summer regarding possible action on a Noise Ordinance. It will be late summer of fall until we have sufficient and consistent readings for Council consideration.
- ★ I have spoken with Mrs. Lucas referencing her letter of May 10, 2004, and the situation has been resolved.

- ★ The handicapped application of Richard Griffith was incomplete and the Chief will obtain the necessary information to complete the review of the application.

A brief discussion followed on traffic citations issued in the first quarter of this year.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Schorpp had no report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist reported that his monthly report was distributed.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT

Jr. Councilperson Geiger reported:

- ◆ Submitted 2nd article for Mechanicsburg Newsletter.
- ◆ Mechanicsburg High School students attended the Youth and Government Conference at HACC.
- ◆ The track team won 4 events in the district competition.
- ◆ Mechanicsburg students competed in a history competition.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Development/Downtown – No Report

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Winchell- President Winchell scheduled a Finance Committee for July 20th at 6:30 PM to review the budget year to date.

Fire Committee – McDermott – Fire – Councilman McDermott stated that the next Fire Committee meeting will be by June 24th at 7 PM at the Borough Office.

Health/Recreation – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist asked if last month's Recreation Commission meeting was advertised, Manager Stough indicated that he would check to ensure that it was advertised.

Highway/Public Safety – Winchell – President Winchell noted that there would be a Handicapped Parking request on this evening's agenda.

Loan Review Committee- Humes – No Report

Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action – Whitcomb – No Report

Property/Buildings – Rider – No Report

Public Communications – McDermott – Councilman McDermott reported that Newsletter drafts were distributed for the summer edition and a resident survey is planned for the fall issue.

Recycling Committee – Ryder- Councilman Ryder reported that he has five minute tapes explaining the Pay as You Throw concept for refuse collection and asked each member of Council to please take the time to view this tape over the summer months. He noted that the next recycling meeting would not be held until sometime in September.

School Board – Ryder – Councilman Ryder stated that the School Board will meet on June 8th to discuss the impending school closings and will meet next Tuesday to revisit the budget.

W.S.C.O.G. - McDermott – Councilman McDermott reported that the COG auction and Joint Appeals Board were discussed at the last COG meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS May 18, 2004:

- ◆ **Discussion and acceptance of 90-day time extension for the Trindle Station Subdivision and Land Development Plan.**

John Murphy, of Alpha Consulting and Frank Tamanini, project developer were present to address Council regarding this plan. Mr. Murphy noted that Upper Allen Township has approved the preliminary plan and that the Traffic Study would be complete the first week of June. Traffic flow for the development was discussed. Mr. Barber reviewed with Borough Council the outstanding items as per his last plan review. Solicitor Schorpp advised Council as to the courses of action available to them at this time. Mr. Tamanini, the developer, agreed to modify the extension to expire August 18, 2004. After discussion, Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Rider, to accept the time extension, through August 18, 2004, offered by the developer. The motion carried with all in favor.

The relocation of the flashing school signal on Williams Grove Road was discussed briefly. As Upper Allen has not approved moving the signal at this time, Councilman Rider made a motion to table action on this request, pending approval of Upper Allen Township. Councilman Rider seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

- ◆ **Discussion and possible action on the bids for sale of old Engine 127.**

Fire Chief reviewed the bids received with Borough Council (Exhibit B). He recommended that Borough Council accept the high bid of \$7,800 from Bay Fire Products. After discussion, Vice President Whitcomb made a motion,

seconded by Councilman Rider to accept the bid of \$7,800 from Bay Fire Products for old engine 127. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Consider Resolution 8-2004 in memory of Mary Jane Neibert.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Vice President Whitcomb to adopt Resolution 8-2004 in memory of Mary Jane Neibert. The motion passes unanimously.

◆ **Consider request of Ms. Basehore for a handicapped parking space at 416 West Main Street.**

Chief Spotts reviewed this request with Borough Council, noting the correct address of the applicant, Ms. Basehore, is 416 West Main Street. After brief discussion Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Ryder to approve this request.

◆ **Consider request of Tom Kinney for removal of the load/unload zone on North Frederick Street.**

Chief Spotts addressed Council regarding this issue. After discussion, Councilman Seagrist made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to draft a change to the parking ordinance, removing the designated load/unload zone on North Frederick Street. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed 6:0.

◆ **Consider request of Tom Kinney for a change in the two-hour parking on North Frederick Street to parking not to exceed 24 hours.**

Chief Spotts recommended that Council not institute the requested change to the parking regulations. After discussion, Councilman Rider made a motion, second by Councilman Ryder, to deny the request for changes of the parking regulations on North Frederick Street. The motion passed unanimously.

◆ **Consider request of Mechanicsburg Chamber for Banners across Main Street for Jubilee Day.**

Manager Stough reviewed this request with Borough Council, indicating that a Resolution would be required as part of the PennDOT process. Resolution 09-2004 was prepared and designates the location at which the banner will be hung. After some discussion Councilman Ryder made a motion to adopt Resolution 09-2004 approving the request for a Jubilee Day Banner across Main Street for a period of thirty days. Councilman Rider seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on Joint Appeals Board.**

Manager Stough reported that most of the Municipalities in the West Shore COG have agreed to join the COG Joint Appeals Board. He noted that an intergovernmental cooperation ordinance would be required for the Borough to participate. How the Joint Appeals Board would be appointed was discussed with Councilman McDermott noting that 15 people have already expressed interest in serving. Manager Stough stated that COG would appoint the Board members. A cost of \$300 will be billed the Borough for the start-up fee and a fee of \$200 is estimated annually for errors and omissions insurance coverage. Councilman Rider made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to draft and advertise the ordinance for participation in the Joint Appeals Board. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion on RFP for the design/construction phase of the swimming pool renovations project.**

Manager Stough reported that he had no new information on this matter at this time. Vice President Whitcomb made a motion to table the matter. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on Sound System for Council Chambers.**

Manager Stough reported that Morefield Communication has offered to install the sound system that they quoted several months ago with a guarantee of satisfaction. If the Borough is not satisfied they will remove the system at no cost and restore the room to pre-installation condition. After discussion on whether or not this expense is included in the budget, President Rider made a motion to table this to the next meeting. Councilman Seagrist seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Councilman Rider made a motion, Vice President Whitcomb second, to approve expenditures in the amount of \$281,313.25 from the General Fund; \$1,029.74 from the Capital Improvement Fund; and \$16,718.39 from the Highway Aid Fund beginning April 1, 2004 through April 30, 2004. The motion passed with all in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Floyd Kautz reminded Council of the invitation deadline of Saturday to attend the Citizen Fire and Rescue annual banquet.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Rider discussed the upcoming release of the book "Heroes Among Us" honoring veterans from Mechanicsburg. Discussion followed about making the book available at the Borough Office and possibly advertising it in the next edition of the newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:45. PM President Winchell adjourned the public meeting with an Executive Session regarding a personnel matter and a matter of potential litigation, with no action to be taken.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Stough". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jonathan S. Stough, Borough Secretary

26 April 2004

Barry L. Heckard Sr., Tax Collector
605 Somerset Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Dear Mr. Heckard,

I am enclosing along with my tax payment the following plea.

I sincerely ask that you please communicate to the borough and county officials just how difficult it has become to afford these rapidly increasing tax rates. As you can see below, our family's county and borough real estate taxes have **MORE THAN DOUBLED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS ALONE**. As a family of four in a modest home, this skyrocketing rate of increase is simply unbearable.

Real Estate (County & Borough) Taxes

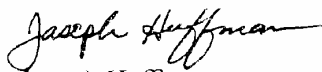
2004	\$780.34
2003	\$584.84
2002	\$301.40

Given that our real estate school tax rate has also skyrocketed during the same time period, I have grave worries about how much of an increase will be demanded of us come this summer when that bill arrives (last year's rate was \$1,958.17). Home Insurance rates and even some utility rates continue to climb faster than inflation as well (PPL has just asked the Public Utility Commission for a residential customer rate increase of 9.8%), which is making it very difficult to maintain a home for my family.

So I can only communicate to you and other officials who are the decision-makers in borough and county government that these increases are simply not sustainable for families. Of course I don't have any easy answers to budgetary challenges, but continued increases of this magnitude should no longer be seen as the natural course of events.

Please feel free to send copies of this letter to both the borough and county tax offices if it would help the communication process. I thank you for your good work on behalf of the borough and county.

Most sincerely,




Joseph Huffman
416 Sharon Avenue
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Mechanicsburg Borough
Bid Opening for 1980 Ford - Darley Fire Truck
May 17, 2004

Name	Amount of Bid
Keith Thomas	\$3,851.00
Jones Fire Apparatus	\$4,500.00
Bay Fire Products	\$7,800.00

All bid information to be presented to Borough Council at the regular council meeting May 18, 2004, 7:30 PM for consideration and possible action.

Respectfully Submitted



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary