

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

February 14, 2005

7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: At 7:00 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 Humes, Kautz, McDermott, Ryder, Seagrist, Solicitor Schorpp, Engineer Barber, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Mayor Ritter arrived at 8:30 PM after the Crime Watch meeting concluded. Jr. Councilperson Ravjindraraj was absent

Also in attendance: Cress – Sentinel, Harry Baker, Kirk Corliss, Tim DeWire, Chris Knarr, Sally Holbert, Ed LeClear, George & Karen Liddick, Mary & Tom McFadden, Jack Neibert, Steve Najarian, Andy Sheely, Jay Stoner, Dick Wevodau and Larry Wevodau

GUESTS:

Tonya Brown, Mechanicsburg Recreation Department, presented a power point presentation of the services provided and facilities overseen by the Mechanicsburg Joint Recreation Department.

Steve Najarian of Carlino Developers, addressed Borough Council regarding his firm's possible plans for the Hess Farm property. He introduced Will Selman, from the Lancaster City Planning Commission, who provided Council with a Smart Growth Concepts presentation.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

President Winchell asked for citizen comments, and there were none.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Manager Stough asked that consideration of the request to approve the Memorial Day Parade Route be added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition noted. Vice President Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed with no dissenting votes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough reported:

- ◆ A letter from the Chamber of Commerce requesting approval for the Jubilee Day Street Closing, and this will be added to the March 1st meeting agenda.
- ◆ Information was received from the Borough Solicitor regarding recent changes to the Municipalities Planning Code which would allow for the collection of legal fees by municipalities. Solicitor Schorpp stated that this amendment to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance could be made independently, or included with other changes being considered. After some brief discussion, the proposed changes will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and they will make a recommendation to Council on the needed changes.
- ◆ Received correspondence from the Auditor General's Office regarding changes made through Act 2002-64. which may impact the uniform pension plan and the information has been sent to ARIS for review.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Humes Whitcomb

Councilman Humes made a motion to approve the February 1, 2005 minutes as submitted. Vice President Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS:

Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, Councilman McDermott second, to approve the monthly reports as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough had no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Chief Spotts indicated that the Mayor would be here after the Crime Watch meeting and President Winchell indicated that he would come back to the Mayor, later in the meeting.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief Spotts had no report,

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Schorpp had no report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist had no report.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Ravindraraj was not in attendance; however, Councilman Ryder reported that three of the members of the Mechanicsburg Football Team received recognition from the School Board at their last meeting for their performance this past football season.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Development/Downtown – Humes- Councilman Humes reported that an editorial was in the Sentinel speaking about the President's budget and how it is proposing to reduce Community Development Block Grant funding. Chris Gulotta, addressed Carlisle's Borough Council last week, indicated that if this legislation goes through as presented, Cumberland County could lose 2.1 million dollars in funding for projects such as the curb and sidewalk assistance program and repair program for homeowners and grant funding for handicapped accessibility ramps and other projects. Citizens can contact Congressman Todd Platts to express their views on the proposed program cuts.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Winchell- President Winchell stated that the Finance Committee met this morning at 7:30 AM. The purchase of the Train Station property by the Museum Association was discussed with Museum Association members in attendance. The current proposal is for Council to receive a \$30,000 down payment from the Museum Association, with two payments to follow in 2005 and 2006 in the amount of \$85,000 each. The Museum Association will discuss this proposal at their February 21st meeting and then get back to the Borough with additional information. Discussion was held with representatives of both the uniform and non-uniform bargaining units on a possible change of pension plan providers. A meeting is scheduled for March 21st at 6:30 PM and three potential service providers will be scheduled to make presentations. The change in the method of payment for employee major medical deductible claims was discussed. These payments will be found under the 486-156-0 line item of the monthly expense report. The sewer rate fee structure was discussed as Council looks at a possible change to metered sewage rates.

Fire Committee – Ryder – Councilman Ryder stated that a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night and he has an item to be added to the executive session, with no action.

Health/Recreation – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that the Recreation Committee will meet on February 23rd at 6:30 PM to discuss a pool authority proposal. Manager Stough asked that Council review the funds still available for improvements to the park and how should they be allocated. President Winchell asked that the Manager prepare a memo on this for Council packets.

Highway/Public Safety – Kautz – No report.

Loan Review Committee- Humes – No report.

Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action – Whitcomb – No report.

Property/Buildings – Kautz –No Report.

Public Communications – McDermott – No report.

Recycling Committee – Ryder – Councilman Ryder distributed an article from the Patriot News regarding Philadelphia's recycling incentive program. Councilman Ryder met with a representative from the Environmental Council and a representative will be attending the March 1st recycling committee meeting to discuss changing the scope of that group.

School Board – Ryder – Councilman Ryder distributed copies of the Resolution, honoring the school board members at the last School Board meeting. The bleachers are ready for concrete and will be completed by summer. Councilman Ryder noted the School Board discussed the Tax Collector salary.

W.S.C.O.G. - McDermott – Councilman McDermott noted the next meeting is Monday, February 21st.

MAYORS REPORT

February 5th – attended Cub Scouts pine wood derby race at St. Mark's Church Hall.

February 12th – officiated a wedding

February 12th & 13th – Friends of the Joseph T. Simpson Public Library held their first "Books by the Gross" book sale at their new location behind the Grossery on Cheryl Avenue.

February 14th – Crime Watch guest was Chief Spotts with his 2004 State of the Borough talk.

February 19th – Washington Fire Company Annual Banquet at the Mechanicsburg Club.

Trivia Question: Paul Harvey has mentioned Mechanicsburg at least two times on his radio show, what were they?

Answer: One was Jubilee Day and the other concerned the police station, a one-way mirror to observe the holding cell was installed backwards. Thanks to Jay Stoner for the second part of this answer.

AGENDA ITEMS February 14, 2005:

◆ **Approval of application for LUPTAP grant by the Planning Commission.**

Manager Stough indicated that a Resolution, 06-2005, was prepared in conjunction with this application. The Manager thanked the Planning Commission for their work on this project. Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Kautz, to adopt Resolution 06-2005 in support of the LUPTAP grant application. The motion passed with all in favor. President Winchell thanked the Planning Commission for their work on this project.

◆ **Discussion and possible action to authorize advertisement of revisions to Shade Tree Ordinance 832 & 845 as recommended by the Shade Tree Commission.**

Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Seagrist, to table action subject to recommendation of the Planning Commission on the proposed revisions. The motion passed unanimously.

◆ **Discussion and possible action to authorize advertisement of revisions to the sewer ordinance to allow for active military duty exemption.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to authorize the Solicitor to advertise the proposed changes to the sewer ordinance as drafted. The issues of owner occupied dwelling versus rental dwelling units was discussed. Since the Borough does not bill tenants directly, after discussion, it was decided that the credit would only be given for owner occupied dwellings. Discussion on the type of deployment and branches of service that would be included were discussed. A form will be developed for individuals to make application for the sewer relief. After discussion, Solicitor Schorpp clarified that only owner occupied dwelling called up for active duty for a period of service to extend three months or longer, combat or otherwise, would be eligible to apply for a credit. President Winchell called for a vote and the motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on Seat Belt Enforcement and Education Grant from "Buckle-up Pennsylvania".**

Chief Spotts indicated that he met with the Law Enforcement Liaison for "Buckle Up Pennsylvania" and they are offering a 100% funded grant to cover the cost of seatbelt enforcement, education and surveys. This program will have no local match and not detract from time spent on routine service by officers. Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Vice President Whitcomb which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on request for an increase in inspection fees for the Health Officer, Larry Sulpizio.**

Manager Stough reviewed this request with Borough Council, indicating that the Restaurant License fee would be increased to \$80 to off set the increased cost. Councilman Ryder questioned the hardship on churches with this cost increase. Vice President Whitcomb asked why this was not brought to Borough Council prior to budget adoption. Manager Stough indicated that Mr. Sulpizio does receive more compensation per inspection from other Municipal clients than he received from Mechanicsburg and this is the first increase request in seven years. Manager Stough indicated it will take effect for the July 1st renewal date, and a letter will be going out in April for those application renewals. Discussion followed on the non-profit organizations and soup kitchens. After discussion Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Ryder, to table this to the March 1st meeting. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on HARB appointments.**

Manager Stough reviewed the Planning Commission recommendation relative to HARB appointments.

Councilman Ryder made a motion to appoint Kate Procopio (resident within the district) to a one year term, Fred

Pratt (property owner within the district) to a two year term, Gina Douty (borough resident at large) to a three year term and Edward LeClear (Planning Commission member) to a four year term on the HARB, to become effective when the district is approved by the PHMC. Councilman Seagrist noted that he would like to see Libby Moyer considered for an appointment, when an open position becomes available in the future. Councilman Kautz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

◆ **Update on sale of Train Station Property.**

Manager Stough noted this was discussed under the Finance Committee Report.

◆ **Discussion on change to metered or flat sewer rate fee.**

President Winchell noted that this was discussed at the Finance Committee, and asked if the members not able to attend that meeting had any questions. No one had any additional questions at this time.

◆ **Memorial Day Parade request.**

Chief Spotts indicated that he feels that since a street closure is involved, they should complete a special events permit application. Councilman McDermott made a motion to table this until an application is received; Councilman Kautz seconded a motion, which passed with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Kautz, to approve the expenditures for January 2005. The motion passed with all in favor.

Citizen Comments

President Winchell asked for Citizen comments and there were none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Seagrist noted he provided valentines cookies on the table in the rear for all to enjoy.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:52 PM, President Winchell adjourned the public meeting for an executive session on a personnel matter with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary