

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

March 15, 2005

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 Humes, Kautz, McDermott, Ryder, Seagrist, Jr. Councilperson Ravindraraj, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer.

Also in attendance: Cress – Sentinel, Bob Dietrich, Lissa Geiger, Ron Hertzler, Jim & Joy Kosier, Melissa Manning, Deeg Meck, Anne Miller, Jack Neibert, Charlie Sheriff, Jay Stoner, Tom Sweeney & John Ward.

GUESTS:

John Ward, Modern Transit Partnership, made a presentation on the proposed rail service known as CORRIDORone. He distributed a packet of information to Borough Council. Mr. Ward reviewed the project, the timeline for the process and the subsidy required from the State to make this project a reality. Mr. Ward reviewed a map of the proposed project noting that the project would reach the East Mechanicsburg Station by the end of 2008, with the line completed to Carlisle by 2011. Mr. Ward then talked to Council, and those assembled, about transit oriented development. Mr. Ward indicated that the timing for the Borough's Main Street Project is excellent. Mr. Ward estimates that the proposed transit project will generate about 250 million dollars in economic development along the rail corridor and create 3,000 new jobs. Mr. Ward asked that Council consider the transportation component in their planning for the vision for Mechanicsburg's Community vision. Mr. Ward cited the Elizabethtown Borough project as a local model for transit based economic development, noting they are building a parking garage next to their train station. Mr. Ward noted that they can provide facilitation service to provide grant funding for local projects that compliment the proposed rail corridor. After the presentation, President Winchell opened the floor for questions.

Councilman Ryder asked if the state does not appropriate the money to this project, where the money to fund the project would come from, would they look for local funding. Mr. Ward indicated that they are not looking for local dollars, they are only seeking state subsidies at the present time. Councilman Ryder asked how many people the studies indicate will use the train service. Mr. Ward indicated that they anticipate 2,500 people per day will use the service at the onset, with a projection of 7,000 riders per day by 2020. Councilman Humes indicated that she attended the presentation in Lemoyne in February and asked why the East Mechanicsburg Station, is not referred to as the Shiremanstown Station. Mr. Ward indicated that will probably be the name. A parking garage in the downtown area was briefly discussed.

Jim Kosier, 302 South High Street, indicated that it has been his experience that economic development can be spurred by one retail establishment, stating that 8 million customers visited the new Cabela's near Pottstown in their first year of operation.

Tom Sweeney, 40 White Oak Drive, a member of the Cumberland County Transportation Authority stated that in his research on traffic mitigation issues for Cumberland County, he found that in vehicle miles traveled per capita in the Harrisburg Metropolitan Area is rated eighth in the United States, behind such cities as Indianapolis and Atlanta. He indicated that rail service is an alternative to relieve some of the traffic congestion in the County.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Ann Miller, 119 South Arch Street, expressed concern to Borough Council over the growing incidents of graffiti in the Borough. Mrs. Miller indicated that she has three children under the age of four and moved to Mechanicsburg to live in a community where you can walk to amenities. She noted that the other day, while walking into town, she counted fourteen buildings with graffiti on them. She expressed her concerns and asked Council to take action to penalize property owners that are not cleaning up the graffiti in a timely manner. President Winchell suggested Council discuss this issue under Ordinance and Administration to see if there can be changes in the ordinances to aid in enforcement. Councilman Seagrist stated that possibility the graffiti could be a project for the Great Pennsylvania Clean up in April. Councilman Seagrist further stated that perhaps the property maintenance code recently adopted by Council speaks to this issue. Manager Stough will have the Codes Officer review the Property Maintenance Code to see if there is any provision in the code that addresses graffiti. President Winchell stated that he feels that a three fold approach is necessary which requires the property owner to remove the graffiti in a timely manner, and you need to increase fines for offenders and

lastly offer rewards for information that leads to the successful prosecution of offenders. Chief Spotts spoke to the increased tougher laws regarding criminal mischief and vandalism. He stated that the Police Department is coordinating with Cumberland County to form a youth aid panel for Mechanicsburg which may help with this and other youth related crime. Chief Spotts indicated that he was checking with Cumberland County Crimestoppers about possible reward money being offered, as the Borough has had three separate incidents of tagging of multiple buildings within the Borough since the fall of 2004.

Jim Kosier, 302 South High Street, voiced his agreement with Ms. Miller and stated that littering is also a problem, and asked why littering fines are not being enforced.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

A request was received from the Mechanicsburg Museum Association to hold an Antiques Faire at the Passenger Station on April 11th from 6 to 9 PM.

A request was received from the Mechanicsburg Museum Association to use the Passenger Station for four Lunch and Learn programs from noon to 1 PM on March 16th, April 20th, May 18th, and June 15th.

A Special events application was received from the Mechanicsburg Chamber for Jubilee Day to be held on June 16th. Councilman Seagrist asked that discussion and possible action on the promotion of the possible formation of a multi-municipal pool organization.

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 was received inviting Council members to a breakfast meeting at 8 AM on Thursday March 31st with Senator Pat Vance.
- ◆ The Tri-County Boroughs Association will be meeting on March 22, 2005 at the Waynesboro Elks Club.
- ◆ Mechanicsburg Little League invites Borough Council to their opening day ceremony on Saturday, April 9th at the York Street Field to begin at 9 AM.
- ◆ A check in the amount of \$55,454 was received from DEP to close out our 2004 902 grant application for purchase of the dump truck and new recycling bins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Ryder made a motion to approve the March 1, 2005 minutes as submitted. Councilman Kautz seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS:

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

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough reported on the compost project with Silver Spring Township. Since receiving notice of the grant approval, Manager Stough has met with Bill Cook and Kelly Kelch from the Township to talk about the implementation of the project. Manager Stough will meet with Steve Barber regarding the access drive and Manager Stough will work to receive written approval from the adjacent property owners, for the paved easement. It is anticipated that the project will break ground by June.

Magisterial District Judge Elder had requested a meeting with Council and Manager Stough asked to schedule that for Wednesday, April 27th at 6 or 6:30 PM.

MAYOR'S REPORT

March 2nd – spoke as a guest of Junior Achievement of Central Pennsylvania to a group of students at Lebanon Valley College. Topic was under the Public Sector as an elected official.

March 5th – Eagle Scout Ceremony for Bryan S. Penn of Troop 283 was held and the Mayor could not attend but did send a citation form the Mayor's office and a Key to the City.

March 14th – Monthly Crime Watch meeting at the Senior Center on West Portland Street. Patrolman William Demmy of the Mechanicsburg Police Department was the guest speaker. Great information on scams and how to protect yourself.

Trivia Question: Washington Street here in the Borough was not always named Washington Street, what was the original name and why was it changed?

Answer: It was Virginia Street, re-named to Washington after the Civil War.

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:

Two Saturday's ago the walk for life competition was held to raise money for cancer research.

Last Saturday students participated in SAT testing.

Speech team will compete in the state competition.

The musical practices are continuing with long hours and hard work.

The first diversity day will be held on April 20th and speakers from Community will address student on diversity issues to promote awareness and understanding.

The high school students are participating in an ambassador program with middle school students who will be attending the high school next year to better acclimate them for the transition to High School life.

Today the National Honor Society held a blood drive.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Development/Downtown – Humes- Last week Council Humes attended the Cumberland County Planning Commission outreach program, with Planning Commission members Kirk Corliss and Tim DeWire. Councilman Humes distributed copies of a synopsis of the County Comprehensive Plan to Council members. Councilman Humes reported that at this meeting municipalities with projects on the TIP were encouraged to reapply to show increased costs. Manager Stough will check with Scott Tochtermann and Steve Barber to see if any additional action on the part of the Borough is required. Councilman Humes also reported that she attended the CORRIDORone presentation in Lemoyne last month.

Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action – Whitcomb – Vice President Whitcomb indicated that the Shade Tree ordinance is on the agenda for discussion this evening. Vice President Whitcomb indicated that he will be contacting Codes Officer Ressler about graffiti as it relates to the property maintenance ordinance and will consult Chief Spotts regarding the increase in fines for graffiti violations. Chief Spotts indicated he will provide Council with copies of those enhancements. Manager Stough noted that in Council packets this Friday, Council will have a packet of information from Gannett Fleming regarding sewer tapping fees, and after review Council may want to add to the agenda in two weeks discussion on a possible increase in the tapping fees and a recalculation method for those charges.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Winchell- President Winchell reminded Council members of the meeting on the 21st at 6:30 PM with prospective pension providers. Manager Stough noted that two additional firms have expressed interest in making a presentation and staff would like to add PMRS to the list. After discussion it was determined that an additional meeting will be needed and March 28th at 6:30 PM was selected to schedule the other three companies.

Property/Buildings – Kautz – Councilman Kautz stated that the Train Station sale update is on the agenda this evening.

Fire Committee – Ryder – Councilman Ryder stated the next Fire Committee meeting will be held here at the Municipal Center on March 30th at 7 PM.

Public Communications – McDermott – Councilman McDermott reported that the Borough Spring Newsletter was mailed to residents last week. Councilman Humes asked if the questionnaire on recycling will be in next edition of the newsletter. President Winchell indicated that the survey will be added to the agenda for Council to approve the questions contained in the survey. Manager Stough will provide Council will a fresh copy of the questions in their packets this week.

Health/Recreation – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that the Easter Egg Hunt at March 19th at 11 AM. April 12th at 6:30 PM is the Friends of the Pool Committee followed at 7 PM by the Recreation Commission meeting. April 23rd at 9 AM will be a tour of the Borough Parks, beginning at Koser Park. July 23rd will be the next Mechanicsburg Community Day at the pool. Councilman Seagrist asked Manager Stough to advertise the Recreation Commission meetings for the second Tuesday of each month, Manager Stough noted that it was done at the beginning of the year. Councilman Seagrist reported that the Recreation Commission had a productive meeting last evening, making three recommendations to Council:

1. approval of a co-naming gift for the pool
2. approval for an inter-municipal pool authority.
3. approval of Robin Agerton for the recreation vacancy.

The Recreation asked about the pole building for the filtration system. Manager Stough has been in contact with a local contractor, who may volunteer to coordinate the construction with a group of volunteer and the Borough would provide the material, some materials may be donated. Manager Stough reported that this will be completed by the end of June. Councilman Seagrist asked that the recreation commission be allowed to acquire a credit card through the Borough. A discussion followed, with Manager Stough indicated that he would coordinate with Tonya Brown to determine their needs. Councilman Seagrist indicated that he would discuss this further with the Recreation Commission at their next meeting. Manager Stough asked if the Recreation Commission has a copy of the pool chemical certification from last year on file. Councilman Seagrist did not recall if they had that certification at the meeting last evening. Manager Stough will check with Tonya Brown. Councilman Seagrist stated that he spoke with Craig Yinger and he would like to schedule a tour of the parks with Council, Councilman Seagrist will try to schedule this for an upcoming Saturday. Councilman Seagrist commended the Recreation Commission on their removal of the trees in the pool areas, and their receipt of payment for the lumber from the trees removed. Councilman Seagrist asked the Council to approve, in concept, the pool authority and authorize contacting other municipalities to receive their input.

Recycling Committee – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported the next Citizens Recycling Committee meeting is scheduled for April 5th at 6 PM. Councilman Ryder announced the receipt at the Borough Office of stickers for the recycling containers. He noted that in addition to newspapers, additional paper products can be recycled as stated on the magnet and the sticker produced by the Borough. Councilman Ryder asked the Manager the tonnage to date on the cardboard recycling. Manager Stough reported that to date this year 9,300 lbs of cardboard has been recycled.

Highway/Public Safety – Kautz – No report.

School Board – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that the Filbert Street School will not be available to the recreation department for some time as it will be used to house students during several renovations projects.

Loan Review Committee- Humes – No report.

W.S.C.O.G. - McDermott – Councilman McDermott reported that Council members have received the minutes of the last meeting. The next meeting will be Monday night and approval of the road materials bids is on the agenda. Councilman McDermott also reported that the Cumberland County Municipal Advisory Board will be meeting next Wednesday and the quest speakers will be the five members of the State Legislator serving Cumberland County.

AGENDA ITEMS March 15, 2005:

- ◆ **Consider Resolution 06-2005 in honor of Leslie Hocker's Service to the Recreation Commission.**
Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Seagrist to adopt Resolution 07-2005 in honor of Leslie Hocker's service to the Recreation Commission. The motion passed unanimously.
- ◆ **Discussion and possible action to authorize advertisement of revisions to Shade Tree Ordinance 832 & 845 as recommended by the Shade Tree Commission.**
Manager Stough reviewed a memo from Ron Adams regarding the addition of a condition to require a Pennsylvania One Call before digging to install a new street tree. Vice President Whitcomb made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to work with the Manager to draft the proposed changes to the Shade Tree Ordinance and provide the proposed revisions to Borough Council for their consideration. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Consider request of Jane W. Kerstetter, 115 East Locust Street for a handicapped parking space.**
Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Kautz, to approve the request of Jane W. Kerstetter for a handicapped parking space. President Winchell opened the floor for discussion. Chief Spotts reviewed his memo recommending approval of this request. After some additional discussion, President Winchell called for a vote and the motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Consider request of New Hope Ministries for a walk on April 22nd as a fund raising event.**
Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott to approve the request of New Hope Ministries for a fund raising walk on April 22nd. The motion passed unanimously.
- ◆ **Discussion and possible action on HARB appointments.**
Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Kautz, to table the appointments to the first meeting in April. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and possible action on Recreation Committee Appointment.**
Councilman Seagrist made a motion to appoint Robin Agerton to the Recreation Commission to fill the balance of the term of Leslie Hocker, which will expire December 31, 2008. Councilman Kautz seconded the motion, which passed by an unanimous vote.
- ◆ **Update on sale of Train Station Property.**
President Winchell is to meet with Attorney Snelbaker on Thursday and will report back to Council at their next meeting.
- ◆ **Discussion & possible action on co-naming of the pool.**
Manager Stough researched the official name of the pool and determined that in the past it has been referred to as the Mechanicsburg Pool or Mechanicsburg Area Pool. Manager Stough stated that the recommendation from

the fund raising consultant is name “Mechanicsburg Community Pool” be offered in conjunction with a possible co-naming for a donation of \$450,000 or greater. Councilman Seagrist made a motion that Council officially recognize the naming of the pool as the “Mechanicsburg Community Pool” and not entertain co-naming as an option in the Capital Campaign. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion. Much discussion followed after which President Winchell called for a vote and the motion failed by a vote of 3:4 with McDermott, Seagrist and Whitcomb voting in the affirmative and Humes, Kautz, Ryder and Winchell voting in opposition. Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Humes to authorize the Capital Campaign to offer co-naming as an option for a gift of \$450,000 or greater. Some additional discussion followed with President Winchell calling for a vote and the motion passed by a vote of 4:3. Councilman Humes, Kautz, Ryder and Winchell voting for and Councilman McDermott Seagrist and Whitcomb voting against.

◆ **Request of the Museum to use the Passenger Station for several upcoming events.**

Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Ryder, to approve all the events proposed by the museum to be held at the passenger station, which include four lunch time lectures and an Antiques Faire. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Request of the Chamber to hold Jubilee Day on June 16th.**

Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Seagrist, to approve the request of the Mechanicsburg Chamber for their annual Jubilee Day event. The motion passed unanimously.

◆ **Request to present a draft inter-municipal pool proposal to other neighboring municipalities.**

Councilman Ryder made a motion to authorize the draft proposal for an inter-municipal pool authority for presentation to neighboring municipalities, and ask that they provide feedback to the Borough by the end of June. Councilman Kautz seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor. Councilman Seagrist will check the meeting dates for the Board of Supervisors in the various jurisdictions to schedule presentations.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Kautz, to approve the expenditures for February 2005 in the amount of \$175,071.66 from the general fund; \$17,450.64 from the highway fund; and \$46,214.73 from the capital improvement fund. The motion passed with all in favor.

Citizen Comments

Charlie Sheriff, 431 West Keller, stated that at last evening’s Crime Watch meeting the graffiti issue was discussed and the Crime Watch is encouraging residents to photograph all the occurrences of graffiti and provide the photo’s to the Police Department as this may be helpful in identifying the perpetrators.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Seagrist stated that he is looking for groups to participate in a Borough effort for the Great Pennsylvania Clean Up on April 23rd and is hoping to include graffiti clean up in this effort.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:09 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