

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

May 3, 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, Engineer Barber, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer.

Also in attendance: Cress – Sentinel, Gwen & Bill Burrige, Jetsy Byers, Bob Dietrich, Kirk Corliss, Chris Gulotta, Nancy Hanlon, Melissa Manning, Jack Neibert, Joe Robinson, Rosalie Roland, Will Selman, Charlie Sheriff, Jay Stoner and Jeff VanBoskirk

GUESTS:

Chris Gulotta addressed Borough Council on behalf of Main Street Mechanicsburg. He requested that Borough Council make a grant to Main Street Mechanicsburg from the downtown revitalization loan fund to help with some specific tasks including production of a brochure of business funding, a funder's packet to help to raise funds for this non-profit group, improvement of the gateway streets into the downtown, wayfinding signage for the downtown and a mini-grant program for the purchase of business indicator signs in downtown, all to be undertaken during 2005. Mr. Gulotta spoke highly of the organization and their dedication to downtown improvement. Mr. Gulotta reviewed the history of the loan fund and indicated that the State did not object to this use of the funds. President Winchell asked how many outstanding loans there are at this time. Mr. Gulotta indicated that there are two, the Library and Eckels.

Will Selman, Carlino Development, addressed Borough Council, regarding the Charrette planned for May 16, 17 and 18th to work on TND ordinance development. Mr. Selman indicated that a presentation would be made to Borough Council on May 16th, at their meeting and a presentation would be made to the Planning Commission, at their work session, which would be re-scheduled for May 17th. Mr. Selman reviewed the plans for the Charrette process and distributed a schedule for the project to Borough Council for review.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Joe Robinson, 201 W. Elmwood Avenue, addressed Borough Council regarding an enforcement letter he received regarding the operation of a dirt bike track in his backyard. Mr. Robinson indicated that he was upset to find out that his neighbors had petitioned Borough Council to complain about the activities occurring at his residence. He indicated that his neighbor's did not approach him about the problem. Chief Spotts noted that Mr. Robinson had been informed by Officers that were called out to this location that the noise was disturbing the neighbors, so he was aware that complaints had been made by his neighbors. Solicitor Schorpp addressed the section of the code violated by this activity. After some additional discussion, Mr. Robinson left the meeting.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Manager Stough asked that the following be added to the agenda:

1. Request of the Mechanicsburg Area Vietnam Veterans for their annual flag retirement ceremony on the square.
2. Request of the Mechanicsburg Museum Association for use of the Passenger Station May 11th for a Capital Campaign training session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- ◆ A letter was received inviting Council to the annual Memorial Day Ceremony to be held at the Cemetery at 11 AM on May 30th.
- ◆ A notice was received from the Cumberland County Planning Commission regarding the next Outreach meeting being scheduled for May 10th at 11:30 AM at the Pennsboro Township office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Ryder made a motion to approve the April 19, 2005 minutes as submitted. Councilman Kautz seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough reported that last week the West Shore COG held a meeting in the Council Chambers at which Dan Cohen informed members of possible franchise agreements with Verizon as a television service provider. Manager Stough indicated that many favorable comments were made regarding the meeting room and Borough facilities. Manager Stough indicated that several East Shore municipalities attended the event as well.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

April 20th – Museum Lunch and Learn speaker was Joan Leopold. Her topic was "Harrisburg's Asylum for the Insane Poor". (Original name for the Harrisburg State Hospital)

April 20th – Helped celebrate National Library Week April 18-22 by reading to 1st grade children from Northside School.

April 23rd & 30th – Officiated weddings

April 27th – Friends of the Library Dinner celebrating 25 years of service to the Joseph T. Simpson Public Library. Keynote speaker was John W. Gross, Jr. founder of John Gross Company.

Trivia Question: The 7th Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteers of Mechanicsburg are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year. Today we know them as what?

Answer: The Singer Band.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief Spotts indicated that Lieutenant Myers received a letter of commendation from the Attorney General Office for her work in the child pornography investigation conducted recently. Officer Montgomery also aided in that investigation.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Schorpp had no report.

ENGINEERS REPORT

A PowerPoint slide show was presented on the upcoming traffic signalization project by Engineer Barber. After the presentation, Engineer Barber entertained questions from Borough Council on the project.

After the traffic signal presentation, Engineer Barber discussed sewer rate billing options with Borough Council. He indicated that if the Borough wished to make a change in the way in which they bill. Council has a choice of moving to a flat rate billing, where all customers share equally in the operations costs or a flat rate plus usage billing which would base the sewer bills on the water consumed by each resident. Mr. Barber reviewed the way each rate would be calculated, indicating that it would be easy to change to a flat rate billing, but that the higher use customers are being offset by the lower use customers and this method of billing does not encourage conservation. He explained that with the usage based system a flat rate would be paid for a base usage amount and then a graduated scale would be developed to charge based on the water usage. This method allows your revenues to increase as your usage increases. The negative side of this billing procedure is that the Borough currently bills ahead, and this type of system would require the Borough to bill in arrears. It would be required that a quarter of billing be skipped to collect data to establish rates. Engineer Barber reviewed the data collection process and explained that conversion of the data would require additional staff time. Engineer Barber indicated that additional data would be required to determine projected rates. After discussion, Engineer Barber indicated that he needed direction from Council on how to proceed. Mr. Barber indicated that the study would range between two and five thousand dollars, with the bulk of the time being taken up to investigate the flat plus usage billing. Councilman Kautz asked if the first quarter of the usage billing could be estimated. Engineer Barber indicated he would need to investigate that. Councilman Humes asked if the base rate could be billed, followed by an adjustment the following quarter. Engineer Barber indicated that should be a possible alternative.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist had no report.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Ravindraraj reported:

- The first Diversity Day was held at Mechanicsburg High School and over 50 presenters spoke with students.
- Students participated in the Forensic League State Tournaments, two weeks ago.
- April 22 approximately 100 students attended a physics day, which was a lot of fun.

- The prom was held two weeks ago.
- National Honor Society inductions were held this past week. About 50 students were inducted.
- This past weekend about twenty students went to Wallace Island Virginia for a four day trip to learn about marine ecosystems.
- Last Friday National Honor Society Students went to New York City to see the musical Chicago
- This week advance placement exams are being given and scheduling for next year has begun.
- The middle school had a career day last week.
- There are less then twenty days of school left for seniors.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Development/Downtown – Humes- Councilman Humes noted that WGAL would be doing a piece on Mechanicsburg, scheduled to air Wednesday, May 18th at 5 PM,

Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action – Vice President Whitcomb stated that there are two ordinance items on the agenda.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Winchell- Discussion on pension providers will take place under the agenda items.

Property/Buildings – Kautz – Update on the sale of the train station is on the agenda.

Fire Committee – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that the SOG committee is working on the standard operating procedures. The Fire Committee will meet tomorrow night in the second floor conference room at the Police Station.

Public Communications – McDermott - Councilman McDermott noted that May 6th is the deadline for copy for the summer newsletter. Councilman McDermott asked for sewer rate information to be included, discussion followed on the matter.

Health/Recreation – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that on April 21st he appeared in front of the Upper Allen Commissioners to propose the joint pool authority. At that meeting, the Commissioners voted to release the \$50,000 they set aside in the 2004 budget for the pool renovations. They asked to be kept informed as the project progresses. April 23rd was the great PA clean up and 37 bags of trash and recycling were collected and three graffiti tags removed. Councilman Seagrist thanked Officer Curtis for preparing a list of graffiti locations. He also thanked Lieutenant Myers for her help in finding the owner of a wallet found during the clean up. The pool Community Day date has been changed to July 30th. Upcoming events include the next Recreation Commission is meeting on May 10th; Monroe Townships next meetings will be May 12th and May 26th. Silver Spring Township Supervisors meet on May 11th and May 25th, and Councilman Seagrist indicated that he will try to get placed on their agenda for one of these future meetings. President Winchell asked if Upper Allen had made an ongoing financial commitment. Councilman Seagrist indicated that they did not do that at this time. Manager Stough reported work is underway at Koser Park to address stormwater run-off. A tractor at the park has a broken transmission, and staff is gathering price quotes to replace that tractor. Manager Stough also reported that Monroe Township has pledged a \$25,000 donation to the pool capital campaign. Manager Stough asked that Council consider how they will handle municipal contributions in regards to pool membership rates. A dollar figure should be established to ensure member rates.

Recycling Committee – Ryder – Councilman Ryder stated that the Citizen's Recycling Committee met this evening and approved the questionnaire for the Borough Newsletter. At the next Recycling meeting Ed Ward, from Penn Waste, will be coming to discuss extending the current contract for one year.

Highway/Public Safety – Kautz – No Report

School Board – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that he attended a School Board meeting last week that lasted until 11 PM. The proposed budget for the upcoming year was discussed; it includes a 1.1 mil tax increase. The school board discussed the budget and asked the administration to cut the budget to .9 mills. There has been difficulty with the bleacher contract and the contractor has walked off the job. The costs for the job increased \$80,000, and the project has become much larger than anticipated. Councilman Ryder indicated that the Superintendent has not been hired yet.

Loan Review Committee- Humes – No report.

W.S.C.O.G. – Councilman McDermott reported that the next meeting will be May 16th at 7 PM. A memo was distributed to Borough Council by Councilman McDermott and he asked that members give him feedback on the issues before the June COG meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS – May 3, 2005

- ◆ **Discussion and possible action on Grant for Main Street Mechanicsburg Community Revitalization Project.**

Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Ryder to approve the requested \$15,000 grant to Main Street Mechanicsburg, contingent upon a letter being received from the State indicating this grant meets the fund guidelines. The motion passed unanimously.

- ◆ **Discussion on change to metered or flat rate sewer billing system.**

Manager Stough indicated that if Council wishes to have staff and the engineer explore base plus usage billing, we would need to have authorization, or direction to expend funds to gather information. Council directed the Manager to proceed with the exploration of flat rate plus usage billing up to the expenditure of \$2,500 in cost.

- ◆ **Consider the offer from the American Legion for a 90 day time extension for their land development plan.**
Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Ryder, to accept the 90 day time extension on the review of the American Legion land development plan. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Action to invite Pension Providers to a follow up interview session.**
Vice President Whitcomb made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to request that PMRS, PSAB, Select and Trollinger be invited back to make a detailed presentation on pension fund management. Councilman Humes seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor. The Borough Manager was directed to contact the providers and the union representatives to schedule a meeting for the four 45 minute presentations.
- ◆ **Discussion on Municipal Advisory Board Meeting May 25, 2005, lunch session from 12-2:30 & dinner session from 6-8:30 PM.**
Manager Stough asked if Councilman McDermott was planning on attending this meeting on Council's behalf. Councilman McDermott indicated that he would be attending the evening session. Chief Spotts and Seagrist indicated they would be attending the lunch meeting.
- ◆ **Possible authorization to advertise revision to the Tapping Fee Ordinance.**
Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Vice President Whitcomb, to authorize the Solicitor to advertise the revisions to the sewer tapping fee ordinance. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Possible authorization to advertise revisions to the Shade Tree Ordinance.**
Manager Stough indicated that the Planning Commission and Shade Tree Commission are still reviewing the revision made to this ordinance by the Solicitor. Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Vice President Whitcomb, to table this ordinance advertisement to the next meeting. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Approval of the Recycling Survey for inclusion in the summer newsletter.**
Councilman Ryder explained some text clarification changes discussed at this evenings recycling committee meeting. After review of the proposed changes, Councilman Humes made a motion, second by Councilman Ryder to approve the recycling and refuse survey, with changes noted. The motion carried 7:0.
- ◆ **Update on sale of Train Station Property.**
Solicitor Schorpp indicated that he and Attorney Snelbaker are still working on the agreement.
- ◆ **Request of the Mechanicsburg Area Veteran's to hold their annual Flag Retirement Ceremony on the square, June 11, 2005.**
Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Vice President Whitcomb, to approve the request of the Mechanicsburg Area Veterans for a flag retirement ceremony on the square June 11th. The motion carried unanimously.
- ◆ **Request of the Mechanicsburg Museum Association to use the Passenger Station on May 11th.**
Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Seagrist, to approve the request of the Museum Association to use the Passenger Station on May 11th for Capital Campaign training. The motion carried with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES PAID: Councilman Ryder made a motion to approve invoice and expenditures paid from March 1, 2005 through March 31, 2005. Councilman Kautz seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7 in favor in none in opposition.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Ryder displayed an Elizabethtown directory that he felt was very well done, and mentioned it would be nice if a group in Mechanicsburg could put something like this together.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:20 President Winchell adjourned the meeting to executive session for a personnel matter with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary