

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

July 5, 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 was taken with the following present: President Winchell, Vice President Whitcomb, Councilmen Humes, Kautz, McDermott, Ryder, Seagrist, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Jr. Councilperson Ravindraraj was absent.

Also in attendance: Cress – Sentinel, Officer Brian Curtis, Bob Dietrich, David Hoover, Chris Knarr, Keith Marston, Rick Rovegno, Tom Sweeney, Ronald & Lori Trace.

GUESTS:

There were none

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

There were none

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

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

1. Discussion and possible action on the request of the Mechanicsburg School District for a drop-off zone on Marble Street.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter was received regarding handicapped accessibility at the pool due to speed bumps. A resident reported that the bumps grind the bottom of her van. Manager Stough is having the highway department check into this and make any needed repairs.
2. A letter was received from a resident regarding Engineer Barber's recent article in the newsletter on the sewer rate structure.
3. A letter was received from Cumberland County regarding ordering of the 800 MHZ radios.

Councilman McDermott asked about the progress of the sewer rate study. Manager Stough reported that he has received sample data from United Water and has given that data to the Engineer. Councilman Humes asked that a report be given on the status of the study at the next meeting. Councilman McDermott asked if any additional information is available on the Carlino development. Manager Stough indicated that they sent the Fire Chief information on street widths.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice President Whitcomb made a motion to approve the June 21, 2005 minutes as submitted. Councilman Kautz seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough reported:

- ◆ Helicopter rides on Jubilee Day, raised \$100 for the pool.
- ◆ Insurance renewal was due on June 30th and changing to a different carrier saved \$7,000 in premium costs.
- ◆ Waynesboro Our Town video is available if any Council members would like to look at it.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

June 25th – The monument honoring Brigadier General Albert G. Jenkins and his troops was dedicated and unveiled at the Rupp House on Trindle Road. Jenkins and his cavalry captured Mechanicsburg in 1863.

Trivia Question: Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce Rail Car has a new coat of paint. This Railroad Postal Car is one of three in existence. The new colors, blue and gray (the original colors of the car) represents what rail line?

Answer: B & O Railroad – Baltimore and Ohio

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief Spotts reported receiving citizen letters of commendation for Officer Curtis and Lieutenant Myers.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Schorpp had no report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist reported on the 800MHz radio funding, noting that this would be discussed at the Fire Committee meeting tomorrow evening. Chief Seagrist reported that he shared the information received from Carlino with the highway department and school district for comments. President Winchell indicated that the letter received from the County implied that the Borough may lose grant funding. Chief Seagrist indicated that he would be placing a purchase order for radios before the deadline. Mr. Rovegno stated that the County was funding 2/3 of the baseline price as determined in 2002. Councilman Ryder noted that Washington Fire Company has their radios, as part of the test program, but he would check with Citizen's to see if they have placed an order. Chief Seagrist noted that as of last month, Citizen's had not placed an order. This will be added to the next Council agenda. Bob Dietrich, Washington Fire Company, stated that they have received radios, but have not received funding yet.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Ravindraraj was not in attendance.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Development– Humes- Councilman Humes reported on an article in the Sentinel on the Civil War Heritage Trail in Cumberland and surrounding Counties. Councilman Humes noted that she will be attending a meeting on July 13th to obtain additional information.

Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action – Whitcomb -Vice President Whitcomb noted that two ordinances are on the agenda this evening.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Winchell- President Winchell noted that the pool is open and he will be soliciting Council for the capital campaign contributions and asked that they all get behind this project.

Property/Buildings – Kautz – No Report.

Fire Committee – Ryder – The Fire Committee will meet tomorrow at 7 PM.

Public Communications – McDermott - Councilman McDermott reminded everyone that August 26th is the deadline for the fall newsletter.

Health/Recreation – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that the pool is open and the Recreation Commission meeting for July has been cancelled. The next meeting will be August 9 at 7 PM. Community Day will be held at the pool on July 30th.

Recycling Committee – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported on the recycling meeting held earlier this evening. The group is preparing recommendations for Borough Council, which will include a recommendation to extend the contract for 1 or 2 years, with a bag proposal as included in the original contract. Preliminary survey tabulations are before Council this evening with 516 surveys received. Recycling Chairperson, Arlene Shulman, will compile the citizen comments. It was surprising that 97% of residents responding are recycling. Councilman Ryder also commended the Citizens Recycling Committee for the Jubilee Day recycling efforts.

Highway/Public Safety – Kautz – Councilman Kautz noted that the Emergency Services Coordinator position is on the agenda.

School Board – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that the stadium bleachers are almost completely installed. Elmwood School, 2nd floor is occupied and they did a great job on the renovations. The classrooms are could be utilized should they need additional classroom space in the future.

Loan Review Committee- Humes – Eckels is now open on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11-8, and later on Thursday's for Concerts on the Corner.

W.S.C.O.G. – Councilman McDermott reported the next meeting is July 18th and the COG Auction is on the 20th of July.

AGENDA ITEMS – July 5, 2005

◆ **Consider adoption of Shade Tree Ordinance.**

Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Humes, to adopt Ordinance 1071 revising the Shade Tree regulations. President Winchell called for a roll call vote as follows:

Humes	Yea	Seagrist	Yea
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Kautz	Yea	Whitcomb	Yea
McDermott	Yea	Winchell	Yea
Ryder	Yea		

The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Consider adoption of Shade Tree Resolution.**

Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Kautz, to adopt Resolution 13-2005 setting fees for the Shade Tree Ordinance as presented. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Stough thanked the Shade Tree Commission and Planning Commission members for their hard work in getting this ordinance revised.

◆ **Discussion and possible authorization for the Civil Service Commission to create an eligibility list for the position of Sergeant for the Police Department.**

Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, second by Councilman Humes to authorize the Civil Service Commission to create an eligibility list for the position of Sergeant for the Mechanicsburg Police Department. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible authorization for replace of bullet proof vests.**

Chief Spotts stated that these vests need to be replaced. He is exploring grant options to help with the cost. Chief Spotts noted that he may not have enough in his existing budget to cover the costs. It will cost about \$5,000 for all vests to be replaced. Councilman Humes made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to authorize the purchase of replacement vests from 1st Choice Body Armor. After some additional discussion, the motion passed with all in favor

◆ **Consider authorization to release payment for 800 MHz radios.**

This matter was discussed briefly and Vice President Whitcomb made a motion to table this until the July 19th meeting. Councilman Ryder seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on change in pension plan service provider.**

Councilman Ryder made a motion to move the Borough pension plans to PSAB as of September 1st. Councilman Kautz seconded the motion. President Winchell called for a vote and the motion passed 4 in favor (Humes, Kautz, Ryder, Winchell) 2 in opposition (McDermott and Seagrist). Vice President Whitcomb excused himself from the vote as he is a plan participant.

◆ **Update on Mechanicsburg Pool opening.**

Manager Stough reported that the Pool opened on schedule even though the construction went down to the wire. The Health Officer will be in on Friday to re-inspect the area and meet with the new manager, Deeg Meck and Tonya Brown to outline what is expected for next year’s inspection and ongoing safety concerns. Manager Stough will also discuss these issues with Beth Burkholder to make sure all safety issues are clarified. Almost 900 people used the pool on the first two days. About 4 inches of water is still being lost, but we are working to determine where the leak is occurring. Councilman Ryder commented on the mural in the entryway, which is spectacular and commended Manager Stough, Codes Officer Ressler and Manager Stough’s father for their work in constructing the pole building over the filtration system. Manager Stough commented that a local contractor, Bill Goodling, a helper also donated time to work on the project. President Winchell asked when Council can expect a financial report on the first week of operation. Manager Stough stated that Jim Campbell said that they will be doing a report on Monday from pool opening through Monday July 4th and the Manager will provide the report to Council in their packets.

◆ **Discussion on authorization to advertise Bed & Breakfast ordinance.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Ryder, to authorize the Solicitor to advertise this ordinance. Solicitor Schorpp indicated that a Public Hearing will be required and the proposed text change. Discussion followed on other items that may need to be changed and that could be included. After some discussion, it was decided to proceed with no other items being added, and the motion passed as made with all in favor. The public hearing will be scheduled for September 6th at 7 PM.

◆ **Decision on Emergency Service Coordinator position.**

Manager Stough indicated that letters of interest have been received from Beth Burkholder, Ron Trace, Greg Miller and Mike Grey. Copies of all submissions have been forward to Council for consideration. After discussion Councilman Seagrist made a motion to table this matter to the next meeting. Vice President Whitcomb seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion on request of the County Commissioners for a letter of support regarding the “Corridor One” project as per letter of June 29, 2005.**

Councilman Kautz asked Commissioner Rovegno, if the Commissioners agree or disagree on the funding for Corridor One. Commissioner Rovegno answered that the current board is in agreement on their stand regarding this project. Commissioner addressed Council on the Commissioners position on the proposed commuter rail system. On this proposal, the research that has been done indicates that this may not be an effective transportation initiative. The project is in exempt status, which means that the request before the Federal Transit Administration from CAT is for less than 25 million dollars the project is exempted from full review of its merits.

The Commissioners concern is that if the project is started and then determined to be not recommended by the FTA for federal funding, then money would need to be taken from other transportation initiatives to complete construction. The Commissioners feel, after research, that the chances of this project being recommended for funding on its own merits is relatively slim. Commissioner Rovegno reviewed the reasons for the Commissioners position, speaking about the current freight operations, proposed commuter lines, and the need to initiate commuter operations in Dauphin and Lancaster Counties to see if this would merit support, based on ridership. He also indicated that there is concern about the funding of operational expenses after construction is completed. Commissioner Rovegno indicated that the County would like to proceed with caution, after initiation of operations on the east shore. Councilman Ryder ask if all of the funding will stop, if Cumberland County does not approve the project. Commissioner Rovegno indicated that the suggestion that federal funding would be lost, is not accurate.

Tom Sweeney, Cumberland County Transit Authority, addressed Borough Council on the need for this type of commuter line in Cumberland County. He asked Council to ponder all the information provided by Commissioner Rovegno, when making a decision. He reviewed statistical information on industry, road congestion and the cost of road improvements versus the cost of a commuter rail line. He indicated that our area is ideal for distribution centers and warehouses because of our location and the quality of the work force. He reviewed commuter data which indicated that this area is an intense user of motor vehicles, as we rank 8th in vehicle miles per capita. This puts our area in competition with much larger metropolitan areas. Mass transit is needed to reduce the vehicle congestion, roadway improvements alone will not reduce traffic. Mr. Sweeney asked Council to keep an open mind on alternatives that would reduce vehicle traffic. Councilman McDermott made a motion to support the County Commissioners position on the Corridor one project. The motion failed for lack of a second.

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

Manager Stough updated Council on the testing of the underground fuel tanks, stating that he hopes that will be completed by the end of the week.

◆ **Request to authorize payments of the 2005 community allotments as outlined in the 2005 budget.**

Mechanicsburg Meals on Wheels	\$2,500	Halloween Parade	\$1,000
Mechanicsburg Museum Association	\$2,000	Union Church	\$1,000
Joseph T Simpson Public Library	\$3,500	New Hope	\$1,000
Citizens Fire and Rescue	\$16,500	Cemetery Association	\$500
Washington Fire Company	\$16,500		

Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Humes, to approve the disbursement of all the community allotments included in the 2005 budget. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Request of the Mechanicsburg School District for a bus stop on Norway for Filbert Street School.**

Manager Stough reviewed the request with Borough Council, indicating that he feels Council needs to have more information from the School District before any action can be taken. After some additional discussion, Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Kautz, to table this matter to the meeting on July 19th and ask a school district representative to come to the meeting to answer questions about this request. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Stough will contact the School District and ask that a representative be at the next meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No one had anything else to bring before Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9 PM President Winchell adjourned the meeting to an executive session on a personnel issue, with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough, Borough Secretary