

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

October 4, 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, Jr. Councilperson Ravindraraj, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer.

Also in attendance: Cress – Sentinel, Bob Dietrich, Nancy Hanlon, Paul Heeter, Frankie Hensel, Bob Herman, David Hoover, Alan & Kelly Luther, Mike Mills, Jack Neibert, C Payne, Jeff Shatzer and Jay Stoner.

GUESTS:

Richard Cornman, Highway Department Employee, was recognized for 30 years of service to the Mechanicsburg Borough. President Winchell presented Mr. Cornman with a watch and Certificate of Achievement.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Alan & Kelly Luther, 610 South Arch Street, addressed Borough Council regarding a parking and traffic problem at the Administrative Center and school on Elmwood Avenue. Mrs. Luther stated that she counted 54 vehicles parked along Elmwood and Arch Streets and residents can not find parking spots for their vehicles. Mrs. Luther asked Council to consider resident parking permits for this location. Councilman Ryder asked if the same problem existed when the building was housing the middle school. Mrs. Luther explained that the parking problem has only developed since the administrative staff was moved to this location, and the parking lot area was cut down to construct a playground. Mr. Stough indicated that the parking lot to the rear of the school will be available for parking, once renovations are completed, noting that a land development plan was not required for the renovations. Mrs. Luther asked that the handicapped curb cuts be painted to deter people from parking and blocking sidewalk access. Manager Stough indicated that the Highway Department would look into that.

Frankie Hensel, 18 East Keller Street, asked that Council not grandfather existing noise levels in adoption of the noise ordinance. She indicated that Rakstraw's compressors and fans operate around the clock. She stated that these fans were added after a fire and were not installed at this location 24 years ago when she purchased her property. Councilman Seagrist commented that Rakestraw's is a good neighbor to the community and he hopes that some middle ground can be found in adoption of this ordinance to take their particular needs into consideration.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Manager Stough asked that the following changes and additions be made to the agenda:

1. Addition of possible action to the agenda item, update on Train Station sale.
2. Addition of discussion and possible action on a parking change along Railroad Avenue.
3. Request of First United Methodist Church for Police Services.
4. Request of Citizen's Fire Company for a Special Event.
5. Resolution recognizing Safe Routes to School
6. Resolution authorizing opening of an account at Integrity Bank.
7. Request for a temporary no parking area by the Museum Association.
8. Change in the Executive Session to include a matter of real estate and a personnel matter with possible action.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Kautz made a motion to approve the September 20, 2005 minutes. Vice President Whitcomb seconded the motion which passed with all in favor

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough reported that the collection of items for hurricane victims is continuing at the 34 West Allen Street location. The Pool Capital Campaign kicked off its leadership phase last Wednesday with a successful meeting here at the Borough Office. Campaign Brochures are available in the rear of the meeting room.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Sept 22 Attended a One Source Municipal Training program; The Feasibility of Regionalizing Pennsylvania's Volunteer Fire Companies.
- Sept 24 Delivered a Proclamation from the Mayors Office to Hollywood Olson. Nine year old Hollywood sponsored a 5K race with the proceeds going to MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Patrolman Brian Curtis was also in attendance.
- Sept 25 Vietnam Veterans of Mechanicsburg Annual Club picnic was held at Memorial Park.
- Sept 28 Under Coach Charlie Ryder's guidance the Mayor's Team tied the Chariot Express wheel chair basketball team, but lost in overtime. October is National Disabilities Awareness Month. This event is sponsored by the Navy Supply Information Systems Activity known as NAVSISA.
- Sept 30 Mechanicsburg Middle School honored Mrs. Krista Rosensteel as 2005 Pennsylvania History teacher of the year. The Mayor's Office presented Mrs. Rosensteel with a key to the city.
- Oct 3 Annual meeting of the proprietors of the Union Church
- Oct 10 Crime Watch presenter will be Sally Holbert. Come out and learn what SR2S means to Mechanicsburg.

This is the Month of the Young Adolescent sponsored by the National Middle School Association.

Trivia Question: What was the highest structure in the Borough of Mechanicsburg? Ans: The smoke stacks at Rakestraw's

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief Spotts reported that the PennDOT permits for the Halloween Parade were received.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Schorpp had no report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist reported that the Fire Report for last month has been distributed and that next week is Fire Prevention week. Chief Seagrist also reminded everyone that October 30th is the end of day light savings time, so check the batteries in your smoke alarms and CO₂ detectors.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Ravindraraj reported:

Fall sports are ongoing and both Field Hockey and Soccer are having successful seasons.

The Wildcat Foundation Fall festival was held last weekend.

Last week the homecoming court was announced.

A blood drive was held at the school today.

Tomorrow is the senior trip to the Renaissance Faire.

This week is spirit week at the school and each day has a different theme.

The homecoming football game will be Friday evening at 7:30 against Palmyra.

Saturday morning students will be taking the SAT test.

Saturday evening is the homecoming dance.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Development– Humes- Councilman Humes reported that Main Street Mechanicsburg has received a \$5,000 DCED grant with support from Senator Vance. She also noted that a nice article was in the newspaper regarding Main Street. Councilman Humes stated that she was happy to see the new "yield to pedestrian" signs out on Main Street.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Winchell- Manager Stough stated that he has all the budget information from the Department Heads and will be working to have a draft for Council by the meeting of October 18th. If Council desires, a

budget meeting can be scheduled for the following week. President Winchell asked if Department Heads will be invited to speak. Manager Stough indicated that he will try to arrange that before the November 1st budget meeting

Fire Committee – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that Mayor Ritter and Chief Seagrist attended a workshop last Thursday evening that was very informative and provided information on Volunteer Fire Companies working together. Tomorrow evening, October 5th, the Fire Committee will meet in the second floor conference room. Next week, for Fire Prevention Week, Citizens Fire and Rescue will be holding an open house on Saturday. Manager Stough informed Councilman Ryder that the gentleman that provided the seminar on Fire Companies working together is available on October 17th or the 24th, if the Fire Committee would like to have him make a presentation. Councilman Ryder will try to schedule this at the meeting tomorrow evening.

Health/Recreation – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist scheduled a Health and Recreation Committee meeting on Monday October 24th at the Upper Allen Township Building at 6:30 PM to discuss formation of a pool authority. Councilman Seagrist also announced that the next Recreation Commission meeting will be held October 12th at 7:30 PM. President Winchell noted that moving forward with the pool authority is not on the agenda. Councilman Seagrist stated that he is scheduling a meeting for discussion, which does not require the authorization of Council. The time frame for the authority formation was reviewed. Councilman Seagrist will make both the Recreation Commission & the Joint Recreation Board aware that Council will be meeting with the Board of Supervisors.

Highway/Public Safety – Kautz – Discussion on Sewer billing options is on the agenda for this evening.

Loan Review Committee – Humes – No Report

Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action – Whitcomb – Vice President Whitcomb noted that the Noise Ordinance is on the agenda, but will be tabled at this time.

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

Public Communications – McDermott – Councilman McDermott reported that the Borough newsletter was mailed to residents this week. Information on the refuse/recycling contract was included on the back of the October sewer/refuse bills. Deadline for the winter newsletter is October 28th.

Recycling Committee – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that he missed the Recycling Committee meeting as the Council toured the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Councilman Ryder reported that he attended a meeting of the Environmental Council where the Cedar Run Water Shed was discussed. The developer proposing to develop the Hess Farm, where the headwaters of the Cedar Run originates, has not contacted the Environmental Council to discuss the impact of the proposed development on the Cedar Run. Councilman Ryder reported that he would like to see the Recycling Committee move to form an Environmental Council so they could address other issues that impact the environment. Councilman Ryder reported that the Citizens' Recycling Committee is moving forward with plans to promote the tag a bag program. Councilman Ryder announced that the Committee is looking for a group or groups of individuals to hand out promotional material door to door.

School Board – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that the School Board is meeting this evening. Councilman Ryder reported that Safe Routes to School has acquired signs from PennDot, which are being left out past school hours. Chief Spotts added that the Police Department was not informed of the signage before it appeared on the roadways. Manager Stough reported that the Borough Office was not informed of the signage program. Chief Spotts reported that the signs have been hit and been left lying in the roadway creating a hazard. Councilman McDermott added that the signs are being placed out by residents. Manager Stough informed Council that he was made aware of the signs last week by Office Demmy. Discussion followed regarding the signage, with the Solicitor advising that if this is an arrangement between PennDOT and the school district and they are only on State Routes, the Borough may want to refrain from setting a policy. Chief Spotts will investigate the schools role in the signage and provide Council with additional information. Councilman Ryder indicated that the School District is going to embark on a demographic study, to identify growth patterns over the next five to ten years.

W.S.C.O.G. – McDermott – The next meeting will be October 17, at 7 PM.

AGENDA ITEMS – October 4, 2005

- ◆ **Discussion and possible action on Resolution 24-2005 eliminating member contribution to the Uniform Pension Plan for 2006.**

Manager Stough reviewed the MMO obligation for 2006 with Borough Council. After review Councilman Humes made a motion, second by Vice President Whitcomb, to adopt Resolution 24-2005 as presented. The motion carried.

- ◆ **Approval of the West Shore Tax Bureau budget for 2006 in the amount of \$1,093,569.00**

Manager Stough reviewed the operation budget of the tax bureau with Borough Council. Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Kautz, to accept the budget as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

- ◆ **Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution 25-2005 appointing representatives for 2006 to the West Shore Tax Bureau and approving West Shore Tax Bureau as the wage tax officer for 2006.**

Manager Stough reported that Harry Gsell, Treasurer, has been serving as the delegate for the Borough. Councilman Seagrist made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-2005, and to appoint Harry Gsell as

Delegate and Jack Winchell as Alternate to the West Shore Tax Bureau for 2006. Vice President Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible approval for Cystic Fibrosis Walk May 20, 2006.**

Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Ryder, to approve the Cystic Fibrosis Walk for May 20th, 2006. The motion carried.

◆ **Discussion on possible adoption of a noise ordinance.**

Vice President Whitcomb made a motion to table action on this ordinance pending some additional information which will be compiled by Chief Spotts. Councilman Ryder seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Manager Stough asked how existing noise levels would be addressed, and the Solicitor indicated that they would not be grandfathered.

◆ **Discussion on workman's compensation issues related to use of Fire Police.**

Manager Stough asked that this item be discussed under Executive Session, as they are personnel issues.

◆ **Discussion on sewer billing options.**

Councilman Kautz asked Manager Stough how he wanted to proceed with this matter. Manager Stough informed Councilman Kautz that he was waiting for direction from Council. Manager Stough indicated that he has concerns about the integration of the data we would be purchasing from the water service provider. Manager Stough indicated that this change is going to increase bills for many residents. Councilman Seagrist suggested that if the base rate is set and we find out it is too low, why can't we then increase the base. Manager Stough indicated that the anticipated 30% decrease in usage projected by Pennoni, could equate to a \$200,000 short fall over a three quarter period and it may take that long to assess usage and modify the ordinance. Councilman Humes indicated that the decrease in water usage would be a good thing from a conservation stand point. Manager Stough explained that some of the data required for this change will involve a physical assessment of the downtown area. The possibility of joining a rental property inspection ordinance with this process was discussed. Councilman Humes made a motion to direct Borough Staff to move forward with the implementation of a metered rate sewer billing system, which will include a base rate plus usage charge and to have that conversation completed by the July 1, 2006 billing. Councilman Seagrist seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor. Discussion followed on the upgrades needed at the sewer plant and how the Borough can plan for the needed work, possibly without the need to float a bond in the future.

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

Manager Stough indicated that the Solicitor has an Agreement of Sale available for signature and execution, with settlement date being on or before November 30, 2005. Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Vice President Whitcomb, to authorize the execution of the Sales Agreement with the Museum Association for the sale of the Train Station and Stationmaster's house for \$147,000. The motion carried.

◆ **Addition of discussion and possible action on a parking change along Railroad Avenue.**

Manager Stough explained a problem which exists on Railroad Avenue with parking obstructing the access of the alleyway for pick up of trash behind West Green Street. Staff is requesting that Council enact a no parking area along this alley between 10 AM and 2 PM on Fridays. This will allow a window for trash pick up. The property owners in the area are agreeable to allow posting of signs on their property where curbing is not available. Councilman McDermott made a motion authorizing the Solicitor to draft the parking restrictions. Vice President Whitcomb seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Request of First United Methodist Church for Police Services.**

Manager Stough reviewed the request of the First United Methodist Church for Police Services on October 7th, 21st & 28th from 8:30 till 11 PM. Chief Spotts indicated that his only request is that this be contingent on someone being available for the overtime assignment. Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Humes, to provide the service contingent upon the church reimbursing the Borough for the overtime cost plus benefits and if an officer is available to accept the assignment. The motion passed with six members voting in the affirmative and Councilman Ryder abstaining.

◆ **Request of Citizen's Fire Company for a Special Event.**

Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Humes to approve the request of Citizens Fire Company to close the alley behind their building from 10 AM – 2 PM on October 15th for their open house event. The motion carried with all in favor.

◆ **Resolution recognizing Safe Routes to School.**

Manager Stough reviewed Resolution 26-2005 proclaiming this week, International Walk to School Week in Mechanicsburg. Councilman Seagrist made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-2005, with the sixth paragraph removed. After discussion Councilman Humes seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Resolution authorizing opening of an account at Integrity Bank.**

Manager Stough reviewed Resolution 27-2005 opening an Investment account at Integrity Bank and moving proceeds from a Pligit CD into this account for a higher interest rate on the investment. After discussion, Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Kautz, to authorize the opening of this account, subject

to the Solicitor's review and approved of the depository contract. After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed with 5 in favor (Kautz, McDermott, Ryder, Whitcomb, Winchell) and 2 in opposition (Humes, Seagrist).

◆ **Request for a temporary no parking area by the Museum Association.**

Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to authorize the use of temporary "No Parking" signs on October 14th and 15th in front of the Passenger Station for the Museum Auction. The motion carried with all in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were none

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

President Winchell asked about training suggested by Daryl Hench which Mr. Hench is indicating will be required by all elected officials. Chief Spotts indicated that the NIMS Training will be required for all elected officials, but it is available on-line.

Councilman Kautz asked Chief Seagrist about the fire alarms at Shenandoah Apartments. Chief Seagrist explained the reason for the alarms and indicated that at this time, he has not billed them. Councilman Kautz stated that he feels, in accordance with the ordinance, Shenandoah should be billed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:22 PM President Winchell adjourned to executive session on a personnel matter, with possible action.

At 11:21 PM President Winchell reconvened the public meeting.

Councilman Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Kautz, to authorize the use of the Special Fire Police at the Halloween Parade and authorize payment of insurance premium costs up to \$3,500 for this purpose if required. The motion passed with all in favor.

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Ryder; to authorize the Manager to have labor counsel research the question of additional compensation after employment, as discussed in Executive Session, provided that such research does not exceed legal fees of \$1,000.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 11:30 PM, President Winchell adjourned the meeting.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary