

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

November 1, 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; Luke & Mike Bucknan, John Byrne, Bob Dietrich, Sean Forsythe, Nancy Hanlon, Barry Heckard, Keith Hensel, Eric Hughes, Jim Leese, Melissa Manning, Nancy Moran, Jack Niebert, Jeff Shatzer Charlie Sheriff, Arleen Shulman, Jay Stoner, Jeff VanBoskirk and Darrell Westby.

GUESTS

Joseph Hood, Superintendent of the Mechanicsburg Area School District, introduced himself to Borough Council. Mr. Hood indicated that the School Board has asked that he help to keep the school present among the communities that the school district serves. He indicated that he will also be attending the Upper Allen and Shiremanstowns board meetings. He shared information on the demographic study approved by the School Board to evaluate the area and develop a ten-year plan for growth. The study will be done by the PA Economy League and he asked Council to cooperate with the League in the completion of the study. He then gave an overview of the demographic information that will be included in the study.

Mr. John Byrne, Chief Operations Officer for Cumberland County, introduced himself and indicated that as a new County Officer he is visiting all 33 municipalities to try to get a sense of the local issues facing each administrative body.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

None

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Manager Stough asked that the following change and addition be made to the agenda:

1. Manager Stough asked that a matter of real estate and potential litigation be added to the Executive Session, with no action to be taken.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough indicated the following items were received:

- ◆ A letter was received from the Veterans Council asking for \$150 in the 2006 budget to offset the Memorial Day Parade costs.
- ◆ An invitation was received to the Veteran's Day Service scheduled for November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ A meeting was held last week at the Municipal Center for the KMIT Insurance Trust Board. They are the Borough's Worker's Compensation Insurance carrier. The Borough received notice that the Borough's loss rate was 4.9%, which is excellent.
- ◆ A letter was received from the Joseph T. Simpson Library asking for a \$3,500 contribution in the 2006 budget.
- ◆ Steve Barber, Borough Engineer, provided an update on the Signalization Project.
- ◆ An invitation was received to the Mechanicsburg Brethren Church in Christ annual Community Day on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve the October 18, 2005 minutes. Councilman Kautz seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough had no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Oct 19<sup>th</sup> – Lunch & Learn at the Museum. Col. Jack Ent talked about “Heroes Among Us”, his book about World War II Veterans from Mechanicsburg.
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friends of the Library’s Bowling for Books.
- Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – Elmwood Elementary School Dedication, Student Council Members gave tours of the renovated building.
- Oct 24<sup>th</sup> – Welcomed 12 students and 4 teachers from England to Mechanicsburg at the Senior High Building. Each visitor was given a 1903 map of our town and the history book “Miniatures of Mechanicsburg” by Bob Brunhouse.
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – October was the “Month of the Young Adolescent” at the Mechanicsburg Middle School. Guests were served breakfast and given an opportunity to shadow a student to class.
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – The area Veterans Council will be holding their annual Veterans’ Day Services at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery at 11 AM.
- Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – Crime Watch presenter will be Launa Snyder, TEENTIME Program Coordinator for Holy Spirit Hospital. The topic will be “helping teens and those who care about them.”

Trivia Question: Heige’s Carriage Factory, nine houses and their contents were reduced to ashes in a short time. The Harrisburg Fire Department was called to help. Fireman fought the fire in their Sunday clothes. Nineteen buildings were on fire at the same time. What year was it?

Answer: May 3, 1903 and the fire was on South York Street between Simpson and Locust Streets.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief Spotts reported that Officer Meneses received a Departmental Letter of Commendation for his work with the new Criminal Warrant Tracking and Service System. Since the system was put into operation 4 months ago all old criminal reserve criminal warrants have been cleared out and on new warrants the service rate is about 90%.

Chief Spotts asked that the Humane Society of Harrisburg contract for 2006 be added to the next meeting agenda for approval.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Schorpp had no report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist reported last night a structure at 11 W Factory Street was abated by the Fire Departments. New free smoke detectors distributed by the Fire Department alerted the resident and the response time was 5 minutes and the fire was under control with minor damage in 39 minutes.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Ravindraraj stated that she would like to commemorate the passing of Mr. Don Shirley, who was an English teacher and baseball coach at the school, and a friend to teachers and students alike for over thirty years, he will be truly missed.

She also reported:

- o Fall sports are concluding and the winter sports are getting underway.
- o The football team played Lower Dauphin last week and scored twice. It was Senior Night.
- o The cross country team had their District Run this past weekend and Jimmy Boyer made it to the State competition to be held this weekend.
- o The soccer team is on a winning streak and tomorrow evening will be the semi –final game at Hershey Park Stadium against Manheim Central. If successful, the team will compete in the District Finals on Saturday.
- o John Cremo was inducted into the PA Sports Hall of Fame for his 3 State Championships.
- o The Diversity Club sponsored Dr. Samia Malik to speak to students about Islam last week to increase awareness of other cultures.
- o Last week a motivational speaker “Chalk Man” gave students at the High School and Middle School a motivational talk, which included chalk drawings, which were donated to the schools.
- o October is the “Month of the Young Adolescent” and members of the community were invited to shadow students at the intermediate school. She reported her brother was disappointed to not get the Mayor as his shadow person.
- o Last Saturday was Dickson College’s annual Speech and Debate Tournament. All that competed from Mechanicsburg received a plaque or award and Mechanicsburg placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the sweepstakes.

- This past weekend, District Chorus auditions were held and three students, Joyce Kang, Amy Roberson and Sara Weaver were successful. They will be able to try out for State Chorus.
- The PALS@MASH Buddy Program had an event this past weekend where they went to the Corn Maze at Hershey. This program integrates special needs children to the larger Mechanicsburg School Community.
- The England Exchange Students Program has been here for ten days and these students will be leaving tomorrow.

#### COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Community Development**– Humes- No Report.

**Finance/Appropriations/Insurance** – Winchell – President Winchel reported that the Finance Committee will meet to review the proposed 2006 budget on November 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 AM and November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.

**Fire Committee** – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that the Fire Committee will meet on November 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Tochterman Report completed in 2002.

**Health/Recreation** – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that on Monday October 24<sup>th</sup> Councilman McDermott, Manager Stough and he met with three Upper Allen Township Commissioners (Anderson, Chick and Cochren) and Recreation Commission members Meck and Smith. Financial statistic's for the last five years of pool operation were requested and will be provided. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> 7 PM.

**Highway/Public Safety** – Kautz – Councilman Kautz noted that there are two items, handicapped parking and sewer rates are on the agenda this evening.

**Loan Review Committee**- Humes – No Report.

**Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action** – Whitcomb – Vice President Whitcomb stated that parking prohibition on North Railroad Avenue is on the agenda. Vice President Whitcomb also asked to schedule an Ordinance Committee meeting to discuss the Noise Ordinance. November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM was selected.

**Property/Buildings** – Kautz – No Report.

**Public Communications** – McDermott – Councilman McDermott indicated that work is continuing on the December newsletter. He asked that price quotes for the 2006 editions be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**Recycling Committee** – Ryder – Councilman Ryder indicated that the Citizen's Recycling Committee met this evening to discuss the public education outreach planned for this month. He explained that information on changes to the refuse and recycling program will be distributed by volunteers later this month. Councilman Ryder asked for volunteers to help with distribution. He indicated that curbside recycling on small amounts of cardboard will be added beginning in January. A change from Recycling Committee to an Environmental Council will be discussed at the December meeting.

**School Board** – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that the School Board just contracted for cell phones through Nextel. Manager Stough indicated that the Borough already has Nextel. Councilman Ryder also reported that Shiremanstown Elementary is being considered for use for Recreation Programs. He indicated that the Board received a letter from Manager Stough regarding the paving of the lot adjacent to the Football Stadium. Ryder also reported that a Pre K program is being considered for implementation by Superintendent Hood. He reviewed the outline for the program at Filbert Street, which would provide a full day of instruction for Kindergarten students and some services for Pre-K students not served by private Pre-K programs.

**W.S.C.O.G.** – McDermott – No Report.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS – November 1, 2005**

- ◆ **Consider Certificate of Appropriateness Application for Mike Larkin, 209 South York Street.**  
Manager Stough reviewed the recommendation of the Historical and Architectural Review Board with Borough Council. Vice President Whitcomb made a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for Mike Larkin of 209 South York Street, for replacement of his roof with textured asphalt shingles, with the Codes Officer to approve the design of the shingle prior to installation. Councilman Humes seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Consider Request of Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce and Washington Fire Company to Close Main Street from Walnut Street to Market Street from 7 PM to 12:30 AM on December 31<sup>st</sup> for their Wrench Drop.**  
Vice President Whitcomb asked Chief Spotts if he had any problem with this request. Chief Spotts indicated that he did not. Vice President Whitcomb made a motion to approve the requested road closure. Councilman Humes seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Consider Request of the Mechanicsburg Chamber for “No Parking” Signs between Market and Frederick Streets for the Carriage Rides.**  
Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ryder, to approve the request for “No Parking” signs on Main Street, between Market and Frederick on the north side for the carriage rides for the Dickens of a Holiday event. The motion carried.
- ◆ **Discussion on Sandwich Board Signs on the Square in Front of PNC Bank.**  
Manager Stough explained that after Codes Officer Ressler issued his memo last month on this issue, the Manager became aware of a plan by Main Street Mechanicsburg and the Mechanicsburg Chamber to try to erect

a permanent kiosk the square for information. Manager Stough asked that this matter be tabled, pending more information on the kiosk project. Councilman Humes made a motion to table, seconded by Vice President Whitcomb. The motion carried unanimously.

- ◆ **Discussion and Possible Action to Hire Cianfichi & Scholl Architects to Design the Pool Bathhouse.**  
Councilman Seagrist made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ryder, to authorize contracting with Cianfichi & Scholl for design of the pool bathhouse, contingent upon the Solicitors review and approval of the contract document. The motion carried.
- ◆ **Consider Action on Ordinance Changing Parking Regulations on Railroad Avenue.**  
Manager Stough indicated the written permission required from property owners has not yet been secured. President Whitcomb made a motion to table. Councilman Ryder seconded the motion which passed with no dissenting votes.
- ◆ **Consider Request of Sandra Greene for a Handicapped Parking Space at 48 West Allen Street.**  
Councilman McDermott made a motion for approval, Vice President Whitcomb seconded the motion. Councilman Ryder asked Chief Spotts if the applicant had a handicapped placard and the Chief indicated that the applicant has a hanging placard. Councilman Humes asked if there is any verification from her physician of the need for the space. Vice President Whitcomb indicated that the Doctor's approval would have been required to obtain the placard. After conclusion of the discussion, President Winchell called for a vote and the motion carried with all in favor.
- ◆ **Request of Mechanicsburg Police Department for a Street Light in the 700 Block of South Market Street.**  
Chief Spotts reviewed this request with Borough Council. Councilman Ryder made a motion, seconded by Councilman Humes to approve the request. President Winchell opened the floor for discussion. Vice President Whitcomb asked about the position of the existing lights. Chief Spotts indicated that with the addition of this light, there would be lights at three consecutive poles. Vice President Whitcomb asked if one of the existing lights could be relocated. After considerable discussion, Councilman Ryder withdrew his motion and Councilman Humes withdrew her second. Councilman Seagrist asked about reflective paint, which Chief Spotts stated would not work at this location. Chief Seagrist stated that a light on East Allen and Chestnut Streets may also be removed or relocated, as it does not serve a purpose at its current location. After some additional discussion, Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kautz, to table this matter to the Public Safety Committee. The motion carried. Manager Stough will check with PP & L on the possible re-locations discussed and provide Council with information on this possibility.
- ◆ **Consider Acceptance of a Donation to the DARE Program from William & Linda Corliss.**  
Vice President Whitcomb made a motion, seconded by Kautz, to approve the acceptance of a contribution from William & Linda Corliss to the DARE Community Relations Fund. The motion passed unanimously.
- ◆ **Update on the Sale of the Train Station.**  
Manager Stough reported that as of tomorrow, the museum would officially own the Passenger Station property.
- ◆ **Update on Sewer Rate Information.**  
Manager Stough indicated that he provided a memo to Borough Council on some items for consideration as we move towards an ordinance change for the billing of sewer service. Software demos have begun and will continue through the next few weeks. Councilman Humes indicated that she spoke to Charles Oiler, Public Works Director at Upper Dublin Township, and she explained how they handle pool filling as it relates to sewer fees. Manager Stough indicated that the Borough can have someone from Wastewater read the meter inside the home on those occasions. Credits for periods of property vacancy were also briefly discussed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There were no additional matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:30 PM, President Winchell adjourned the meeting to an executive session on matters of personnel, real estate and litigation, with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough  
Borough Secretary