

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

March 7, 2006

7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:30 PM President Whitcomb called the regular Council meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Whitcomb led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Roll call was taken with the following present: President Whitcomb, Vice President Winchell, Councilmen Humes, McDermott, Ryder, Seagrist, and Stoner, Jr. Councilperson Nauss, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Lieutenant Myers, Chief Seagrist, Engineer Barber, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Chief Spotts was absent.

Also in attendance: Cress – Sentinel, Andrew Castonguay, Martin & Vickie Coover, Matt & Sid Culbertson, Bob Dietrich, Dale Edwards, Scott Eppley, Donald Fry, Zach Gohn, Galen Hake, Nancy Hanlon, Walt Leary, Kyle Miller, Brad Nauss, Jack Neibert, Miriam Powell, Lekha Ravindraraj, Jeff Sanders and Tony Sangrey.

GUESTS:

Miriam Powell, Mechanicsburg Area High School Teacher, addressed Borough Council about the Mechanicsburg High School Dance-a-thon on April 1st which will benefit the Four Diamonds Fund. She noted that the students hope to raise \$10,000, which will help children with cancer by dancing for 12 hours from 10 AM to 10 PM. Zach Gohn and Andrew Castonguay addressed Borough Council and distributed flyers and sponsorship forms.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Donald Fry, 109 South Market Street, addressed Borough Council about the plight of residents who rent to find affordable housing in Mechanicsburg. He asked that Council be more proactive in business retention and recruitment.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Manager Stough asked that discussion and possible authorization for the purchase of a skid loader for the Highway Department be added to the agenda.

Councilman Seagrist asked that renewal of the Agility Agreement with PennDOT be added to the agenda.

Councilman Humes asked that discussion on the sample Sinkhole Ordinance be added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough indicated the following items were received:

- A letter was received from the Commissioners of Upper Allen Township informing the Borough of a meeting this evening at 6 PM to discuss rezoning of a tract of land adjacent to the Borough.
- A letter was received from Commuter Services of South Central PA regarding their Commuter Services.
- A letter was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding a meeting on the application of the Harrisburg Energy Alternative for municipal or residual waste transfer, processing and disposal facilities on March 23, 2006 at 1:30 PM.
- A letter was received from Senator Vance and Representative Nailor regarding a public meeting on the impact of pollution reduction efforts in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed on March 22nd at the Mechanicsburg Middle School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Stoner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Ryder seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough had no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

March 1st – WITF's "Our Town: Mechanicsburg" was previewed at the First Church of God's Community Center. The upcoming air time will be March 13th and 19th. Watch it and you will know why Mechanicsburg is "a good place to live."

March 4th – The Mechanicsburg Wildcat Foundation held its 5th Fundraising Gala. Their mission: To enhance the quality of life for the students and residents of the Mechanicsburg Area School District.

Upcoming: March 13th Crime Watch guest will be Mechanicsburg Police Chief, David Spotts.

Trivia Question: In the 1950's a Mechanicsburg merchant regularly advertised his store as having 600 (plus or minus) parking spaces. Who was he and what was he selling?

Answer: Soco the shoe man at 42 East Main Street.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

In Chief Spotts absence Lieutenant Myers reported:

- I received letters of commendation for Lt. Myers, Officer Demmy (2), Officer Dyer, Officer Curtis and CSO Barrett for their work at recent incidents.
- We were approved for \$3,039.80 in grants from the Bullet-Proof Vest Partnership for ballistic vests. The funds should transfer electronically in the near future.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No report.

ENGINEER REPORT:

No report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

No report.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Nauss reported:

- Mechanicsburg students were very busy getting into the spring season and spring sports began this week.
- The indoor color guard and percussion group at the High School are competing this Saturday at the High School.
- The Middle School is hosting the District Jazz Festival and Mechanicsburg is well represented.
- Spring musical is coming up; "Seussical the Musical", based on the works of Dr. Seuss, will be performed. Tickets are on sale now.
- School is closed next Friday and everyone is looking forward to a day off.
- The Middle School hosted the South Central Pennsylvania Quiz Bowl Competition this past Saturday. With twenty teams from ten schools Mechanicsburg placed seconded.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Development – Humes – Councilman Humes reported that she viewed the Pennsylvania Commuter Services website, which contains some good information for residents. On Feb 26th the Sentinel had information on housing starts in Cumberland County. She reviewed some of the statistics that will impact the Borough.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Winchell – No Report.

Fire Committee –Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that the next meeting will be April 12th at 7 PM. Councilman Ryder commended the Fire Companies and Chief Seagrist on their response at a recent incident on James Street.

Health/Recreation –Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that Feb 23rd the joint Recreation Committee met and Alan Vandrew gave a breakdown on expenses for Recreation for the School District and will give the information to staff for distribution in Council packets. Councilman Seagrist scheduled a Health and Recreation Committee meeting for Council on March 21st at 6:30 PM, with the Upper Allen Township representatives. Councilman Seagrist will contact Upper Allen and let the Manager know if they are available, so the meeting can be properly advertised.

Highway/Public Safety – Stoner – Councilman Stoner reported that he is working with Chief Spotts on handicapped parking space guidelines.

Loan Review Committee- Humes – No report.

Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action – Humes – Councilman Humes noted that there are two agenda items this evening.

Property/Buildings – Stoner – Councilman Stoner asked Manager Stough if he has toured the park with Lions Club representatives. Manager Stough indicated that he has not. Councilman Stoner indicated that he spoke with New Cumberland Borough regarding the Apple Festival and they indicated that the event damages their fields each year, but being in October, they have to be re-worked each spring anyway, so it is not an issue.

Public Communications – McDermott- No report.

Recycling Committee – Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that the Recycling Committee met this evening and a copy of the recommendations from the Committee is before Council for action this evening. Councilman Ryder noted that Councilman Seagrist is heading up the Great PA Clean Up, here in Mechanicsburg. Councilman Seagrist indicated the local event will be held April 22nd, 10 AM- 2 PM here at the Borough Office with safety vests and gloves being provided by PennDOT. Councilman Ryder noted that a Compost Workshop is scheduled for May 6th at 11 AM, here at the Borough Office. This is being done in conjunction with the Cumberland County Solid Waste Authority compost bin sale. Councilman Ryder also reported that the Recycling Committee has discussed ways to improve recycling in the School District and at local businesses. Councilman Ryder also reported that cereal boxes and other press board can be recycled with your paper.

School Board- Ryder – The School Board held a work session and discussed curriculum items. Some new additions include fashion design, changes to the driver education program, three levels of biology will be offered in the High School, and the Business Department will offer web design.

W.S.C.O.G. – McDermott – Councilman McDermott noted that the next meeting will be March 20th at 7 PM.

AGENDA ITEMS – March 7, 2006.

- ◆ **Consider Acceptance of Time Extension Offered by Richard Hart for his Retail Land Development Plan.**
Vice President Winchell made a motion, seconded by Councilman McDermott, to accept the time extension offered by Richard Hart for his Land Development Plan through June 7, 2006. Councilman Stoner indicated that the address should be 1106/1108 East Simpson Street, not West, as noted on the request submitted to Borough Council. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and Possible Authorization to Draft and Advertise the Noise Ordinance.**
Councilman Humes made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ryder, to send the draft of the Noise Ordinance to Committee for review. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Consider Appointments to the Environmental Advisory Council.**
Councilman Ryder made a motion to appoint the following residents to the Environmental Advisory Council:

| Appointee | Term |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Susan Richards | 1 year term through 12/31/2006 |
| Erin Arva | 1 year term through 12/31/2006 |
| Harry Baker, Planning Commission | 2 year term through 12/31/2007 |
| Arleen Shulman | 2 year term through 12/31/2007 |
| Ronald Santo | 3 year term through 12/31/2008 |
| Glen Weber | 3 year term through 12/31/2008 |
| Sara Nicholas | 3 year term through 12/31/2008 |

Councilman Humes seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor. Staff will send letters of appointment to all Environmental Advisory Council members and the organizational meeting will be scheduled for March 21st at 6 PM.

- ◆ **Approval of the Special Event Permit for the Halloween Parade, October 10th.**
Councilman Seagrist made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ryder to approve the Special Event Permit for the 2006 Halloween Parade to be held October 10th. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Stough updated Council about the use of Special Fire Police. Manager Stough indicated that requests have been sent to 18 municipalities requesting use of their Fire Police for Jubilee Day and the Halloween Parade. To date, eight have responded affirmatively and ten have not yet responded.
- ◆ **Authorization to Purchase a New Truck for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.**
Councilman Winchell made a motion, seconded by Councilman Humes, to approve the purchase of a 2006 Ford F350 pick up truck for the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$26,815, which is in the 2006 budget. The motion passed with six affirmative votes (Humes, McDermott, Ryder, Stoner, Whitcomb, Winchell) and one negative vote (Seagrist).
- ◆ **Authorization to Purchase a Skid Loader for the Borough Highway Department.**
Manager Stough reviewed the request of the Highway Department for a skid loader, explaining that the rental of a skid loader would be required for several upcoming projects and the rental costs could be applied to the purchase price of the equipment, with the balance of the cost coming from Capital Reserves. Discussion followed on the use of the equipment and possible arrangements of payment. Councilman Ryder moved for the purchase of a skid loader off state contract in the amount of \$37,299.90. Vice President Winchell seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5 in favor (Humes, Ryder, Stoner, Whitcomb, Winchell) and 2 against (McDermott, Seagrist).

◆ **Discussion on Renewal of the PennDOT Agility Agreement.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion that the Borough apply to PennDOT regarding renewal of the Borough's Agility Agreement to acquire signage for recycling receptacles from PennDOT in exchange for services. Manager Stough indicated that after the last meeting, he spoke with Steve Sayres and is waiting for him to get back with the information on a new agreement. Councilman McDermott seconded Councilman Seagrist's motion. Discussion followed on the work required and the items that PennDOT could provide to the Borough. President Whitcomb called for a vote and the motion passed with all in favor. Manager Stough will get an agreement from PennDOT and put it on the agenda for possible action of Council at the next meeting.

◆ **Discussion on the Sinkhole Ordinance.**

Manager Stough reviewed the example of a Sinkhole Ordinance, provided by the Borough Engineer. Manager Stough indicated this could be a stand alone Ordinance, similar to the Borough's Stormwater Ordinance. Councilman Humes made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ryder, to authorize the Solicitor to review the sample Ordinance, confer with the Manager and provide Council with direction in regard to this Ordinance. The motion passed with all in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Donald Fry, 109 South Market Street, distributed information on business recruitment to Borough Council and asked them to make Economic Development a priority for Mechanicsburg's downtown.

Matt Culbertson asked Borough Council if they still had an Ordinance on the books prohibiting composting. Councilman Ryder indicated that provision of the Ordinance was removed.

President Whitcomb announced that prior to this meeting, at 7 PM; Council had an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Mr. Jeff Sanders, 501 North Market Street, asked when the list of items for rental property inspections would be available. Manager Stough indicated that the Resolution was tabled for further review by Borough Council. Mr. Sanders asked if the Borough would be inspecting houses with violations, in conjunction with this inspection effort. Mr. Sanders indicated that he feels Council is not forthcoming with information to residents. Mr. Sanders indicated that the soccer field in his neighborhood is a noise issue and he wants to know if that Ordinance would apply to this location. Mr. Sanders also complimented the Fire Company on the professional job that they do and asked Borough Council to support their efforts.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilman Humes asked staff to advertise an Ordinance Committee meeting for March 27th at 7:30 AM.

Councilman Ryder asked about the closing of the Norfolk Southern gates for construction on Sunday. Manager Stough reported that Lieutenant Myers and he discussed this and they spoke to Norfolk Southern and they will be monitoring the situation and working with the Police and Highway Department to coordinate the detour routes. The Borough will be posting the detours to make sure it is done properly. Councilman Stoner asked if the detours will be advertised. Manager Stough indicated that they asked Norfolk Southern to post the crossings a week prior to construction.

Chief Seagrist reported on the installation of the 800 MHz radios in the Borough Fire vehicles. He also reported that a Certificate of Appreciation was received from the Silver Spring Ambulance for the assistance provided by the Borough Fire Departments. On Sunday evening at 8 PM a fire call was received for the Hess Farm, where they found a corn crib on fire. Chief Seagrist explained that large amounts of water and foam were used and hot spots were still popping up. A tow truck was required to remove multiple Fire vehicles from the area due to mud from the large amount of water. Chief Seagrist indicated that the Fire Department is still monitoring the situation and the Codes Officer is working with the property owner to eliminate potential future hazards.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:48 PM, President Whitcomb adjourned the meeting to an executive session on matters of real estate, personnel and potential litigation with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary