

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

February 6, 2007

7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

President Whitcomb called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

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 Ryder, Councilmen Ciecierski, Humes, McDermott, Ryder, Seagrist, Stoner, Jr. Councilperson Ford, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer.

Also in attendance: Joe Cress- Sentinel, Elizabeth Gibson – Patriot News, Jim Clay, Bob Dietrich, Nancy Hanlon, Bob Herman, Mike Mills & Jack Niebert.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mayor Ritter presented Robert Herman with an award for his many years of service to the Mechanicsburg Special Fire Police as Captain. Mr. Herman is stepping down as Captain, but will remain active as a Special Fire Police for the Borough.

GUESTS:

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

None

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Councilman Seagrist requested that discussion on regulations for Chamber sponsored events and discussion on potential service projects available for a faith based organization from Mechanicsburg Borough be added to the agenda. Councilman McDermott asked that discussion on the implementation of deduct meters be added to the agenda for discussion.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough reported:

- ◆ An application was received for a handicapped parking permit at 48 West Allen Street from Treva Short. This will be added to the next Council agenda.
- ◆ The Allendale Road truck restriction study was received from Pennoni Associates and will be added to the next Council agenda.
- ◆ A notice was received from DCNR on a new application period for Recreation Grants through April 13, 2007. A second grant period will run through September 28th.
- ◆ A letter was received from the Penn Township Fire Police asking for an agreement for intermunicipal use of Fire Police for Special Events. The Solicitor will review this request and it will be added to the next agenda for discussion.
- ◆ Manager Stough asked that Council members interested in attending the Tri County Borough's Association meeting on February 27th please let Manager Stough know by February 15th so reservations can be made. This year's dinner will be held at Scottie's Beef and Reef on West Main Street.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Stoner made a motion to approve the minutes of January 16, 2007 Borough Council meeting as presented. Councilman Ciecierski seconded the motion, which passed with no dissenting votes.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

January 17th – Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce held their annual dinner meeting at the Mechanicsburg Club. President John Anthony outlined 2007 plans and goals.
January 18th – Inn Keeper, Kevin Jackson, opened the Orris House Bed and Breakfast at 318 West Main Street to host a mixer for the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor was also the guest speaker at the Naval Supply Systems Command NAVSISA “ All Hands” monthly tela-conference.
January 15th – Hosted a visit from local Girl Scout Troop 1586. Karen McKendra and Eva Kelley were the troop leaders.
January 16th – Annual January Open House at Mark Martin’s Magisterial District Court.
February 2nd – Officiated a wedding.

February 12th – The Crime Watch speaker will be Mechanicsburg’s Police Chief, David Spotts. The Chief has requested hot dogs as refreshments for the evening. All are welcome.

The new exhibit at the Museum is “150th Anniversary of Irving College”.
This weekend is the Friends of the Library book sale at Books by the Gross.

Trivia Question: The Orris House at 318 West Main Street was the location of the Cumberland Valley Institute. What was the Orris House used for before it became a private residence?

Answer: The Methodist Home for Children. Joe Cress had the correct answer.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

No report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No report.

ENGINEER REPORT:

No report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

No report.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Ford had no report.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Development– Humes – No report.

Environmental Committee- Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that at the EAC meeting this evening an excellent presentation was made by the Clean Air Board and they thanked Council for their support. The presentation was on the importance of the air quality in this area, which is among the worst in the nation. The Recycling committee also met this evening and discussed recycling and concerns about the lack of recycling of cardboard and paper products. Education methods were discussed as well as possible changes in the next contract to make recycling of cardboard easier.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – No report.

Fire Committee –Ryder – Councilman Ryder stated that the Fire Committee met last week and expressed concerns about the need for blood borne pathogen training. Jack Niebert of Citizen’s Fire Company was present and confirmed that Washington & Citizens will be putting training together in the near future, using another trainer. The Standard Operation Procedures are done and a copy will be available for Council members at the next Council meeting for review and adoption.

Health and Recreation – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that February 13th at 7 PM is the next Recreation Commission meeting. Thursday February 22nd at 7:30 PM will be the Joint Recreation Commission meeting at Elmwood School at 7 PM. Saturday April 21st is the Great PA Clean Up in Mechanicsburg and volunteers can meet here at the municipal building.

Highway/Public Safety – Stoner – Councilman Stoner reported an item is on the agenda this evening.

Loan Review Committee - Humes – No report.

Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action – Humes – No report.

Property/Buildings –Stoner - No report.

Public Communications – McDermott – Friday, February 16th is the deadline for the spring edition of the Borough Newsletter. Councilman McDermott asked that information on the Pandemic be added to the Borough site web site.

Councilman Humes stated that the County has brochures available and asked that they be obtained and made available to residents at the Borough Office.

School Board- Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that a preliminary budget has been presented, which includes a tax increase. Councilman Ryder reported that the Superintendent is proposing full day kindergarten in the School District for the 2008-2009 school year. The day recreation program will go into effect for the 2007-2008 school year as a prelude to this change.

W.S.C.O.G – McDermott – Councilman McDermott reported that the COG will meet on the 19th to discuss the name change to Greater Capital Region Council of Governments and establishment of a trick or treat date for Halloween.

AGENDA ITEMS – February 6, 2007

◆ **Resolution 08-2007 in Memory of Dick Wevodau.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Humes, to adopt Resolution 08-2007 in memory of Dick Wevodau. The motion passed unanimously.

◆ **Discussion on Police Pension Plan Joinder Agreement revision.**

Manager Stough reviewed the joinder agreement with Borough Council. Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to authorize the Solicitor to draft and advertise the revised joinder agreement for the Police Pension Plan. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion on Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Joinder Agreement.**

Manager Stough reviewed the joinder agreement with Borough Council. Councilman Humes made a motion, to authorize the Solicitor to draft and advertise the joinder agreement Ordinance. Vice President Ryder seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Consider accepting a \$10,000 grant from PennDOT to target aggressive driving on Route 114.**

Chief Spotts reviewed the opportunity for the Borough to receive grant funding as part of the smooth operator grant program which targets aggressive drivers. The grant has no municipal match and the grant would be for operations along Route 114 and would pay for overtime paid to officers during selected enforcement operations. Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Humes to approve the acceptance of the \$10,000 grant offered as part of the Smooth Operator program. Vice President Ryder asked if the program would provide enforcement for commercial vehicles. Chief Spotts indicated that the grant would cover enforcement action for both passenger and commercial vehicles driving aggressively and crosswalk enforcement. After discussion, the motion passed with all in favor. Councilman Ryder asked about the crosswalk signs. He stated that during the last Fire Committee meeting the fact that these signs are not being removed at night was discussed. Chief Spotts stated that he would check with John and Sally Holbert, of the Safe Routes to School Committee, about having the signs removed in the evening, after students walking to school are home. President Whitcomb stated that the Chief should ask them to have signs removed from the roadway during inclement weather.

◆ **Discussion on vacating of a Shade Tree Commission appointment.**

Manager Stough stated that Mr. Strohl, on the Shade Tree Commission, has been inactive for quite some time and has not returned calls from staff to inquire regarding his interest and remaining on the Commission. Manager Stough stated that Mr. Strohl was informed that Council would be taking action to vacate his appointment at this meeting, if we did not hear from him. Mr. Stough stated that Mr. Daryl Kenes has expressed an interest in serving on the Shade Tree Commission. Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to vacate Mr. Strohl's seat and replacement him with Daryl Kenes, for a term through December 2008. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and authorization to amend 2007 administrative office schedule for Veteran's Day.**

Manager Stough asked that the administrative staff be allowed to recognize the Veteran's Day Holiday on December 24th, instead of November 12th, which is the day after Veterans Day. This would be similar to the celebrating "Columbus Day" on the first day of antlerless deer season each year. The Office Staff that do not hunt currently observe Columbus Day on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to approve this change in the celebration of Veterans Day for the Administrative Staff for 2007. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion on stop sign at Alison Avenue and Darla Road.**

Councilman Stoner discussed the extending of no parking regulations or changing the stop signs at this location to three way to help with traffic congestion during ball season. Chief Spotts indicated that a traffic study would be required at this location to meet optional criteria that could support a change to the stop signs at this location. Chief Spotts indicated that if Council wants to proceed, they should direct Engineer Barber to conduct a study to see if the site meets the optional criteria and submit an opinion to Council. President Whitcomb stated that if this is done now, traffic and parking volumes are less so the optional criteria may not be met. After discussion Councilman Humes made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder, to table this matter until the next meeting when the Engineer would be present to give Council further direction regarding the survey. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Authorization to apply for County Liquid Fuels in the amount of \$3,678.83.**

Manager Stough indicated that every other year the Borough is eligible to apply to the County for Liquid Fuels money to do patching and road maintenance. Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to authorize the Manager to apply to Cumberland County for Liquid Fuels funding in the amount of \$3,678.33 to be used for road patching. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussions on handicapped parking permit regulations.**

Councilman Stoner reported that one of the applications for renewal of handicapped parking spaces had twelve vehicles listed. Councilman Stoner voiced concern that the enforcement of a space with so many vehicles listed would be a burden for the Police Department. Manager Stough indicated that Council reviewed this last year and staff removed the license plate numbers from all spaces and replaced those with the placard number as most of the applicants had placards, not plates. Solicitor Schorpp reviewed the criteria for the Police Department to cite drivers for not being compliant. After additional discussion on the procedures for renewal of the permits and how enforcement of the spaces is handled, it was decided that no action was needed at this time. Nancy Hanlon asked President Whitcomb if the Borough had a limit on the number of spaces that could be allocated in a block. President Whitcomb indicated that there was no limit on the number of permit per block, each permit is judged on the established criteria.

◆ **Consider reduction request of St. Joseph's Church on their letter of credit.**

Manager Stough noted that Pennoni Associates reviewed the work at St. Joseph's and recommended reduction of the bond to \$6,926.55 which would be sufficient to cover any outstanding bonded public improvements are made. Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to reduce the bond to \$6,926.55. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and authorization to send a letter of support to Penn DOT for moving the traffic pole at Simpson & York Streets.**

Manager Stough distributed a sketch of the intersection at W. Simpson and S. York Street showing the proposed traffic pole location and the location that the Borough is recommending for the placement of the pole with the acquisition of the corner property by the Borough. Mr. Stough stated that PennDOT would like a letter from the Borough stating that the Borough would take responsibility for any and all costs up to the 1.2 million dollar project cost if this request impacted funding of the project in any way. Manager Stough indicated that he has contacted PHMC and they will support the Borough's request to move the pole, as they were aware of and did approve the demolition of the potentially contributing historic structure at this location due the severely deteriorated condition of the structure and the inability of the owner to make the extensive repairs needed to make the structure fit for habitation. Due to the involvement of the Federal Highway Administration, PennDOT is hesitant to support any changes to the proposed project. Manager Stough stated that he would recommend to Borough Council that they authorize a letter be sent to PennDOT asking for them to contact the Federal Highway Administration to request consideration for this small change in the proposed project, which would move the pole location about six feet from the originally proposed location. The cost difference in the poles required to make this change is about \$963, however, if the Borough would wait until completion of the project and then choose to change the pole location next year, it would cost the Borough about \$25,000 to \$30,000 to wait and do it after completion of the project. Councilman Seagrist asked the Manager if he has talked to Scott Tochterman about this issue, as his firm had help to secure the funding, on behalf of the Borough. for this project. Manager Stough stated that he did speak to Mr. Tochterman yesterday. Manager Stough stated that he has also contacted Congressman Platt's office and asked for support in securing this change. Vice President Ryder stated that the whole process of making this change improves to PennDOT highways, and improves visibility at a PennDOT intersection and he doesn't understand why PennDOT should be in opposition. Vice President Ryder made a motion to direct the Manager to draft and send a letter to PennDOT requesting PennDOT contact the Federal Highway Administration regarding the change of the pole location at the intersection of South York and West Simpson and that the Manager should carbon copy the legislators on this matter. Councilman Humes seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion on Intergovernmental Pool Agreement.**

Councilman Seagrist reported that he has received the pool agreement back from Upper Allen Township, and he did not see any significant changes, but would ask that Council and the Solicitor review the proposed agreement and that it be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

◆ **Discussion on regulations for Chamber of Commerce sponsored events.**

Councilman Seagrist stated that at a recent Chamber event, he was approached by a member of the Chamber Board to ask Borough Council to consider granting the Chamber the ability to set regulations for Chamber sponsored events and have the Borough Police enforce those regulations. These regulations would include, but not be limited to, animal regulations. Councilman Seagrist stated that he is using animals as an example; with Jubilee Day it is not safe to have animals, even on a leash, in such large crowds of people. Vice President Ryder stated that the Chamber does have regulations and those regulations are clearly posted during the Jubilee Day event. Councilman Ciecierski stated he seen a Chamber representative ask someone to remove a dog during Jubilee Day last year, and the

person complied with the request. Solicitor Schorpp advised Borough Council that this request would be unenforceable, unless it was included in some type of Borough Ordinance. Chief Spotts explained that in the past, the Jubilee Day staff has enforced the Chamber regulations for Jubilee Day and the Police Department addresses any violations to Borough Ordinance or the law that may arise. The Chief stated that last year there was an issue that someone tried to sell items without a vendor license through the Chamber. The Chamber asked the Police Department to deal with this issue; however, the person had obtained a solicitation permit from the Borough, but did not want to pay the Chamber fee. Since this is not a violation of law, the Police Department can not charge the person with any crime. The Solicitor stated that any violations of the regulations are a civil matter between the Chamber and the offending party.

◆ **Discussion on possible service projects within the Borough.**

Councilman Seagrist stated that he has been approached by John Bowen, looking for a service project for a faith base organization. Councilman Seagrist asked for Council members to let him know if they have any suggestions, so he can get back to Mr. Bowen by February 21st. Councilman Ryder stated that he has also been contacted and was looking into a project coordinating with the Recycling Committee, to get out the word about paper and cardboard recycling. Manager Stough stated that he has been contacted by both a church and the PTO at the Middle School looking for community projects. The Middle School is looking for projects for their environmental day in the spring. Manager Stough stated that he is meeting with the PTO to discuss the plot at the corner of Simpson and York, which needs some landscaping. Councilman Seagrist concluded by asking Council to come up with some suggestion by the next meeting.

◆ **Discussion on consideration for allowing deduct water meters on residential properties within the Borough.**

Councilman McDermott stated that he thinks that this is worth pursuing and Council should have more information from other service providers before Council rules out this option, which would help residents reduce their cost. Vice President Ryder stated he also would like to receive more information. Councilman Humes stated that she also supports seeking more information. Discussion followed on the problems that have occurred at Silver Spring Municipal Authority with their deduct meter program. Manager Stough indicated that he would contact PA American to see if they know of any other municipalities that are using this option for residents and report back to Borough Council. Councilman Ciecierski asked how the base rate for the sewer was established. Manager Stough indicated it was calculated base on the required amount of operation costs for the wastewater treatment plant. Pennoni Associates reviewed the sample data from United Water and came up with a rate that generated the needed monies to fund the sewer budget. Councilman Ciecierski asked about the average household usage was. Manager Stough stated that average usage is 9000 gallons per quarter, but to allow that much usage for the minimum, the base rate would need to be higher, maybe as high as \$75 per quarter to receive the amount of revenue required to fund the operations at the plant.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Jack Niebert, 411 Alison Avenue, stated that the three way stop sign at Alison and Darla would not resolve narrow street width and parking area on both sides of the street. Mr. Niebert stated that both Fire Companies are in need of volunteers, if anyone knows of individuals wanting to be of service to the community.

Bob Dietrich, Washington Fire Company, stated that during the last Fire Committee meeting the need for controls for the traffic signals at the Fire Houses for safety as part of the signalization project. Mr. Dietrich asked what the status was of funding those controls. Manager Stough stated that the Borough paid for the Engineering, with the understanding that PennDOT would pay for the construction cost. The Borough has not totaled its engineering costs to date, but Manager Stough indicated that he would check to see how close to the \$300,000 cut off the Borough was with their expenses. Vice President Ryder asked that the Manager also explore the operation and maintenance cost of these signals.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There was none.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

President Whitcomb updated the committee appointments with the addition of Councilman Ciecierski. An updated Committee List is attached to the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:19 PM, President Whitcomb adjourned the meeting to executive session on a real estate matter, with no action to be taken.



Jonathan S. Stough, Borough Secretary