

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

February 20, 2007

7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:30 PM, President Whitcomb called the 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 Ryder, Councilmen Ciecierski, Humes, McDermott, Seagrist, Stoner, Jr. Councilperson Ford, Solicitor Schorpp, Engineer Barber, Mayor Ritter, Chief Spotts, Manager Stough, and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Chief Seagrist was out on a fire call and arrived late.

Also in attendance: Bob Dietrich, Keith Hensel and Ron Trace.

GUESTS:

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Keith Hensel, 18 E Keller Street, addressed Borough Council regarding snow plowing during the recent snow event. He stated that the Borough crews plow west to east, which deposits most of the snow on the south side of the street, which gets the least amount of sunlight. Council listened to the suggestions made by Mr. Hensel which would take advantage of the sun to help melt the snow faster. Mr. Hensel then asked to have the storm drains on the corner of Washington and Keller opened by the Borough crew. He stated that the adjacent property belongs to his 87 year old handicapped mother-in-law. He stated that he opened the sidewalks and drain, but the Borough came back through to widen the intersection and covered them over. This intersection is on a walking route to school and the children are forced to walk out in the roadway to avoid the ponding water. Mr. Hensel stated that the ice is so hard that he can not remove it from the storm drain. Manager Stough asked when the drain was covered over. Mr. Hensel stated it was over night on Wednesday evening. Manager Stough will check on this matter and ask the Highway Department to address it.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

There were none.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough reported the following correspondence received:

- ◆ A letter was received from the Cumberland County Planning Commission with their comments on the Comprehensive Plan. The comments have been forwarded to the Borough Planning Commission to be addressed.
- ◆ Three letters were received from Main Street Mechanicsburg, one in support of the Borough's draft Comprehensive Plan, one in support of the Borough Rental Housing Inspection Program and one announcing that Main Street Mechanicsburg has received 501.C.3 tax status. Manager Stough stated that receiving this tax exempt status is impressive as many Main Street Programs are not tax exempt. Councilman Humes stated that the Main Street Trust program, in the 1980's, was never able to obtain tax exempt status.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Whitcomb stated that there were corrections to minutes of February 6th by Councilman Humes and they were corrected and distributed to Council for review. Councilman Humes made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of February 6, 2007. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Councilman McDermott made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ciecierski, to approve the monthly reports as submitted. The motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough reported that the Manager's Annual report for 2006 is printed and will be mailed to residents tomorrow.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Feb 10th & 11th – The Friends of the Joseph T. Simpson Library sold \$8,196 worth of used books at their “Books by the Gross” sale. The Mayor thanked all the volunteers that made this possible.
- Feb 12th – Mayor Ritter made a presentation at the Samuel C. Perkins Royal Arch Chapter #209 at the Masonic Hall on South Market Street. The Crime Watch meeting was also held on the 12th with the speaker being Borough Police Chief, David Spotts.
- Feb 15th - The Mayor attended the Annual Navy Prayer Breakfast. These breakfasts are observed world wide at military installations.
- Feb 17th - The Washington Fire Company #1 held their annual awards banquet at the Mechanicsburg Club.

Trivia Question: What did the Washington Fire Company buy in July of 1869 at a cost of \$275. What was it and where is it today?

Answer: A hose spider cart. It was rebuilt in 1975 and is on display at the National Fire Museum in Harrisburg.

President Whitcomb asked Mayor Ritter about the recently declared snow emergency. Manager Stough stated that the Borough Staff needs to coordinate with the Mayor to provide press releases that spell out the parking regulations and other restrictions. After discussion, Mayor Ritter and Manager Stough will develop a press release, which can be adjusted for each situation and will provide it to all of Council. Discussion followed about past practice, with the Manager stating that changes to the CDL regulations have made it more difficult to extend work shifts.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief Spotts reported that he received a citizen letter of commendation for Lt. Myers. He also reported that the Borough's participation in the “Buckle Up PA” program was renewed for another year.

Chief Spotts asked Borough Council for permission to delay sidewalk snow removal letters until Thursday to allow residents more time to clear the ice and snow from the walkways. Vice President Ryder stated that he feels the letters should be sent, to provide safe walkways for children walking to school and pedestrians. Councilman Stoner stated he favored more time, since the plows had deposited ice and snow on many of the walkways. President Whitcomb stated he favors waiting a few days, to give residents more time. After discussion, Chief Spotts was directed to wait until Friday to send the letters.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

No Report.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

No Report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist reported that the Snow Emergency declared by the Mayor, gives the Borough the opportunity to apply for any State or Federal funds if a state or federal snow emergency is declared during a storm event.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Ford reported:

- School is holding testing for Juniors this week.
- Winter sports are coming to a close and Spring sports will be starting soon.
- Tickets are going on sale for the High School Musical, 42nd Street, in about two weeks.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Development– Humes – No report.

Environmental/Recycling Committee – Ryder – No report.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Whitcomb - No report.

Fire Committee –Stoner – No report – Agenda item.

Health/Recreation –Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist asked why Councilman Ciecierski is not chairing a committee.

President Whitcomb did not give a reason. Councilman Seagrist reported that the Recreation Commission, scheduled for last Tuesday, February 13th, was cancelled due to the weather. The next meeting will be March 13th. The Joint Recreation Commission will meet on February 22nd at Elmwood Elementary at 7:30 PM. The annual Easter Egg Hunt at Memorial Park will be held on March 31st at 11 AM with a rain date of April 7th.

Highway/Public Safety – Stoner – No report - Agenda item

Loan Review Committee- Humes – No report.

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

Property/Buildings – Stoner – No report.

Public Communication – McDermott – Councilman McDermott stated that work is proceeding on the Spring Newsletter. He thanked Manager Stough for putting the information on the Avian Flu Pandemic on the Borough website. Councilman McDermott stated that the Red Cross provided a handout on the Avian Flu, which is available at the Borough Office.

School Board – Ryder – Councilman Ryder – Councilman Ryder reported that the School Board is holding a Public Information session next Tuesday, Feb 27th, at the Middle School at 7 PM on the ballot question which will be on the Primary ballot regarding tax reform.

W.S.C.O.G. – McDermott – Councilman McDermott reported that the COG met last night and changed the organization name to The Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). The Cumberland County contingent of the COG approved the Clean Air Board Resolution, with North Middleton Township abstaining. The longest portion of the meeting was the discussion on setting the date for Trick or Treat night for 2007. Representatives were asked to poll their municipalities to see if they want to observe the date on the 31st of October if that is a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and then revert to the 4th Wednesday if the 31st is on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday. The other option is to go back to always observing Trick or Treat on the 4th Thursday of October. Discussion followed about changing the date from the 31st to whatever date is selected by the COG. Manager Stough asked that Councilman McDermott ask the COG to also set the date for 2008, to allow municipalities to plan ahead.

AGENDA ITEMS – February 20, 2007

◆ **Consider Approval of Certificates of Appropriateness for the Following Applications:**

1. Carol Leisey, 7 W. Main Street, Suite B for Signage on the Alley behind the Structure.

Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Humes, to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at 7 W Main Street. The motion passed with all in favor.

2. Ronald B Hoffman, 225 W Simpson Street for Replacement of Gutter, Downspout and Fascia.

Councilman Ciecierski made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Ronald Hoffman for replacement of gutter, downspout and fascia at 225 West Simpson Street, with the recommendation outlined in the HARB minutes of February 12th. Vice President Ryder seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

3. Kevin & Barbara Jackson, 318 W Main Street for Signage.

Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder, to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at 318 West Main Street, advertising the Orris Eberly Bed and Breakfast. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Consider Request of Treva Short, 48 West Allen Street, 1st Floor, for a Handicapped Parking Permit.**

Councilman Stoner reported that he and Officer Dyer reviewed the application and recommend approval; with the condition that the applicant relinquish the space after recovery from surgery. Solicitor Schorpp questioned if the applicant had a handicapped placard. Councilman Stoner indicated that she has applied for one but has not received it. President Whitcomb stated that he does not think Council can consider the application without a placard. After a brief discussion, Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to table this application until a placard is provided. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Stough stated that there is already an approved handicapped parking space at this property and if the second space is granted the sign may have to be installed on the curbing of the neighboring property as there is not sufficient space along the curb line to post for two handicapped spaces.

◆ **Discussion on the Allendale Road Traffic Study.**

Engineer Barber reported to Borough Council on his findings when the Allendale Road Traffic Study was performed. Engineer Barber stated that he supports the option of posting the road as restricted for vehicles with three or more axles, as this would be easier to enforce. He stated that weight and load restrictions are harder to enforce because the vehicle has to be weighed on a certified scale to enforce the restriction. Much discussion followed on the amount of needed signage and the impact to adjacent streets and the allowance for local deliveries. Solicitor Schorpp will research the definition of "Local Delivery" to clarify the term for Council. A discussion followed on the bonding of vehicles making local deliveries to help to cover the cost of restoration of damages. Chief Spotts spoke in support of the posting for no vehicles with three or more axles. President Whitcomb asked if a traffic counter was deployed at this location. Chief Spotts indicated that it was last year and about 5% of the vehicles were trucks, class 4 or higher. After some additional discussion, Councilman Humes made a motion to direct the Solicitor to draft an Ordinance restricting trucks with three or more axles from using Allendale Road. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and Possible Authorization for a Traffic Study at the Intersection of Alison Avenue and Darla Road.**

Engineer Barber addressed Borough Council on the requirements for making this intersection a three-way stop intersection, stating that the location does not meet the warrants for installation of a three-way stop. Engineer Barber suggested a Site Distance Study to determine the best parking restriction for this location to improve visibility. Much discussion followed on the flow of traffic and parking at this location during activities at Koser Park. President Whitcomb asked for a motion and Councilman Stoner made a motion to authorize a Site Distance Study at the intersection of

Alison Avenue and Darla Road. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion and the floor was open for discussion. Councilman Ciecierski asked for clarification on the motion, if it is for a Traffic Study or a Site Distance Study, and Councilman Stoner clarified it was for a Site Distance Study that he was making a motion to have conducted. Vice President Ryder stated he thought that the study should be conducted during the sports season. Engineer Barber said that it would be easier to do the study when there were fewer cars parked along the roadway. Councilman Ciecierski stated that he feels there is a site distance issue at this location, even when sporting events are not taking place. After clarification and some additional discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion on Setting a Date for a Public Hearing on the Draft Comprehensive Plan.**

Councilman McDermott asked that a date be selected for the meeting, which would be after the newsletter is distributed to residents. Manager Stough indicated that the newsletter should be out to residents by March 15th. Dates were discussed and March 29th at 7:00 PM was chosen as the date for the Public Hearing. The Solicitor will advertise the date and time.

◆ **Discussion on Fire Police Mutual Aid Agreement.**

Manager Stough stated that a draft of an agreement from Cumberland County was distributed to Borough Council. Solicitor Schorpp suggested that Council review the draft and take it under consideration, but take no action at this time. Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Stoner to table action until additional information is received. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion on the New Fire Department Standard Operation Procedures.**

Chief Seagrist stated that the procedures will be referred to as Standard Operation Guidelines, not procedures and he is still working on the draft. Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Humes, to table discussion until a draft copy is received and reviewed by Borough Council. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion on the Intermunicipal Pool Agreement.**

A memo received from Solicitor Schorpp on the changes to the pool agreement was discussed. Councilman Seagrist asked for direction from Borough Council on how they wanted to proceed. Discussion followed with Borough Council directing Councilman Seagrist to meet with the Manager or representatives from the Township to try to have the questions raised by the Borough Solicitor answered. Discussion followed on the numbering of the sections of both the memo and the agreement, and Councilman Seagrist indicated he would clean up the document and put it in final form before it is presented to Council for signatures.

◆ **Discussion on Appointments of a Recreation Commission Member to Fill a Term Expiring December 31, 2007, Appointment of a Planning Commission Member to Fill a Term Expiring December 31, 2010 & Appointment of a Second Zoning Hearing Board Alternate.**

Manager addressed Borough Council about the appointments to the Recreation and Planning Commissions and the Zoning Hearing Board, stating that a memo was provided to Borough Council on all the candidates and an updated list of candidates is on the Council table this evening. Discussion followed on how the appointments have been handled in the past. Manager Stough stated that sometimes the Board or Commission has made a recommendation and some times Council has appointed a volunteer off of the list of volunteers that is maintained in the Borough Office from the residents that apply to the request in the Borough newsletter for volunteers. Manager Stough stated that both the Planning Commission and the Recreation Commission cancelled their meetings last week where they could have considered and made recommendations on appointments to Borough Council. Much discussion followed on the subject with Vice President Ryder suggesting that Council send this to committee. After discussion Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Seagrist, to direct the Health and Recreation Committee of Borough Council to schedule a meeting with the applicants, and the Recreation Director, to interview the candidates for the position on the Recreation Commission and also for the Ordinance Administration Committee and the Planning Commission Chairman to schedule a meeting to interview candidates for the vacancy on the Planning Commission and for both committees to report back to Council with a recommendation. The motion passed with all in favor. Councilman Humes then made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder, to appoint Kathy Bernd, 116 West Keller Street, as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three year term from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Approve Sale of 8' Western Plow.**

Manager Stough reported that he put out for sealed bids on an 8' Western Plow, which the Borough was no longer using. None of the bids were in excess of \$1,000 so no action of Council is required. The plow will be sold for \$250 to Elliot & Jennifer Chotas, the only bidder.

◆ **Acceptance of the Real Estate Tax Duplicates in the Amount of \$123,038,630.**

Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to approve the 2007 Real Estate Tax Duplicates in the amount of \$123,038,630. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Acceptance of the Per Capita Tax Duplicates in the Amount of \$28,615.**

Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Humes, to accept the 2007 Per Capita Tax Duplicates in the amount of \$28,615. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Consider Request for a Letter of Support for United Water's Boring under the Norfolk Southern Railroad Tracks on North High Street.**

Manager Stough reviewed the scope of work for this United Water project with Borough Council. Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Humes, to authorize the Borough Manager to draft and send a letter of support to United Water in support of the proposed project and boring under the Norfolk Southern line at High Street and Strawberry Alley. The motion passed with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES PAID: Vice President Ryder made a motion to approve invoices and expenditures paid from December 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. Councilman Stoner seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

General Fund: \$153,216.52 Highway Aid Fund \$9,959.33 Capital Fund: \$2,747.44

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL:

Councilman Seagrist asked for suggestions on service projects for a local church group. Several upcoming projects were discussed including the cleaning of the Trindle Spring run area and planting at the Borough lot at the corner of West Simpson and South York Streets.

Councilman Stoner asked Manager Stough about the remaining fencing to be installed at the Compost site, since the company, Abel Fencing, recently had a fire. Manager Stough will check with the company regarding their ability to still provide fencing services.

Chief Seagrist stated that he would be unavailable for the Fire meeting scheduled for March 28th. Councilman Stoner stated that he will reschedule the meeting to March 21st at 7 PM and Chief Seagrist will notify both Fire Departments of the change.

Jr. Councilperson Ford stated that she is a member of the High School Environmental Club, and will be working on some of the service projects discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:39 PM, with no further business to discuss, President Whitcomb adjourned the meeting.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary