

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

November 5, 2007

7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

President Whitcomb called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:30 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, Seagrist, Stoner, Jr. Councilperson Ford, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Chief Spotts, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Chief Seagrist was absent.

Also in attendance: Creason – Sentinel, Ron Adams, Sandra Addams, Ashley Chambers, Officer Brian Curtis, Lt. Margaret Myers, Fred Pracht, Larry Roberts, Ranny Singiser and Ron Trace.

GUESTS:

There were none.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Fred Pracht, 315 East Main Street, addressed Borough Council regarding street sweeping. Mr. Pracht stated that he and his wife, Hope, have resided in the Borough for the past thirty years. Mr. Pracht stated that he and his wife remind the other neighbors in the 300 block of East Main Street to move their vehicles on Thursday mornings, so that the street sweeper can clean the street in their block. There have been many weeks over this summer season that the street sweeper has not been operational. Mr. Pracht stated that with the recent effort for downtown revitalization, comes the need to improve maintenance of the public thoroughfares. Mr. Pracht stated that he would like to request that Borough Council give consideration to the acquisition of a new and more reliable street sweeper.

Mr. Pracht inquired if the Borough had a plan for the replacement of vehicles and equipment. Manager Stough indicated that the street sweeper was purchased new in 1998. President Whitcomb stated that sometimes the street sweeper does not run if there is a water shortage. President Whitcomb asked how much a street sweeper costs. Manager Stough indicated that a replacement would cost over \$120,000. Manager Stough stated that the problem is that it takes some time to receive the parts to make the repairs when something breaks and the repairs are often labor intensive. Manager Stough stated that the Borough could cut back on the amount of sweeping that is done to cut down on the wear and tear on the equipment. Vice President Ryder suggested the elimination of the areas that are currently swept twice a week. Ron Adams stated that when they empty the sweeper there is not a large amount of debris collected. Manager Stough will discuss the sweeping schedule with Superintendent Yinger to see if cut backs can be made. Mr. Pracht thanked Borough Council for allowing him to voice his concern.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Vice President Ryder added request for “No Parking” from the First United Methodist Church sleep out for the homeless.

Manager Stough added discussion on a letter of support for the Main Street Mechanicsburg Signage Grant, being applied for by the Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority. He also added consideration of the appointment of Darwin Hollinger to the Shade Tree Commission.

Councilman Ciecierski asked that a Regional Trails Update be added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough reported:

A letter was received from Scott Marks to be a guest at the Veterans Day Ceremony in regard to his Eagle Scout Project.

A letter was received from the Cumberland County Fire Police requesting donations of “gently used” equipment for their new SPERT Trailer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Ciecierski made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2007 Borough Council meeting, with the corrections previously noted. Vice President Ryder seconded the motion, which passed with no dissenting votes.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Manager Stough reported that the PSAB update was received and it reminded municipalities that three billion federal dollars are distributed based on population, so it is important that the Census figures for municipalities are accurate.

Keystone Municipal Insurance Trust held their quarterly Board meeting at the Borough Municipal Center. The Borough received its first dividend check in the amount of \$3,229. Keystone provides safety training to member organization free of charge. The Wastewater Department has already used this service to provide employee training.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

October 28th – The Mayor attended an Eagle Court of Honor for three scouts from the same family. Matthew, Eric and Robert Martin are the sons of Mark and Patricia Martin. All received citations and keys to the city at this important event.

November 3rd – Officiated a wedding at the Union Church.

Trivia Question: The largest Pecan tree in Pennsylvania is in Mechanicsburg. It is 120 feet tall and 11 ½ feet in circumference and is approximately 150 years old. Where is it?

Answer: It is on the property next to Legion Post 109 on West Main Street. Much of its root system is under the parking lot of the Legion. This information was confirmed by Gene Odando of the State Forestry Department.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Letters of commendation were received for Officers Dyer and Anthony. Two letters were received for Officer Montgomery. The Borough Police Department has been preliminary approved for the Buckle Up and Smooth Operator programs in 2008. The Department had the highest enforcement for Region 2, which will make more dollars available for enforcement in 2008.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

No report.

ENGINEER REPORT:

No report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

No report.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Ford reminded everyone that this Friday and Saturday will be the Fall Play, “Alice in Wonderland” and last Friday the football team won their game.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Capital Area COG - McDermott – Councilman McDermott reported that the COG will meet on the 19th and the Municipal Advisory Board will meet on the 13th. The Commissioners will give update on the 800 MHz radios at that time. An update on the Chesapeake Bay initiative will also be given.

Community Development – Humes – Councilman Humes congratulated the Police Department for solving the hit and run accident involving the pedestrian on West Main Street. Chief Spotts stated without information provided by a witness, they may not have been able to clear the case.

Environmental Committee - Ryder – No report.

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

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Whitcomb – President Whitcomb asked Council members to let him know if they wanted to schedule another budget meeting.

Fire Committee –Stoner – The next meeting will be held on November 28th.

Health and Recreation – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that the next Recreation meeting will be Tuesday, November 13th at 7 PM. The next Joint Recreation Committee meeting will be on November 29th at Elmwood Elementary. Councilman Seagrist noted that appointments to the Pool Committee are on the agenda.

Highway/Public Safety – Stoner – Councilman Stoner reported an agenda item.

Loan Review Committee - Humes – No report.

Ordinance Administration – Humes – No report.

Property/Buildings –Stoner –No report.

Public Communications – McDermott – The deadline for the Winter Edition of the Borough Newsletter is this Friday.

School Board - Ryder – Vice President Ryder reported that he attended a meeting with parents of students that will be attending Kindergarten in the full-day program next year. This was a fact finding meeting, with much good discussion and input from the community. The School District received a Grant to place 20, low income, preschool children in Pre-K programs. All 20 children have been registered and there is a possibility that more money may be received to help additional children receive a better educational start.

AGENDA ITEMS – November 5, 2007

- ◆ **Consider Agreement with Traditions of America to Allow Sewer Line Expansion on Gross Drive.**
Ron Adams reviewed the project with Borough Council. The final copy should be received this week. Councilman Ciecierski made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder, to authorize President Whitcomb to sign the Agreement with Traditions of America for the sewer line expansion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Authorization to Submit the Water Quality Management Permit Application to DEP for Sewer Main Expansion on Gross Drive.**
Manager Stough reported that the Permit application was prepared by Alpha Consulting and reviewed by Gannett Fleming. Councilman Ciecierski made a motion, second by Councilman Humes to approve the submission of the Water Quality Management Permit to DEP. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Consider Release of the Letter of Credit for St. Joseph Parish.**

Manager Stough reported that Engineer Barber reviewed the work and authorized the release of the letter of credit. Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to release the letter of credit. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Consider Approval of the West Shore Tax Bureau Budget of \$1,310,680 for 2008.**

Vice President Ryder asked how much the budget increased from 2007. Manager Stough reported that it increased 10.59% over the 2007 budget due to some additional staff being added. Manager Stough noted that a fee reduction due to a new method of calculating fees is proposed for 2008. Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski to approve the West Shore Tax Bureau budget for 2008 as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Resolution 19-2007 Designating the West Shore Tax Bureau as the Collection Agent for Earned Income Tax and Naming a Representative and Alternate to the West Shore Tax Bureau for 2008.**

Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to designate the West Shore Tax Bureau as the collection agent for 2008 and name Harry Gsell as the delegate and Councilman Seagrist as the alternate. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and Approval of the Non-Uniform and Uniform Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2008.**

Manager Stough reviewed the Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2008. The Non-Uniform Plan is due for \$57,664 and for the Uniform Plan \$112,137 will be due. The recommended Member Contribution for 2008 will be 3.5% which will provide \$33,417. Councilman Humes made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to approve the 2008 MMO amounts for the Uniform plan at \$112,137 and for the Non-Uniform plan at \$57,664. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Resolution 20-2007 Setting Member Contribution to the Police Pension Fund for 2008.**

Manager Stough stated that 3.5% is the proposed contribution rate for the Uniform personnel for 2008. Councilman Ciecierski made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder, to approve Resolution 20-2007 as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and Possible Action on the Request of Barbara Kendall for a Handicapped Parking Space at 110 East Locust Street.**

Councilman Stoner made a motion to approve the handicapped parking space for Barbara Kendall. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion and President Whitcomb opened the floor for discussion. Councilman Humes asked if the proposed space will be across the street from Ms. Kendall's property. Councilman Stoner indicated it would.

Manager Stough stated that there have been a number of situations in the past few years where the need for the space is somewhat grey. He added that by allowing individuals with placards to obtain a space, it opens it up to many more individuals than if the applicant had to have a handicapped license plate, own a car and drive everyday. Many of the residents with spaces currently do not drive or own a car. These individuals use their space only when someone comes to take them to an appointment or to run an errand. This causes the spaces to be empty in congested areas except for two or three trips per week. Manager Stough recommended that Council consider requiring a handicapped plate to obtain a designated handicapped space.

Councilman Humes asked about individuals that require transportation. Chief Spotts indicated that drivers could double park for short periods of time while loading or unloading a passenger with mobility issues. President Whitcomb asked about the narrow one-way streets with parking on one side. Chief Spotts stated that the driver could stop and others should be patient, while the handicapped person is being assisted, even if it temporarily blocks the street. President Whitcomb asked Solicitor Schorpp to investigate the legality of changing the requirement to a handicapped plate.

After additional discussion, Councilman Seagrist made a motion to table, pending revisions. Vice President Ryder seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion failed, by a vote of 4 opposed. President Whitcomb then called for a vote on the motion to approve the space for Kendall and it passed with all in favor.

- ◆ **Consider Hiring Matthew J. Frankowski as a Community Service Officer.**
Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to hire Matthew J. Frankowski as a Community Service Officer. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and Possible Action on the 2008 Humane Society Contract.**
Chief Spotts reviewed the contract with Council stating that this contract represents a 400% increase over last year's contract. Emergency calls are not part of this year's contract and the Borough will have to transport the animals to the East Shore. Chief Spotts stated that he is working with Lower Allen Township to coordinate dropping off animals at their newly constructed dog runs, where the Humane Society would be willing to pick them up. After considerable discussion, Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to table this to a future meeting. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and Possible Action Appointments to the Joint Capital Pool Committee.**
Vice President Ryder stated that he would like to have a Council member on this Committee and asked Councilman Seagrist if he is willing to serve. Councilman Seagrist reminded Council that a Councilperson is not required to be on this Committee and that there is a list of many qualified applicants willing to serve. After discussion, Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to appoint Councilman Seagrist to a two-year term on the Joint Pool Committee. The motion passed with all in favor. Councilman Seagrist then made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder, to appoint Diann Meck to a two-year term on the Joint Pool Committee. The motion passed with all in favor. Councilman Seagrist then made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to appoint Barbara Dennison to a one-year term on the Joint Pool Committee. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and Possible Action on Change to Self-Insured Deductible for Health Insurance in 2008.**
Manager Stough reviewed proposed changes to the Health Insurance coverage for employees from a \$1,000 deductible to a \$3,000 deductible which would be self-insured by the Borough. The only change is that the Emergency Room deductible increased from \$75 to \$100. He added that the Borough will be covering the additional charge. Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder, to authorize staff to make that change to the insurance coverage for Borough Employees as of 1/1/2008. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion on Possible Change to Delta Dental for Dental Insurance Coverage.**
Manager Stough requested Council to authorize the change in dental coverage from United Concordia to Delta Dental. Manager Stough reviewed the coverage's with Borough Council. Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski to move dental coverage for employees to Delta Dental as of January 1, 2008. Officer Curtis stated that the Uniform Union has not reviewed the provider list. Manager Stough stated that he provided the list to Officer Dyer to circulate for review. After discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn and Councilman Seagrist made a motion to table, seconded by Councilman Ciecierski. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion on Possible Action on the Request of the First United Methodist Church for "No Parking" on West Simpson Street.**
Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to approve the temporary "No Parking" on West Simpson Street for the First United Methodist Church "Sleep Out for the Homeless" on November 21st and 22nd. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion on Possible Action on Letter of Support for the DCED Grant Application of the Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority and Main Street Mechanicsburg for Signage.**
Manager Stough reviewed the request of Chris Gulotta from the Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority for a letter of support on behalf of Main Street Mechanicsburg for their DCNR Grant Application for signage. After discussion, Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman

Humes, to approve the letter of support for the DCNR Grant Application. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion on Possible Action to Appoint Darwin Hollinger to the Shade Tree Commission.**

Councilman Stoner made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder, to appoint Darwin Hollinger to fill the unexpired Shade Tree Commission position vacated by Roger Kitchen. The motion passed with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES PAID:

Vice President Ryder made a motion to approve invoices and expenditures paid from September 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007.

General Fund: \$296,711.38 Highway Aid Fund: \$1,263.88 Capital Fund: \$68,034.31

Councilman Stoner seconded the motion. Councilman Humes asked Manager Stough to clarify some credits on the September Statement of Operations and he stated he would send out an e-mail clarifying the data. A vote was taken and the motion passed with all in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were none.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chief Spotts reported that the DARE truck is here and being tuned up. He added that Officer Bill Demmy is back to work on light duty.

Mayor Ritter reported that a thank you note was received from Shiremanstown Borough for the donation of a brick to their monument honoring their late Police Chief and their Mayor.

Councilman Ciecierski reported on the recent Multi-Use Trails meeting.

Councilman Stoner asked the Manager to look into the construction of the handicapped curb cut at York and Main Streets and also the pole installation on the north-east corner of Main and Simpson Streets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RECESS – 9:00 PM

President Whitcomb adjourned the Council meeting to a matter of potential litigation and personnel with possible action

RECONVENE - 9:44 PM

At 9:44 PM the public meeting was reconvened with no action to be taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:45 PM, President Whitcomb adjourned the meeting.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary