

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

November 20, 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, Seagrism, Stoner, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrism, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer.

Also in attendance: Creason – Sentinel, Gibson – Patriot, Ron Adams, Nancy Hanlon, Michael Ripton and Ron Trace

GUESTS:

There were none.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

There were none.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Manager Stough made the following changes to the agenda:

The date of the request to use the Council Chambers by the Pool League is November 30<sup>th</sup>  
136 West Locust is being deemed a public nuisance, not blighted.

Manager Stough added to the agenda:

Discussion and possible action to apply to PHMC for a technical assistance grant to identify historic records.  
An Executive Session with no action on a personnel matter.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice President Ryder 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:

- ◆ Correspondence and several newspaper articles regarding the Chesapeake Bay initiative were provided to Borough Council last week in their packets. Councilman McDermott reported that a sample Resolution was provided to municipalities by the Capital Region COG. Manager Stough noted that staff will add the Resolution to the next agenda for discussion and possible action.
- ◆ Manager Stough stated that a Pump Station Evaluation Report was provided to Borough Council from Gannett Fleming. He noted that the estimate cost of the pump station upgrades is \$2 million and the Borough will be receiving \$1.8 million from Silver Spring Township for the additional capacity that they purchased. Ron Adams stated that Gannett Fleming is ready to move forward with the design of the stations, and a request to move forward with this project will be on the next meeting agenda. President Whitcomb asked which stations would be refurbished first. Mr. Adams stated that Alison Avenue would be the first and the others are prioritized in the Gannett Fleming report. Mr. Adams stated that once the new line is approved by DEP and installed the \$1.8 million dollars will be paid to the Borough within six months after completion of the line.
- ◆ A letter was received from Pauline Trace regarding the denial of her handicapped parking space application.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Ciecierski made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2007 budget hearing. Councilman Humes seconded the motion. Councilman Seagrism stated that he was not aware of the budget hearing, as he was not notified. Manager Stough reported that President Whitcomb called the meeting and an e-mail was sent out to all Council members on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Stoner was telephoned as he does not have e-mail. After discussion, the motion passed with all in favor. Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve the Borough Council meeting minutes of November 5, 2007. Vice President Ryder seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY REPORTS:

Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to approve the monthly reports as submitted. The motion carried with all in favor.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Nov 9<sup>th</sup> – A citation and key to the city from the Mayor's Office was presented to Eagle Scout Nathaniel G. Stoner at his court of honor. Nathaniel improved the grounds at the Lincoln Cemetery. The Mechanicsburg Vietnam Veterans hold Memorial Day Ceremonies at this Cemetery.

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day Ceremony was held at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery. Scout Scott Martz recently landscaped and electrified the flag at the Zinn Memorial as his Eagle Scout Project.

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – Area Veterans gathered at Flinchy's Restaurant to honor all veterans and commemorate the signing of the declaration of WWI – 11-11-11.

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – Crime Watch presenters were Chris Gulotta, Executive Director of Cumberland County Re-Development Authority and Jeff Shatzer, President of Main Street Mechanicsburg, talking about Mechanicsburg's Comprehensive Plan.

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – The Mechanicsburg Area Foundation Breakfast was hosted by the Mechanicsburg Club. Grants awarded in 2007 totaled over \$120,000 going to our community.

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – Swore into office Mechanicsburg's newest Patrol Officer, Timothy P. Lazzarevich, with a ceremony at the Bill Sunday Council Chambers. Nathaniel Grove, Shane McMillian and Matthew Frankowski were sworn in as Community Service Officers.

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> – Attended with Chief Spotts, Patrol Officer Timothy P. Lazzarevich's graduation from the Police Academy held at the Dauphin County Technical School.

Crime Water meeting December 10<sup>th</sup>, Fire Chief Larry Seagrist will give us safety tips for the holidays. Come see the Mayor's electrical connection invention that should never be used.

Trivia Question: What did the Women's Club of Mechanicsburg give to the town in 1907 to commemorate the Borough Centennial?

Answer: The fountain in front of Franklin Hall, now retired behind the Washington Fire Company. Note: This fountain is pictured on this years Museum's Commemorative Christmas Tree Ornament.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

A letter of commendation was received for Officer Montgomery for his work at a recent incident.

PennDOT approved the street closure permit for the New Years Eve Wrench Drop.

Chief Spotts reported that he attended a meeting last week for the Smooth Operator Program. The Borough has been approved for 2008. Last year the Borough received \$12,000 in Smooth Operator and Buckle Up PA grant funding for enforcement. For next year the Borough will be receiving \$20,000 for enforcement activities under these two programs.

President Whitcomb asked when the DARE truck will be put into service.

Chief Spotts reported that it should be ready by mid December. It needs new tires, inspection and the graphics need to be updated.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No report.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Manager Stough reported that he met with Engineer Barber yesterday to discuss plans for addressing drainage issues in the Elmwood/Maplewood area. A reconfigured design was prepared and will be presented to Upper Allen Township and the developers in that area for possible approval. Manager Stough reported that he also discussed with the Engineer the Traffic Signal project and the signage changes that are being implemented. The Engineer will check with PennDOT to ensure that the street signs in the Historic District are historic brown. He will also check to see that the street name are consistently displayed with the street or road designation and directional information. The right turns on red at Walnut and Main that was done due to site visibility or traffic flow from the other direction. All the changes will bring the intersections up to current PennDOT regulations. At the "point" the light leading onto Simpson Street did not meet PennDOT warrants, as it is a yield type intersection. Vice President Ryder asked how

many accidents have to occur at that location, before PennDOT decides that it made a mistake. A long discussion followed on the potential for accidents at that location. Councilman Humes asked Manager Stough about a left turn lane on East Main at the Walnut Street intersection and if this would be possible with the elimination of several parking spaces. Councilman Humes asked if there will be a light at the Shepardstown Road/Simpson Street intersection and at the Simpson/Walnut Street intersection. President Whitcomb stated that the poles are not yet installed, but the locations are marked with the orange and white cans. Councilman Stoner asked if Ordinances will need to be changed due to the changes in the traffic signs being made by PennDOT. Manager Stough directed the Engineer to compile a list of changes and the Manager will see which changes will require updates to the Borough Codified Ordinance. Some additional discussion followed on the Traffic Signalization project.

#### FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist reported that he shadowed a student at the Mechanicsburg Intermediate School last month. He also reported that he attended a meeting with the Mechanicsburg School District with Ron Trace in reference to Emergency Issues at the school as part of Homeland Security initiative to update procedures. A burn permit was issued for tomorrow evening for the First United Methodist Church sleep out for the homeless. The preemption devices were installed on all the emergency vehicles except for Truck 28 and the Fire Chief's car. Both Fire Companies have tested the equipment when responding to calls in Hampden and Silver Spring Township. The Fire Chief reported that he provided a young resident with community service hours by helping him to install the markers on 30% of the Borough fire hydrants for the winter season. The Cumberland County GIS Department plotted the location of the Borough's 161 fire hydrants and will add this data to the County CAD system. On Sunday the Fire Chief reported that he attended a presentation at Harrisburg Community College by the State Fire Commissioner on the Everybody Goes Home program which reviewed safety measures that should be included in the Standard Operation Guidelines for all Emergency Service Providers. Last year ten volunteer Emergency Service Providers were killed in the line of duty. Last evening the Fire Chief was a VIP at the Pennsylvania Fire Service Annual Dinner, were guest included the Directors of PEMA and FEMA as well as, the State Fire Commissioner. President Whitcomb asked Fire Chief Seagrist if the lights on the new traffic control devices are for the preemption equipment. Chief Seagrist indicated that is correct.

#### JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Absent

#### COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Capital Area COG-** McDermott – Councilman McDermott stated that the COG met last evening and information from the meeting will be distributed to Borough Council in packets. The Homeward Bound Furry Friends Program was discussed at the meeting, but they are very limited in their capacity to accept animals, however, Upper Allen will be placing some dogs in their program. The December meeting of the COG was not cancelled this year, due to the information being received on the Chesapeake Bay program and a possible meeting with Dan Cohen and Verizon. The Capital Area COG will have their web site up and running in January. The County Municipal Advisory Board met last week and discussed the Chesapeake Bay initiative. Chief Seagrist updated Council on the progress Countywide with the switch to the Storz coupling on fire hydrants. He reported that both Perry and Dauphin County are considering making this change. Councilman McDermott noted that the COG will not be encouraging each municipality to set their own Trick or Treat night for 2008, however, the issue will be discussed in again at the January or February COG meeting.

**Community Development**– Humes – Councilman Humes reported that Jeff Shatzer and Chris Gulotta spoke to the Crime Watch group about Main Street Mechanicsburg and the work that they are doing in downtown Mechanicsburg.

**Environmental Committee-** Ryder – Vice President Ryder reported the Boy Scout Greg Barkowski discussed the rain garden he is proposing for his Eagle Scout Project. The garden will be constructed at the detention pond adjacent to the compost site at the Wastewater Treatment Plant facility. The proposed plantings will help with erosion and have environmental benefits for wildlife.

**Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action** – Humes – No Report

**Finance/Appropriations/Insurance** – Whitcomb –President Whitcomb reported that the Finance Committee met and recommended advertisement of the proposed 2008 budget.

**Fire Committee** –Stoner – Councilman Stoner reported the next meeting will be held on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Health and Recreation** – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that the Recreation Commission met last Tuesday and the pool and park financials were received and will be distributed in Council Packets. Robin Agerton is resigning from the Recreation Commission at the end of 2007. The Recreation Commission has cancelled for December and the next meeting will be held on January 8, 2007. The next Joint Recreation Meeting will be held on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Elmwood Elementary.

**Highway/Public Safety** – Stoner – Councilman Stoner reported that there is an agenda item.

**Loan Review Committee** - Humes – No report.  
**Ordinance Administration** – Humes – No report.  
**Property/Buildings** –Stoner – No report.  
**Public Communications** – McDermott – No report.  
**School Board**- Ryder – Ryder – No report.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS – November 20, 2007**

- ◆ **Consider approval of Certificates of Appropriateness for the following applications:**
  1. **Scott & Linda Bishop – 135 W. Main Street – Signage.**

Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Scott & Linda Bishop for signage at 135 W Main Street. Councilman Ciecierski seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.
  2. **Gary L. Kitzmiller – 300 E Main Street – Garage Door Replacement.**

Councilman Stoner made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Gary L. Kitzmiller for garage door replacement at 300 E. Main Street. Councilman Humes seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.
  3. **Chris & Traci Huffer – 219 S. Market Street – Screen Door & Roof Replacement.**

Councilman Humes made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Chris & Traci Huffer for screen door and roof replacement at 219 S Market Street. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Consideration and possible action on extending the Tobacco Compliance Agreement with the Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission through March 31, 2008.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to approve extending the Tobacco Compliance Agreement with the Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission through March 31, 2008. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and possible action to change to Delta Dental for dental coverage beginning January 1, 2008.**

Councilman Humes made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to change dental coverage for Borough Employees to Delta Dental beginning January 1, 2008. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 21-2007 for Cumberland County Municipal Planning Advisory service for 2008.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Stoner, to adopt Resolution 21-2007 for Cumberland County Municipal Planning Advisory service for 2008. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and possible action on request of the Mechanicsburg Area Senior Adult Center pool players to use the Council Chambers for a business meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM till Noon.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion to approve the request of the Senior Adult Pool League to use the Council Chambers on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM till Noon for a meeting. Councilman Ciecierski seconded the motion. Solicitor Schorpp asked if Council has a policy on use of the meeting room by other organizations. Manager Stough indicated that it does not. Solicitor Schorpp suggested that Council consider putting a policy in place to ensure uniformity in granting requests for use of the facility. Councilman Humes asked if the Solicitor could supply a sample of the type of policy Council could consider. Solicitor Schorpp indicated he will provide sample language to Borough Council for consideration. Manager Stough indicated staff will add this matter to a future agenda for Council's consideration. After some additional discussion, the motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and possible action on the Humane Society contract for 2008.**

After a brief discussion, Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott to table this to the next Council meeting. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and possible action to advertise an ordinance amendment to allow industrial sewer customers to have deduct meters installed.**

Manager Stough reviewed the request of Fry Communications for an industrial deduct meter for water usage which could be read and credited against usage in calculation of their sewer bill. Ron Adams provided Borough Council with a memo regarding the request, suggesting a \$100 per quarter fee to cover the administrative cost associated with the staff time to read and calculate the deduction. Councilman Humes made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder, to authorize the solicitor to draft and advertise an ordinance revision that would allow industrial and commercial sewer customers to install deduct meters for water used in manufacturing with the customer paying for the meter cost and installation and a quarterly fee for the administrative cost to the Borough. Ron Adams indicated that there are approximately ten accounts in our system that may have the potential to utilize this type of meter. A discussion followed on the type of customers that may be able to use this type of meter. Councilman Ciecierski asked Mr. Adams if there is a way to accurately measure what is being discharged into the sewer system. Mr. Adams stated that he has not been out to the site to look at this press as the current ordinance does not allow for any deduct meters. Councilman Ciecierski asked Mr. Adams if Fry has a

pretreatment permit. Mr. Adams indicated that they do. Councilman McDermott asked why this was not discussed when the ordinance was changed. Manager Stough indicated that this is a new piece of equipment at Fry and they just made the request to the Borough for a deduction. After some additional discussion, President Whitcomb called for a vote and the motion passed by a vote of six in favor (Ciecierski, Humes, Ryder, Seagrist, Stoner, Whitcomb) and one against (McDermott).

◆ **Discussion and possible action on request of the Mechanicsburg Chamber for temporary No Parking Signs along the North side of West Main Street on November 23<sup>rd</sup> for Dickens of a Christmas Carriage rides.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stoner, to approve the No Parking on the North side of West Main Street for Carriage Rides as requested by the Mechanicsburg Chamber. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on request of Ameriprise Financial for carriage rides on December 6, 2007.**

Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Stoner, to approve the request of Ameriprise Financial for carriage rides through the park on December 6, 2007. Councilman Humes asked about the lighting during the event, since the carriage will be heading in the opposing direction of traffic. Chief Spotts indicated that they would close that portion of the cartway during the event. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion on possible revisions to the handicapped parking space ordinance.**

Manager Stough indicated the resident Carolyn Grecco was in the Borough Office today to renew her handicapped parking permit and was unhappy to learn that residents that do not have a handicapped plate and do not drive could obtain a handicapped parking permit. Manager Stough reported that three of the seventeen permittees have handicapped license plates. President Whitcomb directed Councilman Stoner and Chief Spotts to get together and review the information provided by the Solicitor and come back to Council with a recommendation for changes to the procedure if warranted. The Solicitor suggested that Council may choose to limit the number of permits allowed in a block where on-street parking is limited. Much discussion followed after which Vice President Ryder made a motion to table until some additional information is available. Councilman Humes seconded that motion, which passed with all in favor. Manager Stough noted that one of the handicapped permit holders, Mrs. Detsch, passed on and the family will be requesting removal of her space.

◆ **Discussion and possible action to deem 136 East Locust Street a public nuisance.**

Councilmen Ciecierski and Stoner excused themselves from discussion as this property is in their neighborhood. Manager Stough noted that Codes Officer Ressler has condemned the property and is asking Council to deem it a public nuisance to help encourage the property owner to make the required repairs. Councilman Stoner asked if the property is historically significant. Manager Stough indicated that it is, however, it has been significantly altered. If demolition is the decided course of action, Manager Stough noted that a HARB review would be required. The Solicitor reviewed the possible action the Borough could take to abate the property maintenance issues if the building is declared a public nuisance. Vice President Ryder made a motion to declare the property a public nuisance, and Councilman Humes seconded the motion. President Whitcomb indicated the present owner is looking to sell the property. After some additional discussion, President Whitcomb called for the vote and the motion passed with all five (Humes, McDermott, Ryder, Seagrist and Whitcomb) in favor. Ciecierski and Stoner abstained.

◆ **Presentation, discussion and tentative adoption of the proposed 2008 Budgets and authorization to advertise.**

Manager Stough reviewed the proposed 2008 budget with Borough Council. He reported that the proposed General Fund budget will be \$6,019,088 and will include a tax increase from the present tax rate of 2.23 mills to 3 mills. With all the requested expenditures for 2008, the budget was \$515,619 in excess of revenues. Staff and the Finance Committee cut many expenses, but were still left with a significant shortfall. The budget includes moving some revenue from sewer receipts into capital reserve to offset future sewer plant upgrades. Increased paving costs and utility services created the need for an increase. Manager Stough noted that the proposed budget is balanced. Vice President Ryder made a motion to authorize the advertisement and display of the proposed 2008 budget as presented and to authorize the Solicitor to draft and advertise the tax rate ordinance for 2008 at 3 mills. Councilman Humes seconded the motion. President Whitcomb called for the vote with the motion passing by a vote of 5 (Ciecierski, Humes, Ryder, Stoner, Whitcomb) in favor and 2 (McDermott, Seagrist) against.

◆ **Authorization to apply to PHMC for a technical assistance Grant.**

Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Humes, to authorize staff to apply for a PHMC technical assistance grant in the amount of \$5,000. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Stough explained the difference in the General Fund Expenditures for September, and provided Council with a copy of the report, showing the difference was a voided check. Councilman Humes stated that she did not receive

the financials for October. Councilman Seagrish made a motion to table action on the October expenditures. Vice President Ryder seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were none.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilman Seagrish reported that Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ recognized Mechanicsburg Borough at their Community Day and they presented the Borough with a compass to commemorate the Borough's contributions to the community.

Vice President Ryder asked for a Resolution for the Eagle Scout that did the work at the Zinn memorial in the Mechanicsburg Cemetery.

Councilman McDermott asked for a Resolution for the Mechanicsburg Band. Councilman McDermott made a motion to pass Resolution 22-2007 recognizing the Mechanicsburg Area Marching Band for their recent championship. Councilman Ciecierski seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:09 PM, President Whitcomb adjourned the meeting to an executive session on a matter of personnel with no action.



Jonathan S. Stough  
Borough Secretary