

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

December 4, 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, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer.

Also in attendance: Creason – Sentinel, Gibson – Patriot, Ron Adams, Marty Coover, Sean Forsythe, Scott & Maggie Martz, Jack Neibert, Jeff Sanders and Ron Trace.

GUESTS:

There were none.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Jeff Sanders, 501 N. Market Street, thanked Borough Council for all the hard work that they do for the community. He also wanted to thank reporter Elizabeth Gibson, Patriot News, for the article that she did regarding the impending tax increase proposed in the 2008 Borough budget. He addressed Borough Council regarding the 35% tax increase, stating he feels that it is outlandish. He stated that residents do not come to Council because they feel Council does not listen to their concerns. He asked why Allen Street is proposed for resurfacing, when other streets are in a worse state of disrepair, suggesting that the only reason Allen Street is proposed for paving is because it is in front of the Borough Hall. He noted that the Borough parking lot across from the Borough Offices was repaved, when it was really not necessary in his opinion. He stated that Race Street was repaved when it is not heavily traveled. He stated that Factory Street was recently paved, which was to include regarding, that did not occur. He noted that the Borough paid an Engineer to evaluate the situation, which resulted in the partial paving of an alleyway, which added to the water problem at that location. Mr. Sanders then addressed Borough Council about the stormwater problem on the north side of town, stating that the Retention Pond at Northside is not operating correctly as the pipes are lower than the floor of the detention pond. Mr. Sanders suggested that the stormwater problem should be addressed before Allen Street is paved. Mr. Sanders then questioned why the Borough is proposing to purchase an \$110,000 dump truck and using four wheel drive pick up trucks to run errands. He suggested that the Borough use smaller more fuel efficient vehicles for running errands. He suggested that Council look over the budget more carefully and stop rubber stamping whatever the Borough Manager suggests. Mr. Sanders stated that a sign installed in front of the Municipal Center advertising meetings may prompt more residents to attend. Mr. Sanders suggested that the Borough look to increase funding to the two Borough Fire Companies, rather than spending so much money on the swimming pool. Mr. Sanders stated that it is a shame more residents do not come out and voice their opinions at Borough meetings. Mr. Sanders asked why Council did not consider the purchase of a less expensive used dump truck rather than spend \$110,000. President Whitcomb responded, stating that the dump truck that will be replaced is twenty years old. Mr. Sanders asked if the Borough has a mechanic. President Whitcomb responded that the Borough uses local garages for vehicle service. Mr. Sanders suggested hiring a mechanic to service the Borough vehicles may be more cost effective. Vice President Ryder stated that the Borough budget is about 6 million dollars and the School District budget is 49 million dollars and they are increasing their budget by

4%. He asked Mr. Sanders if he has attended a School Board meeting to discuss their budget. Mr. Sanders indicated that he has not, but just because the School Board is proposing an increase does not mean that the Borough should increase their budget also. Councilman Humes noted that Borough Council is increasing their own taxes, but they have reviewed the budget and feel that the increase is necessary. After some additional discussion, Mr. Sanders asked if the detention pond issue is going to be addressed. Manager Stough stated that the detention pond has been surveyed and the cost to have the pond regraded would be approximately \$25,000, however, in the spring the Borough will try to strike a deal with a contractor to remove the excess top soil free, as was done at the Compost Site. Manager Stough stated that the Factory Street drainage issue was addressed by the Borough and steps have been taken to address a water problem that always existed at this location during heavy rains. Mr. Sanders stated he is talking about the alley that runs north off of Factory Street. Manager Stough stated that paving the alley would have created additional water issues. Manager Stough reviewed the way in which the Borough determines which roads should be paved, stating Allen Street has a lot of heavy truck traffic, which is deteriorating the cartway. Manager Stough stated that he is concerned about the water problem and the economic impact to residents during the two storms this year, but there is a limit to what can be done due to the fact that the Borough is flat and the area is prone to sinkholes. Extensive discussion followed on the detention area at Northside and the best way to repair the pond to accept additional water. Mr. Sanders thanked Borough Council for their time.

#### ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Chief Spotts added Consideration and Possible Action on Granting Permanent Status to Probationary Patrol Officer Rodney M. Temple, III.

Councilman Seagrist added Discussion and Possible Action on the Adoption of the Joint Recreation Agreement.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough reported:

A letter of interest in the Junior Councilperson position was received from Camilia Keenan-Koch, 710 South Market Street.

Information was received on the next Tri – County Borough’s meeting to be held in Shippensburg on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

A thank you letter was received from Mr. Passaro, of the Senior Adult Pool League, thanking Council for the use of the Council Chambers for their meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

An e-mail was received from the West Shore Tax Bureau regarding bills that may change local tax collection for Pennsylvania Municipalities. Manager Stough indicated that he will add this item to the agenda in two weeks. Vice President Ryder asked if more information was available, as did Councilman Humes who asked that information be provided, on how each piece of legislation would impact this Borough.

Councilman Humes asked how letters, such as the one submitted to Council from Mrs. Pauline Trace are handled. Manager Stough indicated that a copy is provided to Borough Council and then staff waits to see if Council has any direction for follow-up action.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Humes made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2007 Borough Council meeting. Councilman Stoner seconded the motion, which passed with no dissenting votes.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Manager Stough reported the Borough has some committee openings on Shade Tree, Recreation, Environmental Advisory Council and Zoning Hearing Board. He asked those assembled to spread the word that volunteers are needed.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Participated in the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce Dickens of a Christmas tree lighting at the square and at Gallerie 13 for the releasing of P. Buckley Moss’s print of the State Capitol Building.

November 27<sup>th</sup> - Officiated a wedding at the Union Church Building.

Reminder: Crime Watch meeting December 10<sup>th</sup>, Mechanicsburg Fire Chief, Larry Seagrist, will be this month’s guest. Larry’s talks are always interesting and informative. Learn about emergency fire services, safety hints for your family, home and community.

Trivia Question: How many people lived in Mechanicsburg in 1830?

Answer: 554 – This question and answer came from the Mechanicsburg Museum Association.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Letters of commendation were received for Officer Temple and Community Service Officer McCormick for their work at recent incidents.

Officer Vincent obtained an AA Degree in Criminal Justice from Central Pennsylvania College and is on track to receive a BA next year.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

In September, it was duly reported by Jr. Councilperson Ford that Mechanicsburg Borough got lucky and beat Carlisle at football. Solicitor Schorpp reported that Carlisle beat Mechanicsburg at Basketball.

ENGINEER REPORT:

No report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

No report.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Ford thanked Borough Council for having her as the Junior Councilperson this year and providing her with this opportunity to learn more about local government.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Capital Area COG** - McDermott – No report.

**Community Development** – Humes – Councilman Humes reported that the Providence Boutique at 102 South Market Street was recognized in the fashion column for their Eco-friendly clothing. Councilman Humes reported that owner Susan Kiskis stated that Mechanicsburg has an amazing recycling program, they are very environmentally aware.

**Environmental Committee** - Ryder – No report.

**Finance/Appropriations/Insurance** – Whitcomb – No report.

**Fire Committee** –Stoner – A Fire Committee meeting was held on November 28<sup>th</sup> which was well attended by both Fire Companies. Many items of interest were discussed including the preemption devices which have been installed, schedule for Borough equipment to be serviced and a discussion about generators for traffic lights. He noted that the Fire Companies asked what the Borough will be doing with their old, low band radios. The next Fire Committee meeting will be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Health and Recreation** – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that the Joint Recreation Committee met 29<sup>th</sup> of November and the Joint Recreation Agreement was discussed. The next Recreation Committee meeting will be January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Councilman Seagrist stated that the starting time for the Recreation Commission meeting is incorrect on the meeting schedule distributed to Borough Council.

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

**Loan Review Committee** - Humes – No report.

**Ordinance Administration** – Humes – No report.

**Property/Buildings** –Stoner – Councilman Stoner reported that the new tractor was received and is at the Compost Site. The piece of equipment was purchased through 902 grant funding. Councilman Stoner noted that the Compost Site was being used heavily by residents this weekend when he visited the site.

**Public Communications** – McDermott –No report.

**School Board** - Ryder – Vice President Ryder reported that last Tuesday night the School Board met and voted to increase taxes the maximum that they are allowed without a referendum. This will result in an increase of \$100 to the average homeowner.

Manager Stough added that under Property and Buildings, he distributed a meeting room use policy to Council, but is asking that the Solicitor remove the restriction on animals in the Municipal Center. The policy will be added to the next agenda for discussion.

Also Manager Stough noted that the deadline was November 30<sup>th</sup> for newsletter price quotes and two were received. The award of the printing for the 2008 newsletter will be added to the next agenda.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS – December 4, 2007**

- ◆ **Consider Resolution 23-2007 – Opposing the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Mandate.**  
Councilman Seagrist made a motion, seconded by Councilman McDermott, to adopt Resolution 23-2007 as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Authorization to have Gannett Fleming begin Engineering for Upgrades to the Borough Pump Stations.**  
Vice President Ryder made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stoner, to authorize Gannett Fleming to begin engineering on the pump station upgrades. Councilman Ciecierski asked Mr. Adams if all the DEP permits would be applied for at one time. Mr. Adams indicated that the DEP permits would not be applied for until the project was bid. President Whitcomb called for a vote and the motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and Possible Action to Change Telephone Service Provider to Frontier Communications.**  
Manager Stough reported that he is recommending a change to Frontier Communications for Borough phone service as it will represent a \$1,200 per year savings. Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to authorize a change in the Borough phone service to Frontier Communication. President Whitcomb asked Manager Stough if he checked any references. Manager Stough indicated that Hampden Township is using this service provider and has been satisfied. With no further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed with all in favor.
- ◆ **Discussion and Possible Action on the Humane Society Contract for 2008.**  
Chief Spotts indicated that no additional options are available at this time for handling stray animals. Councilman Humes made a motion, seconded by Vice President Ryder, to approve the Humane Society

contract for 2008 as presented. Councilman Stoner asked if the Borough will still have to transport animals to the East Shore Shelter. Chief Spotts stated that the animals will still have to be transported; however, the department has purchased a cage and other supplies to hold the animals over night, so a Community Service Officer can transport the animals during their scheduled shift. This will eliminate the need to send a sworn officer to transport the animal. With no further discussion, the motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and Possible Action to Remove the Handicapped Parking Space of Myrtle Desch, 46 West Keller Street.**

Manager Stough reported that the office has received verbal notification that Mrs. Desch has passed on and is requesting that Council take action to remove the handicapped space in front of her residence at 46 West Keller Street. Councilman Seagrism made a motion, seconded by Councilman Humes, to remove the handicapped parking space at 46 West Keller Street. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Approval of 2008 Holiday & Meeting schedule.**

Manager Stough noted that the schedule proposed is the same as last year with one meeting in July and the re-organizational meeting schedule for the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in January. He also noted that Trick or Treat is recommended for Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Seagrism noted earlier under his Recreation report that the Recreation Commission meetings begin at 7 PM not 7:30 PM as noted. After discussion, Councilman Seagrism made a motion, seconded by Councilman McDermott to approve the schedule, with the change in time of the Recreation Commission meeting. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and Possible Acceptance of the Settlement Agreement with Laverla Yeager.**

Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to accept the settlement agreement in the matter of Laverla Yeager versus the Borough of Mechanicsburg, as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and Possible Offer of Permanent Status to Patrol Officer Rodney Temple.**

Chief Spotts indicated that a pre-permanent status evaluation was conducted and was very favorable for Officer Temple and he recommended that Office Temple be granted permanent status. Councilman Seagrism made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to grant permanent status to Patrol Officer Rodney Temple as of December 11, 2007. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and Possible Acceptance of the Joint Recreation Agreement.**

Solicitor Schorpp indicated that he has reviewed the document and found everything to be in order. Councilman Seagrism directed Council's attention to page 2 of 7, Item #6, which was changed by the Borough Solicitor from the Joint Recreation Committee shall establish salaries for playground supervisors and special recreation staff to read that the Joint Recreation Committee shall recommend salaries for playground supervisors and special recreation staff which will be submitted to the appropriate governing bodies for approval. Councilman Seagrism explained that this will give Borough Council the opportunity to review and approve salaries each year. Councilman Seagrism stated that if Council would like more time to review the document, it could be tabled. Seeing no motion to table, Councilman Seagrism made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to approve the Joint Recreation Agreement as presented. The motion passed with all in favor. Councilman Seagrism noted that Mechanicsburg will be chairing the Joint Recreation Committee in 2008.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES PAID:

Vice President Ryder made a motion to approve invoices and expenditures paid from October 1, 2007 through October 31, 2007.

General Fund: \$615,671.75      Highway Aid Fund: \$115,605.92      Capital Fund: \$14,325.05

Councilman Ciecierski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with all in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were none.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilman Humes reported that Phil Dolson expressed his thanks for the Resolution that Council presented to him for his many years of service on the Borough Recreation Commission.

Councilman Seagrist asked Manager Stough how long curbside leaf pick up would continue as there are a lot of leaves around. Manager Stough stated that if we get a snow storm, that usually ends the leaf pick up season, but it depends on the severity of the storm. Ron Adams stated that if the leaves freeze, they can not be picked up with the leaf vacuum.

Councilman Seagrist noted that Eagle Scout Candidate, Scott Martz, is present this evening with his mother, Maggie Martz. Last meeting Council recognized the work that Scott did at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery, and Councilman Seagrist thanked Scott for his hard work on this project. Mrs. Martz thanked all the community businesses and individuals that donated materials and labor to help Scott with the completion of this project.

Vice President Ryder asked when the Signalization Project will be done. Manager Stough stated that it should be completed in March or April 2008. Discussion followed on the work that needs to be completed. Councilman Humes stated that she has friends that live at two separate intersections impacted by this project and both had nothing but good things to say about the contractor on the job. Councilman Stoner questioned the light sequence at the Portland and York Street lights. Chief Spotts reviewed the light sequence stating that the lights may need to be adjusted. Manager Stough reported that he and Engineer Barber met with the contractor on the project and were updated on the progress, which is slowing down now as each intersection needs to be brought on-line. He stated they looked at the curb cut at the Legion intersection and also on Market by Andy Sheely's and both issues will be resolved. Jr. Councilperson Ford asked if there will be a light at the intersection of Simpson and Walnut. Manager Stough indicated that a light would be installed but the posts are not in place yet.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:28 PM, President Whitcomb adjourned the meeting to an executive session on a personnel matter with no action.



Jonathan S. Stough  
Borough Secretary