

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

February 19, 2008

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 Keenan-Koch, Solicitor Schorpp, Mayor Ritter, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough, and Assistant Secretary Boyer.

Also in attendance: Creason – Sentinel, Eckman – Dillsburg Banner, Rick Castranio, Marty Coover, Commissioner Gary Eichelberger, Don Farrenelli, Anne Harding, Joseph Hood, Mike Mills, Ron Trace, Mark Turri, Wendy Smith & Alan Wirt.

GUESTS

Dr. Hood, Mechanicsburg Area School District Superintendent, addressed Borough Council on behalf of the Wildcat Foundation regarding proposed renovation at the Memorial Park Football Field. Dr. Hood explained the upcoming Wildcat Foundation Capital Campaign and how the funds raised contribute to the quality of education Mechanicsburg School District is able to provide for its students. He also discussed ways that the Foundation serves not just the School Districts but the greater community. Dr. Hood introduced Alan Wirt, President of the Wildcat Foundation, Rick Castranio, Alpha Consulting Engineers and Don Farinelli, of the Wildcat Capital Campaign Committee. Dr. Hood and Rick Castranio reviewed the preliminary plans for the installation of an artificial turf field at the Football Stadium located in Memorial Park. The benefits reviewed by Dr. Hood for this change was the increased ability of the facility to be used for multiple sporting events, a reduction in required maintenance and ability of the Borough Community to use the facility without damage to the grass surface. Dr. Hood noted that the field is under utilized due to fear of damage to the grass playing surface. Mr. Castranio reviewed drainage issues with Council explaining how the artificial surface would allow the water to drain through and the bedrock is located 8 ft below the surface, which would provide adequate drainage to support the application of this product. Mr. Castranio noted that the plan would be submitted to Borough Staff later this week and would be sent to the Borough Planning Commission for review. After the presentation, Vice President Ryder asked about the safety of the proposed product. Mr. Wirt stated that the product proposed is state of the art in terms of synthetic turf and may actually reduce some types of injuries. He reviewed the various location where this product is currently in use, stating that under the synthetic grass is sand and granulated rubber which helps to minimize injuries. President Whitcomb asked how long this product has been in use. Mr. Wirt indicated that this system has been out for about thirteen years. Councilman Humes asked how long the surface would last. Mr. Wirt indicated that it has either an eight or ten year warranty, but it could last longer. Councilman Stoner asked if it would require a lot of maintenance. Mr. Wirt indicated that it would require less maintenance than a conventional grass field which needs to be watered, fertilized, reseeded and mowed on a regular bases, this covering would require only a monthly "raking". Councilman Seagrist asked where the product is manufactured. Mr. Wirt did not know, but Mr. Castranio indicated that information from the manufacturer would be included with the plan submission.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

There were none.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Manager Stough requested the addition of the request of the Fire Police for use of their services at non emergency 2008 events and authorization to ask other municipalities to approve the use of their Fire Police at certain Borough events.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilman Humes made a motion to add this item to the agenda. Vice President Ryder seconded the motion, which passed with no dissenting votes.

Councilman Stoner made a motion for approval of the agenda. Councilman Ciecierski seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough reported the following correspondence was received:

- ◆ A letter and agenda were received for the next County Municipal Advisory Board meeting scheduled for February 26, 2008. The proposed Cumberland County Municipal Cooperation Commission and the status of the Recycling Center Project will be on the agenda.
- ◆ The Cumberland County Planning Commission will be holding the 1st meeting for Phase II of the County-wide Stormwater Management Plan on March 6th at 9 AM at the Mechanicsburg Municipal Center.
- ◆ The Washington Fire Company has provided Borough Council with a list of their fund raising events for 2008. Borough Council can take action to approve this list at a future meeting
- ◆ Scott Christie, Acting District Executive for PennDOT District 8 responded to questions from Mechanicsburg Borough resident James E. Wolpert in a letter, which will be in Council packets this week.
- ◆ A letter was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding a meeting scheduled for February 20th at 10 AM to update local official on the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Improvement obligation.
- ◆ The Tri-County Boroughs Association meeting is scheduled for February 26th in Shippensburg if any Officials are able to attend please RSVP to the Borough Manager.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice President Ryder made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2008 regular Council meeting. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT:

February 4th – Scott Hershey of Hershey Violins was given a key to the city at the Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting and grand opening for his new West Main Street business. Scott builds and repairs violins.

February 5th – Mechanicsburg Museum Association opened their new exhibit "Secrets Revealed" in the Passenger Station.

February 11th – Crime Watch speaker was Mechanicsburg Police Chief Spotts. It was a great opportunity to meet the Chief and get an update on police activities here in the Borough. The meeting was over at 8 PM, but people stayed to talk and socialize.

February 15th – Ribbon cutting at 219 East Main Street, Frankeberger Square for the new offices of Easter Seals of Central PA.

Trivia Question: What is the difference between a fiddle and a violin?

Answer: The fiddle will burn longer.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief Spotts reported receiving letters of commendation for Sgt Pellman and Officers Bittner and Bayer for their work at recent incidents.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No Report.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

No Report

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist reported last Tuesday the Departments responded to a structure fire at 619 Robert Street. The resident got out of the structure due to a working smoke detector; however, their four pets were lost. The damage is estimated at over \$100,000 and an investigation is being conducted to determine the cause which appears to be accidental. Chief Seagrist asked that the agenda item, Truck 8 Bid for Repairs, be tabled as the specifications are not yet ready.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Keenan-Koch reported:

- ◆ Last week the Student Council held their annual Valentine Carnation Sale.
- ◆ The PSSA tests were to be held last week, but ran into this week due to the snow.
- ◆ The Presidents Day holiday was cancelled and school was held Monday, due to the snow last week.
- ◆ There will be a Model UN Conference this weekend from Thursday through Saturday.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Capital Region COG – McDermott – Councilman McDermott reported that the COG met last evening and Chief Seagrist request to discuss a letter of support for changing all fire hydrants to Storz couplings was discussed. The COG had a presentation from the Executive Director of the Humane Society. The possibility of the Humane Society including a pick up service in their contract for the West Shore municipalities was discussed. The Cable Franchise information was distributed and it was suggested that the COG office number be used for complaint calls for all municipalities.

Community Development– Humes – No report.

Environmental/Recycling Committee – Ryder – Vice President Ryder reported that the EAC met this evening and discussed the Eagle Scout project at the Compost Site. It is hoped that the rain garden in the stormwater detention area will help with soil erosion. Paul Garrett and representatives from the Adult Environmental Club were present to discuss battery recycling and their Senior Citizen collection of Computers and Electronics in conjunction with the Cumberland County Solid Waste Authority.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Whitcomb – No report.

Fire Committee –Ciecierski – Councilman Ciecierski reported that the Fire Committee will meet on April 2nd at Citizens Fire Company at 7 PM.

Health/Recreation –Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported that the Recreation Commission met last evening and members of the Mechanicsburg Swim Club were present to discuss proposed scheduling changes for swim club practices. After discussion, it was agreed that the practices will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday's from 4:30 to 7:30, with one lane open for public lap swims during each practice. Updated pool and recreations financials were distributed and will be provided to staff to be copied for Council packets. The Recreation Commission will meet with the Shade Tree Commission to discuss a tree plan for Memorial Park. The first meeting of the Joint Capital Pool Committee will be held on Monday March 3rd at 4:30 at the Borough Municipal Center. Tuesday March the 11th at 7 PM will be the next Borough Recreation Commission meeting. Thursday, March 27th at 7 PM will be the next Joint Recreation Committee meeting at Elmwood Elementary. Manager Stough reviewed a diagram, with Borough Council of proposed Capital Improvements for the Pool area. Tonya Brown is recommending that the Borough apply for a matching grant to complete the proposed upgrades which would include a waterslide, expansion of the fenced area, addition of sun shields and the possible addition of a pavilion inside the fenced pool area. Council discussed the proposal and after discussion Manager Stough suggesting that Council members could attend the Joint Capital Pool Committee meeting to obtain additional information on the proposed grant application.

Highway/Public Safety – Stoner – No report.

Loan Review Committee- Humes – No report.

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

Property/Buildings – Stoner – No report

Public Communication – McDermott – No report.

School Board – Ryder – No report.

AGENDA ITEMS – February 19, 2008

♦ **Consider approval of Certificates of Appropriateness for the following applications:**

1. **Ben Andreozzi – 403 W. Main Street – Siding Replacement**

Councilman Humes made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Ben Andreozzi for siding replacement, as recommended for approval by the HARB at their February 6, 2008 meeting. Councilman Ciecierski seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

2. **Ruthann & Jeremy Stansfield – 120 E. Locust Street – Window Replacement, Storm Windows, Porch Light, Screen & Storm Door, Mailbox & Shutters.**

Councilman Ciecierski made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Ruthann & Jeremy Stansfield for all the items recommended for approval in the HARB minutes of February 6, 2008. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

♦ **Resolution 03-2008 in honor of Washington Fire Companies 150th Anniversary.**

Councilman Ciecierski made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder to adopt Resolution 03-2008 as presented honoring the 150th Anniversary of the Washington Fire Company. The motion passed unanimously.

♦ **Discussion and possible action on the Special Event Permit for First Church of God Youth Ministry to use the intersections of Main & Market and Market and Simpson to on February 23rd from 1 to 4 PM. for a canning drive.**

Wendy Smith, Director of Youth Ministries for the First Church of God was present to represent this application. Ms. Smith explained that the Youth Group would be participating in the World Visions 30 hour famine. It will start Friday at 1 PM and the children will fast until Saturday at 7 PM. On Saturday the children do service hours from 1 to 4 PM and this year the children will be doing the "Amazing Grace Race". The "canning" will be collecting change in offering cans to raise money for children in poverty. The youth group members would approach cars stopped for the red light only and would stand on the sidewalk when traffic is moving. There would be three to four children and one adult at each intersection. After discussion, Borough Council suggested that that the children stand on the southeast & southwest

corner of Main & Market and the southwest and northwest corner of Market and Simpson. Councilman Humes stated that she had concerns about sidewalk space on the north and south east corners of Simpson and Market. Ms. Smith stated that the children will have bright orange signs, to help with visibility. Councilman Seagrist asked if an Insurance Certificate is required. Solicitor Schorpp indicated an Insurance Certificate would be required. After discussion, Councilman Ciecierski made a motion to approve the request for the four locations discussed this evening, contingent upon the applicant providing the Borough Office with an Insurance Certificate prior to the event. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on request for handicapped parking space at 46 W Keller Street, Christine League.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, seconded by Councilman McDermott to table. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Authorization to advertise for bids on Truck 8 repairs.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ciecierski, to table this matter until the bid specifications are completed. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Consideration and possible action to approve the word “Police” on safety gear used by the Mechanicsburg Special Fire Police.**

Mike Mills, Captain of the Mechanicsburg Special Fire Police, addressed Borough Council about the use of the word Police on the back of their vests. Mr. Mills explained that the word Police helps the Fire Police as it gains additional respect from motorists at an accident scene. Mr. Mills explained that Washington Fire Company will be purchasing vests for the Fire Police and questioned the use of the word Police on the back of the vest. Mr. Mills reviewed the gear that the Fire Police currently use with Borough Council. Vice President Ryder asked why this has come up now. Mr. Mills explained that Washington Fire Company had questioned if the Police had approved the use of the word on the vest and after speaking with Chief Spotts about the matter, he was directed to come before Council to discuss it further. Discussion followed on the level of training required for fire police. Chief Spotts explained that the Special Fire Police is a limited jurisdiction application to direct and control traffic of vehicles and pedestrians at fire scene or other emergency situations to which they are called. Chief Spotts stated that historically they have used the word “Police” on their outerwear, but the Solicitor had some concerns about this request. Chief Spotts explained that this has never caused a problem from the operational standpoint, but he can see the Solicitor’s position. Solicitor Schorpp stated that his concern is that a member of the public may believe that one of these gentleman to be a Police Officer and demands or expects certain actions that one would expect from a Police Officer and are not able to provide the Police Service or attempts to provide a Police service at the insistence of that person. Mr. Mills indicated that the Cumberland County Fire Police Association has approved the use of the word “Police” for Fire Police outerwear. After much discussion on the issue, it was finally resolved with Councilman Humes, making a motion to have the vests, coats and any outerwear say “Fire Police”. Councilman Seagrist seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Approval of the events for the Fire Police for 2008.**

Manager Stough reviewed the list of events provided for 2008. He stated that Council will need to authorize the use of Mechanicsburg Fire Police at these events and then take action to ask the other municipalities listed to allow their Fire Police to attend those events as noted on the list provided by Mike Mills. Chief Spotts asked that Council add the Dickens of a Christmas Carriage Rides to the list provided. Manager Stough asked the Solicitor how to handle emergency request such as funerals, sewer department work, and tree trimming. Solicitor Schorpp reviewed the mutual aid agreement for Fire Police. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Ciecierski, second by Councilman McDermott to approve the use of Fire Police for traffic control Memorial Day Parade, Jubilee Day, Rotary Club OX Roast, Co 28 150th Anniversary Block Party, Streets of Treats, Halloween Parade, Homeless Night Out, Dickens of a Christmas and wrench drop for 2008 and also for non-emergency events within the Borough with prior authorization of Council if time permits or the Chief of Police if sufficient advanced notice is not available. The motion passed with all in favor. Councilman McDermott then made a motion to authorize requests to be sent to all municipalities designated by the Mechanicsburg Fire Police to be used at Borough events during 2008, for approval of use of their Fire Police at Borough events. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on a Municipal Center Building use policy.**

Manager Stough reviewed the proposed language for regulations on animals in the Borough Office. Solicitor Schorpp indicated that Council could adopt this policy through a resolution or an ordinance, with an ordinance having more enforcement ability. After discussion, Councilman Seagrist made a motion, seconded by Vice President Ryder, to authorize the Solicitor to incorporate all the changes discussed into the draft and provide a copy back to Council for their consideration. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Authorization to advertise for bids on a generator for the Municipal Center.**

Manager Stough informed Borough Council that an 80kw generator would be required to run the municipal center. The estimated cost for the equipment and installation is \$45,000. After discussion, Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to authorize advertisement of bids for the purchase and installation of a generator at the municipal center. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on the Special Events application from the Chamber of Commerce for Jubilee Day on June 19, 2008.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Vice President Ryder, to approve the request of the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce for road closures for the annual Jubilee Day Event and their request to hang a banner over East Main Street, contingent upon receipt of an Insurance Certificate listing the Borough as an additional insured. The motion passed with all in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Ann Harding, 6 East Portland Street, addressed Borough Council regarding a cat problem in her neighborhood. She stated that the property at 20 East Portland Street is housing a number of stray cats in their garage and feeding the animals on their back porch. The animals are running around the neighborhood and become a nuisance to adjacent property owners. Chief Spotts suggested Ms. Harding come in a get a trap from the Police Department and trap the cats on her property. Solicitor Schorpp stated that the PAWS group has provided neutering services for other municipalities with stray problems. Chief Spotts will investigate that agency. Manager Stough will have the Codes Officer investigate to see if there are any health and safety issues with this location.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

Vice President Ryder asked Chief Spotts about a concern regarding a property on West Main Street. Chief Spotts indicated he would look into the matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:27 PM, with no further business to discuss, President Whitcomb adjourned the meeting.



Jonathan S. Stough
Borough Secretary