

MERCER BOROUGH REGULAR MEETING

December 1, 2015

Attendance: John Zohoranacky, Jerry Johnson, Frank Curl, Mayor Vernon, Beth Hillmar, Gary Hancock, Jac Carter, Joe Kurtanich, Debbie Sarvis

John Zohoranacky led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS

Larry Warner spoke to council about a Borough proposed Rental Inspection program. He stated that the owner occupied homes in Mercer Borough were worse than the rental properties and asked why council wanted to single the landlords out. John Zohoranacky stated that the rental properties were discussed in general and nothing specific had been reviewed. Frank Curl stated that there are some rental properties where absentee owners do not have safe housing situations and he and John Zohoranacky explained that this was in the preliminary stages of research. Dee Dee Zickar and Caroline Dacosta stated that the current property maintenance ordinance has not been enforced. John Zohoranacky replied that this was not true and the ordinance was enforced. Frank Curl and Gary Hancock explained that several Zoning /Code officers had quit the position but the Administrator was currently handling the duties. John Zohoranacky stated that after reviewing other municipalities ordinances the Borough may decide not to change the regulations at all but thought it warranted research. Larry Warner stated that he did not want to pay any additional fees for property inspections. Dee Dee Zickar stated that council was going after landlords as a revenue stream. John Zohoranacky reiterated that there were no discussions by council on fees but an overall look at other municipality's regulations. Walt Johnson stated that Sharon and Farrell have inspection ordinance at still have most all of the problems. The acting Zone/Code Enforcement Officer reviewed issues that she was having with both rental properties, owner occupied properties and foreclosure properties to assure the landlords that no one was being singled out. She added that most of the complaints from tenants were concerning mold, furnace and safety issues compared to outside maintenance issues for the owner occupied premises. Ted Isoldi complained about the red house on W. Market Street that has issues since he was on council and the building next to his office that has a dangerous chimney area.

A resident of 222 S. Maple Street stated that 2 polices informed her that they could not enforce the 1-way street designation because the sign was missing a letter and it had been missing for quite some time. John Zohoranacky replied that if said, this would be an unacceptable response and would be further investigated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Joe Kurtanich advised council that based on the information submitted by Caroline Dacosta, the storm drain pipe is located in the right of way area of Mrs. Dacosta's property. He added that the area would need to be grated and reshaped around the basin and council agreed that it should be done.

NEW BUSINESS

Jac Carter moved to appoint Jeff Dunlap as Zoning/Code Officer with Frank Curl seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

Beth Hillmar moved to keep a council member as a voting member of the Library Board. Jac Carter seconded the motion and vote carried unanimously.

Gary Hancock moved to approve the Mercer Area Chamber road closing for Christmas Light Up Night with Jac Carter seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

Joe Kurtanich agreed to look into a potential storm water issue at the property owned by Matt Tomeo on Wilson Avenue.

The Administrator reported that there was an opportunity to submit grant applications through the Multimodal Transportation Fund to replace the mast arms on Rt 19 to continue on with the traffic equipment improvements. Frank Curl stated that there was a missed opportunity for a grant for sidewalk at street light replacement around the square because the borough did not have a shovel ready project. The Administrator explained that she was hoping to get cost estimated by the next meeting so council could approve the submittals that would require a 20% Borough match commitment.

Joe Kurtanich reported that the Borough Office received an application for sewer service in Coolspring Township. Jac Carter moved to approve the Sewer Connection Application for Steve Thompson in Coolspring Township with Jerry Johnson seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

A Special Meeting was set for December 22nd at 7:30 P.M. to approve the final budget.

Beth Hillmar moved to change electric energy suppliers with Gary Hancock seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

The meeting was properly adjourned.

Submitted by,

Debbie Sarvis
Administrator