

MERCER BOROUGH REGULAR MEETING

February 9th 2016

Attendance: Beth Hillmar, Jac Carter, Jerry Johnson, Ross Vernon, Caroline DaCosta, Gary Hancock, Joe Kurtanich, Debbie Sarvis, Attorney Bogaty.

Jac Carter led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Gary Hancock moved to approve the January 12th and February 2nd minutes with Jerry Johnson seconding. Vote carried unanimously. Jerry Johnson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report with Gary Hancock seconding. Vote carried unanimously. Gary Hancock moved to approve the payment of bills including Findley Construction with Caroline DaCosta seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

Jac Carter opened bids to sell the 2008 Crown Victoria Police Vehicle. Bids were received from Minners' Garage for \$ 200.00 and Casey Smith for \$ 1000.00. Gary Hancock moved to accept the bid from Casey Smith for \$ 1,000.00 conditionally that all decals and insignias are removed by the buyer. Caroline DaCosta seconded the motion and vote carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Viscomi and Susan Nemeth S. Otter Street Mercer reported that 5 or 6 bullets were fired at her house early Sunday morning. Attorney Bogaty suggested holding these comments until later in the meeting when the 2 absent councilman arrive

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council agreed to table approving the new Storm Water Permit for Excavation/Development until they had a chance to further review.

Jerry Johnson asked to table the decision to appoint a Junior Council person to the next meeting.

Frank Curl asked to table the discussion on the Tennant/Landlord Inspection review until the next meeting. He added that the PSAB was providing information on the subject that would be helpful.

NEW BUSINESS

Gary Hancock moved to approve participation in the COSTARS Salt Program with Frank Curl seconding. Vote carried unanimously. Jac Carter turned the meeting over to President Beth Hillmar who resumed the Visitor Comments.

Sharon Viscomi and Susan Nemeth S. Otter Street Mercer reported that 5 or 6 bullets were fired at her house early Sunday morning. Mrs. Viscomi informed council that there were rumors spread by the neighbors that their house was a drug house but indicated that it was not true. She reported that she suffered from a chronic illness and her and her family including small children could have been seriously hurt. Attorney Bogaty assured Mrs. Nemeth and Mrs. Viscomi that there was an ongoing police investigation and explained that the council or Mayor were not a liberty to discuss the case although everyone is concerned and relieved no one was physically hurt.

Jac Carter moved to approve the amended Mercer County Housing PILOT Program with Gary Hancock seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

Jerry Johnson moved to authorize Stillwaggon & McGill to perform the 2016 Audit and Financial Statements. Gary Hancock seconded the motion and vote carried unanimously.

Frank Curl reviewed the PA Historical Commission Planning Grant application proposal with council. He added that it would be a 50/50 match. Caroline DaCosta asked if the matching funds were in escrow. Frank Curl advised that they were not but indicated that it was necessary to apply for the grant now and if the grant is awarded the borough would not be committed to go forward with the project if funding was not available. Jac Carter moved to apply for the Historic Preservation Grant with Gary Hancock seconding. Vote carried unanimously. Jac Carter commented that Debbie Sarvis and Frank Curl did a great job with the Sidewalk Streetscape project. Jerry Johnson asked where the money was coming from for the match. Frank Curl stated that property owners were contributing towards the match and he talked to every one of them. Jerry Johnson stated that he wanted it in the minutes that he wanted to know where the money is coming from adding that he is a Trustee with the Republican Headquarters and new nothing about it. Jerry Johnson stated that he wanted to see an agreement. Joe Kurtanich advised Jerry Johnson that the Borough would be responsible for his Engineering fees that the property owners are willing to pay. Caroline DaCosta stated that she would to see an agreement in writing with the property owners with an escrow account. Frank Curl replied that a verbal agreement is all that is necessary now until the grant is awarded. Caroline Dacosta replied to Frank not to pee down her leg and tell her it is raining. Attorney Bogaty advised Mrs. DaCosta that commitments can be taken for the project later on in process. Frank Curl stated that he wanted it in the minutes that the County owns most of the property and the match for the Republicans Headquarters was for approximately \$ 1,700.00 and this is what the project is being held up for.

REPORTS

Joe Kurtanich reviewed items included in his Engineers Report. Jac Carter moved to hire State Pipe or Insite Pipe, the lowest cost of the 2 to clean out the storm water line on Strawberry Street that controls the water that goes down Strawberry Street to N. Diamond Street. Jerry Johnson said that he would be in favor as long as it was under \$ 5,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Council agreed to pay Utility Contractings' final payment authorized at the September 2015 meeting but asked the Administrator to check with MCRP to ensure that the final payment after CDBG funding was correct.

Joe Kurtanich stated that Pinegrove Mobile Home Park had changed ownership and verified with Attorney Bogaty that the laterals should be inspected under Mercer Borough's Ordinance. Beth Hillmar asked the Administrator to contact Coolspring Township to discuss the inspection methods.

Chief Fockler received 5 applications for part-time officers. He asked council to approve hiring 1 part-time officer as a current officer will be leaving at the end of the month. Jac Carter moved to hire Carley Stearns as part time police officer with Jerry Johnson seconding. Vote carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel issues. The meeting was called back to order and properly adjourned.

Submitted by, Debbie Sarvis Administrator

