

## MERCER BOROUGH REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> 2016

Attendance: Beth Hillmar, Jerry Johnson, Frank Curl, Cliff Hughes, Caroline DaCosta, Jac Carter, Attorney Bogaty, Joe Kurtanich, Debbie Sarvis, Joe Kurtanich

Beth Hillmar led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Jac Carter moved to approve the February 9<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> minutes with Cliff Hughes seconding. Vote carried unanimously. Jerry Johnson moved to approve the Treasurers Report with Cliff Hughes seconding. Vote carried unanimously. Jerry Johnson moved to approve Payment of Bills with Jac Carter seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

BID OPENING 2016-1 Shenango Street Sewer Replacement Project. Joe Kurtanich opened bids as follows: Advanced Contracting \$ 449,938.10, J&T Paving \$ 375,950.00, R & B Construction \$ 348,135.00, Utility Contractors –No bid Bond Amount. Jerry Johnson moved to table the bid awards until the next meeting for further review. Cliff Hughes seconded the motion and vote carried unanimously.

Bob Giebner asked if he could hold his comments until the end of New Business. Chief Bill Finley submitted a rough drawing of proposed improvements to the East End Fire Department Social Hall. Chief Fockler introduced Carley Stearns, new part time police officer to council.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Caroline Dacosta moved to approve the Stormwater Permit for excavation/development with Cliff Hughes seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

Frank Curl stated asked to table discussions on the Tennant Landlord Inspection Issue until after the June meeting so that he and the committee could obtain information from the Borough's Association meeting.

The Administrator explained that the Sign Ordinance discussions were initiated when it was reported to her while she was administering the Zoning Regulations that Mercer Beverage had exceeded their sign limits, using a lit pole sign that had been unlit for quite a few years and displaying some neon signs. She added that these signs were added before she was appointed and wanted clear direction and advised at that point to consider changes to the sign ordinance if necessary.

Council discussed Caroline DaCosta's request for reimbursement for her 2 night hotel stay while she attended PSAB's boot camp. Frank Curl explained that his original motion was to pay for the Borough's Association classes and not for the hotel stay. Beth Hillmar and Jac Carter offered to pay mileage expense stating that the Borough would not normally pay for boarding since the classes were offered from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M at a close location (Meadville). Mrs. DaCosta stated that she had already paid for her transportation but appreciated the gesture. Jac Carter moved to pay Mrs. DaCosta \$ 86.44 for mileage to the training classes. The motion died for a lack of a second. Cliff Hughes moved to reimburse Mrs. DaCosta \$ 55.55 for copies of materials distributed at the classes that she wanted to share with the other members of council. Jerry Johnson seconded the motion and vote carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Beth Hillmar stated that the Borough would need to commit to a \$ 358.00 initial fee and \$ 75.00 a year to participate in Mercer County COG's sign reflectivity equipment program. Jac moved to adopt a resolution and send to COG \$ 358.00 with Jerry Johnson seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

Attorney Bogaty reviewed the proposed amended Snow Removal Ordinance that changed the penalty section to not less than \$ 300.00. Jac Carter moved to advertise the proposed ordinance with Jerry Johnson seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

Joe Kurtanich reviewed the Engineers Report with Council. Council approved the Floodplain Permit Application for use by the Borough.

Chief Fockler reviewed the Police Report with council. He asked if council was planning on purchasing a new police vehicle in 2016 because he would have to order it pretty quickly. Council asked the Chief to obtain pricing for the next meeting and Beth Hillmar stated that then council would discuss a purchase.

Jac Carter stated that Jim McGhee would obtain a price for the catch basin and Beaver and Otter Street.

Jerry Johnson announced that there would be a meeting scheduled in April to review first quarter 2016 income and expenses.

Jeff Dunlap explained the initiatives that he took to get property owners to clear off their sidewalks after the big snow storm that accumulated over 12 inches. He added that the snow melted very quickly after he had given warnings to businesses. He advised that for next year after the initial warnings council should consider citations should be automatically given. Jerry Johnson asked Jeff Dunlap what he had planned to do with Aqua Water concerning the storage of equipment on Greg McCandless' property on N. Erie. Jeff Dunlap said that he met with Mr. McCandless after the snow storm and he indicated that there were very little sidewalks left there with big open driveways. Cliff Hughes stated that there used to be sidewalks and there is a walkway that should be kept open always and he really should be required to put in sidewalks. Frank Curl agreed that there should be a sidewalk or walkway there. Jerry Johnson stated that there should be a procedure for storage or use of properties and Mr. McCandless did not get permission from the Borough for anything being done with the parking lot. Ray Bogaty stated that this is under zoning/ code enforcement and Jeff Dunlap would talk to Mr. McCandless to see his plans for the property and then discuss the issues with him.

Frank Curl indicated that the HARB board was waiting for a dollar figure for the master plan (Historic Preservation Plan) for the Administrator to submit for the Keystone Historic Grant. Shane Nugent and Dee Dee Zickar on behalf of the Boomtown Committee discussed the funder raiser concert at the High School. Beth Hillmar offered to pay for extra police coverage that night and for the street foreman to change the Route 19 traffic signal to blinder light to accommodate the extra traffic.

Dee Dee Zickar asked Frank Curl to elaborate on the Historic Master Plan. Frank Curl informed her that T&B Planning would perform a Historic/Business Plan involving all of the business owners for approximately \$ 9,000 to \$ 14,000. The MS 150 Bike Rider group would sponsor a tour that should net approximate \$ 8,500.00 to secure the 50/50 match.

Frank Curl stated that things were going forward with the Park Projects including the Spray Park. He added although the Spray Park Grant Project that Mercer Borough submitted twice was rejected, the DCNR advisor came back with a list of items needed and he would meet with the Park Board to see if they could be accomplished. If not, would the park want to focus on pavilions and easier obtaining funding projects. Mr. Curl added that a hydraulic study was needed to repair the pond (damn) and that DEP compliance and approval is needed before work can begin.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Bob Giebner addressed the Snow Removal Ordinance and informed council that they needed to make sure that this ordinance is enforced. The Administrator informed council that the office was calling or sending letters as a courtesy to the residents and businesses however that was never a directive of council or part of the ordinance. Attorney Bogaty said that it would be up to the Police weather they would warn people or give a citation. Mr. Giebner asked if there could be a sign at the N. Diamond Street, N. Pitt Street to say cross traffic does not stop. He also added that for the past 3 years he has been trying to get council to act on the sidewalk drop off behind Dr. Davis's building entering N. Erie Street and that maybe it could be addressed during the S. Diamond Street sidewalk renovations. Mr. Giebner reported that he understood that a councilman would be leaving. Beth Hillmar responded yes, at some point. Mr. Giebner asked what the procedure is for people to be told that it is going to be open so that more people could consider the position. Beth Hillmar announced that anyone who is interested in submitting a letter of interest or resume' to the Borough Offices for the position is welcome to do so.

Cliff Hughes asked to bring up at the next meeting the one way street at Subway and Rite Aid voicing his objections to the project.

The meeting was properly adjourned.

Submitted by,

Debbie Sarvis  
Administrator