

MERCER BOROUGH REGULAR MEETING

May 9th 2017

Attendance: Jac Carter, Jerry Johnson, Frank Curl, Caroline DaCosta, Aaron Sines, Attorney Bogaty, Joe Kurtanich, Debbie Sarvis

Jac Carter led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Aaron Sines moved to approve the April 11th and May 2nd minutes with Frank Curl seconding. Vote carried unanimously. Jerry Johnson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report with Aaron Sines seconding. Vote carried unanimously. Aaron Sines moved to approve the Payment of Bills with Jerry Johnson seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

VISITORS

Debbie Shalis and Kristen Gregory asked council to consider adopting an ordinance that would require Borough residents to Spay/Neuter their cats and dogs. They informed council of the stray animal problem in the Borough and discussed current laws in regards to ownership of cats.

Jim Hicks asked council to grant him a permanent sidewalk terrace permit for open container/alcohol use for his business on N. Diamond Street. Attorney Bogaty advised that if he would provide the permit application documenting the area and the description council could approve.

Bill Finley discussed his issue with his neighboring property owner directing storm water runoff onto his property. Joe Kurtanich stated that in the current storm water ordinance there were no provisions for this type of activity, only excavation and dirt moving. Attorney Bogaty advised Mr. Finley that this was a private matter and he would have to approach his neighbor. Bill Finley said that it was also washing out the Borough street after it exited his parking lot. Joe Kurtanich agreed to view the street area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jac Carter asked what progress had made to decide what financial information was required from the Fire Department. He added that that the Finance Committee, Jerry Johnson and Caroline DaCosta was asking for an audit. The Borough Administrator reiterated the State and Borough code that states the Borough has the ability to ask for financial information but it is not mandatory. Attorney Bogaty agreed with the information. He added that if the majority of council approved the information their contribution could be made. Chief Bill Finley informed council that the Department was submitting the information required by the State Code and the other municipalities did not have an issue requiring more information. Jerry Johnson asked if the Department would submit an independent audit showing all of their assets and balance sheet accounts. Chief Finley replied that he would not supply this information because it was not necessary. Council agreed to table the issue to the next meeting to research the budget adoption meeting language to see if the Finance Committee asked for financial information from the Department as a condition to approving the budget.

Frank Curl asked for clarity from Attorney Bogaty in regards to the Borough's Property Maintenance Ordinance. Attorney Bogaty advised that although the ordinance allows residents to have one unregistered vehicle, it has to be operable.

After further discussion with the Visitors concerning a proposed Spay/Neuter Program council decided to table the issue until the next meeting.

REPORTS

Council reviewed the Police Report and Aaron Sines commented that the committee would be conducting Police Interviews the next week.

Joe Kurtanich reviewed the Engineers Report with council including the WWTP project, the Sheetz project, the Streetscape Grant and the 2017 Paving Project. Caroline DaCosta asked Mr. Kurtanich if he had obtained any signed property owner reimbursement agreements to which he answered that he was waiting for final project review.

Jac Carter suggested borrowing money to fund a 20% match for replacement of the overhanging wires at the traffic signals with mast arms that would match the previous Route 19 Corridor project. Caroline DaCosta stated that she was not in support of funding a decorative project when there were many other issues that needed corrected. The Borough Administrator reported that the overhanging wires caused a safety issue and wasn't just a cosmetic upgrade. Council discussed several funding options. Frank Curl moved to allow the Administrator to work on updates to the costs with Caroline DaCosta seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

Linda Harton reported that she was working on brush and high grass issues.

Frank Curl gave updates on the Brandy Springs Park improvement project and Aaron Sines reported on the Brews and Vines Event held at the Brandy Springs Park Community Building. The meeting was adjourned to discuss a personnel issue.

The meeting was called back to order. Aaron Sines moved to raise the Administrative staff and Inger Oakes wage .50 cents an hour and the Administrator's Wage 2%. Frank Curl seconded the motion. After a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was properly adjourned.

Submitted by,

Debbie Sarvis
Administrator