

## MERCER BOROUGH REGULAR MEETING

September 11, 2018

Attendance: Beth Hillmar, Jerry Johnson, Bill Finley, Cliff Hughes, Aaron Sines, Caroline DaCosta, Attorney Bogaty, Joe Kurtanich, Chief Shrawder, Debbie Sarvis

Beth Hillmar led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill Finley moved to approve the August 14<sup>th</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup> minutes with Aaron Sines 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 Caroline DaCosta seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

### VISITORS

Dan Goncz presented the Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion Project Engineers Report. Aaron Sines moved to approve Payment Requisition No. RUS-8 in the amount of \$ 906,880.25 with Bill Finley seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

Mark Disilvestri reported to council that he heard that the Borough was not closing the drive way between his and Chuck Bartholomew's building. Beth Hillmar responded that in their last meeting PADot indicated that they could not close the drive if it was not owned by the Borough.

Attorney Bogaty advised council that the Borough should restore the Thompson property back to the condition it was in before excavation.

Shelly Redmond and Abigale Whetzel reported that the speed bumps placed on their street to prevent cars speeding and not stopping at the stop signs were not working . They asked that the Borough designate E. South Street between S. Pitt and Route 19 a one way street. Council discussed performing a traffic count on the street and asked the Administrator if she would contact the Mercer Area COG to see if they could loan out the equipment. Aaron Sines moved to remove the speed bumps on E. South Street

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Joe Kurtanich reported that Mercer Forge forwarded specifications to reroute their sewer water for billing purposes but he needed to review the drawings before making a recommendation.

Harlowe Mattocks and Mayor Vernon discussed Matt Tomeo's high weed situation that is causing traffic impairment at the intersection of E. Market and McKinley Avenue. Attorney Bogaty advised Harlowe Mattocks that he should file a violation with the magistrate and have the weeds/foliage cut unless PaDot is willing to. He asked Mr. Mattocks to take pictures Monday morning before taking action. Aaron moved to have Harlowe Mattocks file against Tomeo and have the area mowed per the Attorney's recommendations. Bill Finley seconded the motion and vote carried unanimously.

The Administrator advised council in regards to the police hire that the overtime part-time police costs versus a full time police officer would work out about the same or less. She added that it was the full time benefit package including medical insurance, sick days and vacation days that would add significant costs to the budget. Bill Finley stated that he would like the position to stay the same as it is now which is part-time. Jac Carter moved to advertise for a part-time police position and re-visit the full time officer position at a later time. Bill Finley seconded the motion and vote carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Beth Hillmar informed council that after she discussed the Administrators efforts to successfully transplant the S. Diamond Street trees to another location, she believed it would be best for Frank Curl to keep the trees and transplant them where he thinks they have the best chance of surviving. Council agreed with the recommendation.

Jac Carter moved to approve Coolsprings' request for an additional sewer EDU with Aaron Sines seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

Chief Shrawder explained the problems that he is experiencing with his radio equipment and reviewed the letter that he received from the Department of Public Safety laying out their concerns. Bill Finley stated that he believed that the Mercer County needed county wide radio signal infrastructure since other departments are experiencing these issues. He volunteered to meet with some other vendors and offered his assistance in finding a good solution.

Cliff Hughes suggested reviewing the Parking Ordinance. He stated that he was approached by someone who received a 2 hour parking violation but had left and came back to the same location on the street. The Administrator advised council that the Ordinance was written to state per street instead of per space to prevent people from moving their cars from one spot to another to prevent being ticketed.

Joe Kurtanich reviewed the remaining items on the Engineers Report including the Low Volume Road project and South Shenango Street project.

The Administrator reported that a motorist claimed to incur damage to his vehicle from a wash out from an excavation site and asked if the Borough could reimbursement from the costs. Attorney Bogaty advised council that the torrential rains caused the wash out and that it was an act of God for which the Borough would not be responsible.

Jerry Johnson stated that work would be started on the 2019 Budget this month and council would need to make a decision on a Public Works Supervisor and other budgetary items.

Cliff Hughes advised council that he was really against eliminating the transformer on the one sewer building. He added that the borough should keep the transformer because it is always a good idea to have another electric source.

Beth Hillmar reminded council that residents will be voting at the Library instead of the Borough Building this year. She added that if anyone asks it is because of the ADA improvements there which makes for better accessibility for the voters.

Beth Hillmar expressed concerns about the progress the park was making on the Spray Park and other projects. She stated that it is mid-September and little progress has been made. The Administrator reported that the Park Board meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month. Council decided to ask the Park Board to attend the next meeting to review the progress and issues with the park projects.

The meeting was properly adjourned.

Submitted by,

Debbie Sarvis  
Administrator