

BOROUGH OFFICE BUILDING
36 West Allen Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6257
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 1, 2010

7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

President Whitcomb called the regular Borough Council meeting of June 1, 2010 to order at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Whitcomb led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

Present were President Whitcomb, Councilmen Ciecierski, Humes, Kiskis, McDermott and Seagrist, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Chief Seagrist, Chief Spotts, Secretary Dennis and Assistant Secretary Boyer. Vice President Ryder was absent, celebrating his 80th birthday.

Press: Roger Quigley – Patriot News

Public: Beverly Bone, Rodson Campbell, Sean Forsythe, Kevin Jackson, Scott Nedrow, Jack Neibert, Mark Stoner, Ron Trace .

GUESTS:

Manager Dennis introduced Kevin Jackson Main Street Mechanicsburg President and Rebecca Yearick, Downtown Coordinator from the Cumberland Perry Housing and Community Partnership. Ms. Yearick distributed a report on the “About Face Grant Funding” for Council’s review (attached). Ms. Yearick reviewed the renovation projects completed through this grant funding. She also reviewed two upcoming renovation projects. Ms. Yearick explained that the grant funds were matching with the property owner contribution equaling or exceeding the grant funds. Of the \$15,000 allocated for this program from the Borough’s Commercial Loan Program, \$588 is left in the grant fund. The Borough has seen \$445,000 in improvements for the \$15,000 investment.

Kevin Jackson, Main Street Mechanicsburg President, thanked Borough Council and staff for making the “About Face Grant Program” possible and informed Borough Council that Main Street would be investing \$10,000 of funding to continue this grant program.

Manager Dennis introduced Rodson Campbell of Patriot Energy, an electric supplier that the Borough is considering for their energy needs. Manager Dennis stated that after interviewing a number of service providers, he would like Council to consider a one year contract at a fixed rate with Patriot Energy.

Mr. Campbell introduced Matt Dikeman, Branch Manager with Patriot Energy. Mr. Campbell stated that his office is located in Harrisburg and he resides in Mechanicsburg. Mr. Campbell reviewed Patriot Energy’s business history and advised Borough Council about the plans Patriot Energy offered to control energy costs. Mr. Campbell reviewed the Borough’s energy use and reported that if the Borough had been with Patriot Energy as of January 1, 2010 the Borough would have saved \$10,737. Councilman Seagrist asked if the Borough residents could receive the same discounted rate as the Borough with Patriot Energy. Mr. Campbell stated that the rate is for commercial and is not currently available for residential customers. Solicitor Schorpp stated there is currently legalization pending that would review consumer electric rates. Councilman Seagrist asked if the Fire Companies could participate. Mr. Campbell stated that they could participate.

Mr. Campbell stated that if Mechanicsburg contracted with his firm he would be assigned to our account and be our local representative. The phones in their office are always answered by a live person, not an automated machine. The Borough would also have a customer service representative assigned to them and that person would check with the Borough monthly to insure that everything was satisfactory. Councilman Kiskis asked if Patriot Energy could provide other municipal references. Mr. Campbell stated that he could provide that. Councilman Kiskis asked who the Borough would call for power outages. Mr. Campbell stated the Borough would still call PP and L for service outage. Councilman Ciecierski asked where Patriot Energy makes their money. Mr. Campbell stated from the generation of the energy, as they are marketing the energy on behalf of the provider.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

There were none

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

There were none. Councilman Seagrist asked about the banner request from Washington Fire Company and Manager Dennis stated that would be on the next Council agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Ciecierski seconded the motion, which passed with no dissenting votes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence was received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Council meeting held on May 19, 2010. Councilman Humes seconded the motion, which passed with no dissenting votes.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Dennis reported that 4 tons of road salt was donated to the Borough by Taylor Wharton. Manager Dennis noted that he submitted a FEMA application for 75% reimbursement of the \$28,000 dollars spent on snow removal. A Safe Routes to School meeting is scheduled for June 7th and Dewberry's cost proposal will be reviewed. Stephanie Perles, of the EAC, who is working on a presentation for Borough Council on another round of Treevitalize Grant funding. The object is to focus on street trees in the next grant round. There is a list of people waiting for street trees. The grant application is due July 1st and authorization will be on the next Council agenda. The total cost would be a \$4,500 match for 25 street trees or a \$9,000 match for 50 street trees.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

May 20th – Swore into office Park Security Patrol for the summer season.

May 21st – Talked at the opening ceremony at the Elmwood Elementary School. It was a fun day centered around community.

May 22nd – Officiated a wedding at Simpson Park.

May 29th – Eagle Scout Ceremony for Paul Bolock held at the Mechanicsburg Little Theatre. Eagle Bolock was given a Citation and a Key to the City from the Mayor's Office.

May 31st – Memorial Day Parade and Service held by the Mechanicsburg Veterans Council at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery. Participated in the Memorial Day Service at the Lincoln Colored Cemetery sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of Mechanicsburg.

June 1st – Presented a Citation and Key to the City to Councilman Charlie Ryder at his 80th Birthday Party. Attended the DARE graduation at the Elmwood Elementary School. Officiated a wedding at the Mayor's Office.

Trivia Question: What is the theme or name of the current exhibit at the Mechanicsburg Museum?
Answer: Mechanicsburg "Then and Now".

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief Spotts reported that today was the closing of the DARE program. Starting with the next school year the SMARTS in Mechanicsburg program will begin. SMARTS is Student Making Appropriate Responses to Tough Situations and will be a community developed program that will expand on some of the topics covered by DARE but will run K-12 instead of K-5th grade. The program will focus on information technology issues, civic responsibility and substance abuse. The School District will be providing all the printed information and Upper Allen and Mechanicsburg Police Departments will be providing officers to assist with the program.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No report.

ENGINEER REPORT:

No report.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist reported that the pump test is scheduled for June 7th at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Capital Area COG - McDermott – No report.

Community Development – Humes – Councilman Humes thanked Main Street Mechanicsburg for continuing the "About Face Grant Program".

Environmental Committee – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported the next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 15th at 6:30 PM in the 2nd floor conference room. The Recycling Committee met this evening. The Recycling Committee recommended Council approve the extension of the current Refuse and Recycling contract with Penn Waste. The Committee is once again handling the recycling efforts for Jubilee Day and is in need of volunteers. Volunteers will gather in front of the Municipal Center at 5:45 AM for setup and 8:45 PM to begin clean up. Councilman Seagrist also reported that the EAC will schedule a visit to some neighboring Community Gardens.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Whitcomb – No report.

Fire – Ciecierski – Councilman Ciecierski reported that Citizen Fire Company will be hosting a breakfast the morning of Jubilee Day and Washington Fire Company will be serving food throughout the day.

Health and Recreation – Ryder – Manager Dennis reported that the Joint Pool Committee will meet on June 7th at noon at the Community Pool. A vendor will be in to review slide options available on State contract.

Highway/Public Safety – Whitcomb – President Whitcomb stated that a meeting is scheduled at 6:30 PM tomorrow evening to discuss several issues.

Loan Review Committee - Humes – Councilman Humes reported that the Loan Review Committee will meet at 5:30 PM on Thursday to review an application.

Ordinance Administration – Ciecierski – No report.

Property & Buildings – Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist reported an agenda item.

Public Communications – McDermott – Councilman McDermott reported the summer newsletter will be sent to the printers tomorrow.

School Board - Ryder – No report.

AGENDA ITEMS –June 1, 2010

- **Discussion and possible action to adopt Ordinance 1115 revising the Police Pension Ordinance.**

Solicitor Schorpp reviewed the revisions he made to this ordinance which removed outdated language and made the Ordinance compatible with new State regulations for the “Killed in Service” benefit and the collective bargaining agreement. Solicitor Schorpp reviewed all the revisions will Borough Council. Councilman Seagrism asked if the Police Union has reviewed the ordinance. Solicitor Schorpp stated that the Police Union is aware of the changes, as they were incorporated into the Police contract and was reviewed by Labor Attorney Mike Miller with Union Representative during contract negotiations. Councilman Humes asked what happens if an officer dies of a heart attack while setting in the station on duty. Solicitor Schorpp indicated that these cases are often litigated. Councilman Ciecierski made a motion to approve. Councilman Humes seconded the motion. President Whitcomb called for the roll call vote:

Ciecierski	Yea	Ryder	Absent
Humes	Yea	Seagrism	Yea
Kiskis	Yea	Whitcomb	Yea
McDermott	Yea		

The motion passed with all in favor.

- **Discussion and possible action to authorize the Solicitor to draft and advertise revisions to the tax Certification Ordinance, as requested by Tax Collector Barry Heckard.**

Manager Dennis reported that Barry Heckard, Tax Collector, requested an increase from \$2.00 to \$5.00 for tax certifications. Councilman Seagrism made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to authorize the Solicitor to draft and advertise a revision to the Tax Certification Ordinance raising the Borough fee to \$5.00, same as the County fee, for a total cost of \$10 per certification. The motion passed with all in favor.

- **Discussion and possible action to approve the Special Events Application for a Farmers Market on the Square.**

Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to approve the Special Events Application for the Farmers Market on the Square. Councilman Humes asked if vendors have been engaged. Councilman Kiskis stated that she has some; however, a few can not start until the second week in June. Councilman Kiskis abstained from the vote, and the motion passed with five voting in favor and none opposed.

- **Discussion and possible action to accept the two year time extension offered by Penn Waste for the Refuse and Recycling Service Contract.**

Manager Dennis reported that staff met with Ed Ward from Penn Waste and Penn Waste has offered a two year extension to the Borough’s Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling contract with no rate increase. Manager Dennis stated that service has been good with minimal complaints and staff recommends accepting the two year extension offered. Solicitor Schorpp asked if the time extension is provided for in the contract. Boyer reported that one two year extension was included in the contract. Councilman Seagrism made a motion to accept the two year contract extension offered by Penn Waste, with the costs for all services remaining fixed for through December 31, 2012. Councilman Humes seconded the motion, which passed with all voting in favor.

- **Discussion and possible action to accept grant funding from DCNR in the amount of \$124,500 for pool improvements.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman Kiskis, to accept the grant funding from DCNR for pool improvements. Manager Dennis stated that the Pool Capital Campaign fund has sufficient monies to cover the Borough match on the grant. The motion passed with all in favor.

- **Discussion and possible action to donate birth and death records to the Cumberland County Historical Society.**

Manager Dennis recognized volunteer Beverly Bone for her hard work in organizing the Borough records currently stored on the 34 West Allen Street 2nd floor. As part of her efforts she has located birth, death and marriage records from the late 1800's. Since the Borough does not have appropriate storage facilities for these items, staff is requesting that the items be donated to the Cumberland County Historical Society, where they could be cataloged and stored and made available to the public for genealogy research. Councilman Humes made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to approve the donation of all marriage, death and birth records currently housed at the Municipal Center to the Cumberland County Historical Society, to be made available to the public for genealogy research. The motion was approved unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Beverly Bone, 144 East Main Street, addressed Borough Council regarding an accident she was involved in on the morning of May 13, 2010 just before 8 AM. Mrs. Bone stated that she pushed the button to cross South Market Street and proceeded to cross in the cross walk when a pick up truck made a left hand turn onto South Market Street and struck her. Mrs. Bone stated she was fortunate not to have any broken bones, only bruises. Mrs. Bone noted that she is the eighth person to be involved in a pedestrian accident in the Borough over the last two years. The Borough is lucky that none of these accidents were fatal; however, they could have been avoided. Mrs. Bone stated that it is important to make the downtown safe for pedestrians and adjustments to the traffic signals so that all directions would be red when the button was pushed by a pedestrian to cross an intersection. Mrs. Bone stated that this causes a slight delay in traffic flow but it would only occur when a pedestrian cross walk button was activated. Mrs. Bone stated that drivers can be aggressive in the downtown area and they are not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks. An adjustment to the crossing lights would let pedestrians know that Council is concerned for their safety. Councilman Humes asked if the driver that struck Mrs. Bone was cited and Chief Spotts indicated that he was. President Whitcomb directed Manager Dennis to check with the Borough Engineer to see what would be involved in making this change to the lights for a four way red. Councilman Seagrist asked where Mrs. Bone gathered her information about the number of accidents. Chief Spotts indicated that he provided that to Mrs. Bone. Councilman Kiskis stated it has been her experience that vehicles turning do not want to stop and yield to pedestrian.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Manager Dennis reported that the pool was opened this weekend and it was a successful weekend. They ran out of food on Sunday and 85 pool passes were sold and \$9,000 made. Manager Dennis thanked the New Pool Staff and George Eisenhower for getting the pool open. Manager Dennis stated that he wanted to thank George Eisenhower for all the hard work he does each year to insure that the pool maintenance is all completed prior to opening weekend. It is an enormous amount of work each year.

Chief Spotts stated "Go Flyers".

Councilman Kiskis asked Manager Dennis if any of the organization attending the Comprehensive Plan meeting last Thursday have suggestions for moving the Comprehensive Plan forward. Manager Dennis state that there was good dialog, but no firm projects were brought forth by the volunteers in attendance. Manager Dennis stated that he feels volunteers left the meeting with a sense of direction.

President Whitcomb stated he received a requested Ordinance revision from Chief Spotts and is sending that to the Ordinance Committee for review. .

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:41 PM President Whitcomb adjourned the meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat E. Dennis". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Patrick E. Dennis, Borough Secretary