

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

April 15, 2008

7:00 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:50 PM, President Whitcomb called the Council meeting to order and stated that Council had been in an executive session to discuss a matter of personnel.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL: Roll call was taken with the following present: President Whitcomb, Vice President Ryder, Councilmen Ciecierski, Humes, McDermott, Seagrist, Stoner, Jr. Councilperson Keenan-Koch, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Schorpp, Engineer Barber, Chief Spotts, Chief Seagrist, Manager Stough and Assistant Secretary Boyer.

Also in attendance: Creason - Sentinel, Bob Arbogast, Don Farinelli, Kathy Furr, Lana Glaser, Nancy Hanlon, Sean Forsythe, Jack Neibert, Michael Ripton, Johnna Seeton, Annan Seifert, Sherrie Shatzer, Ron Trace and Alan Wirt.

GUESTS

Johnna Seton, addressed Borough Council regarding the Feral Cat issue in the Borough. She distributed information on organizations that can assist the Borough with the problem. She also provided sample verbiage to change the Borough Ordinance to provide for a spay, neuter and release program. She also provided information on spay and neuter programs available to residents of the Borough at no charge through various area non-profit animal protection agencies. Ms. Seton explained the spay, neuter, release program to Borough Council and residents. After questions, President Whitcomb asked Chairman Ciecierski to schedule an Ordinance Committee meeting to review the material and consider a recommendation on changes to the Borough Ordinance. Councilman Ciecierski stated that he will schedule a meeting and invite interested residents and other interested parties to attend the meeting and provide input to the Committee.

President Whitcomb stated that prior to the start of the Council meeting an Executive Session was held on a matter of personnel, which is why the meeting started a little behind schedule this evening.

Mike Ripton, representing the Mechanicsburg Museum Association, provided strawberry shortcake to Borough Council in commemoration of the 180 years and 3 days since the formation of the Mechanicsburg Borough Council. Mr. Ripton provided the strawberry cake in recognition of the Council's service to the community and in commemoration of the 4 strawberries paid to the Borough as rent for the Stationmaster's House for over 30 years.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

There were no citizen's comments at this time.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Manager Stough added Resolution 11-2008 in memory of Glenn Swank, former Shade Tree Commission member and consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness for Greg Jones, 40 East Main Street for signage. The HARB had recommended approval of this application at their meeting on April 2nd; however, it was omitted from the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilman McDermott made a motion for approval of the agenda, with the additions noted. Councilman Stoner seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager Stough reported the following correspondence was received:

- ◆ A letter was received from a resident on East Main Street regarding a dog waste disposal bag station for Memorial Park.
- ◆ The DEP press conference is now scheduled for Thursday at 10 AM to unveil the statewide compact fluorescent bulb recycling program.
- ◆ Information was received from L.J.B. Contractors on upcoming street closures on Marble, Frederick, and Glenn Streets and the information will be provided to Borough Council in packets.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman McDermott made motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2008 regular Council meeting Vice President Ryder seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Stough read a letter to the Borough Council.

Dear Council:

This is a letter that at one point in time I could never envision writing. However, after much prayer and consideration, I believe it is exactly the right time for it to be written. My tenure here at the Borough of Mechanicsburg has been an adventure. An adventure filled with great achievements that could not have been accomplished without the tireless work of more volunteers than I can mention in the scope of this letter. Also, I can't say enough for the staff that we are fortunate to have working for the Borough. They are able to work cooperatively and tackle much more than ever expected. Over the last seven years Borough Council has been called upon many times to make difficult decisions. Decisions that you knew would adversely affect some, but in the best interest of most.

One of my goals when I came here was to work to make the Borough a better place to live, work and raise a family. The Borough is in a stronger financial position than it was in 2001 and we've been able to complete a large number of projects. Such as:

- *Acquisition & Renovation of the Municipal Center*
- *Pool Upgrades*
- *Multiple Paving Projects*
- *Acquisition & Demolition of the Bartoo house*
- *Upgraded Sewer & Refuse and Financial Software*
- *HARB*
- *Rental Housing Program*
- *Main Street*
- *Traffic Signals*
- *Joint Compost Site*
- *Church Road Bridge*
- *Mulberry Drive Bridge*
- *Sewering Elmwood/Maplewood*
- *Grants totaling more than \$2.1 million dollars*

I value the friendships and relationships that I've been able to develop since coming here and trading my "township hat" for a "borough" one. To those of you who were on Borough Council when I interviewed with you, I'd like to thank you for taking a chance on this "unproven commodity". I've always strived to treat all of our residents equally, without preference or prejudice. As I've made recommendations to Borough Council, my recurring desire has been to do what's in the best interest of at least 51% of the taxpayers.

When I was hired, by Council, I was told that there were projects that needed to be completed - bridges, traffic signals, paving, stormwater, sewer upgrades, pool improvements, etc. So, I set out with a goal to get these things accomplished. We worked hard & funded many of these projects. Unfortunately, there are many more to do.

Nearly six months ago I was approached about another job opportunity & after much consideration I have decided that it is the right time to make a change. I provide you with this information, in order to begin the process of my replacement. I believe the Borough was well served by the procedure employed during the transition from Scott Epley to myself. Even though I provide this letter in April, I would like to work through Friday, July 4, 2008. This should provide the Borough with ample time to advertise, interview and bring someone new on staff. I want to be considerate of the Borough's needs and what is in the best interest of all.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jonathan Stough

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayors Report

- ◆ April 5th – Attended the 62nd Anniversary Banquet of the Mechanicsburg Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 6704.
- ◆ April 9th – Toured our Composting Facility with Charlie Young, Information Specialist for DEP, Glenda Boyer and Jon Stough.

- ◆ April 11th – The West Shore Chapter of Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame held their 24th Annual Induction Banquet. Inductees from Mechanicsburg were Rich Lichtel and Karen Hertzler.
- ◆ April 14th – Crime Watch presenter was Dom Tarquin. The history of the Crime Watch, yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Upcoming – Saturday April 19th Earth Day in Mechanicsburg starting with opening remarks and Poster Contest winners at the square at 11 AM.

Trivia Question: What was the name of the company that owned and operated the trolley cars that once traveled up and down Main Street. Answer: The Valley Traction Company.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

On April 3rd Officer Dyer received an award from PennDOT for his work in the Smooth Operator Program.

Letters of commendation were received for Officers Bayer, Curtis, Montgomery and Vincent for their work at recent incidents.

The traffic survey for the 900 block of Alison Avenue is completed and a report was distributed to Council.

Councilman Humes asked about the traffic counter being deployed on East Main Street and Chief Spotts indicated it is deployed on East Main Street currently.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No Report.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Engineer Barber reported on the traffic signalization process stating that he has met with PennDOT and the contractor on site at the Simpson Street intersections of Walnut and Shepherdstown. Possible solutions for the traffic flow are to reset the timing at the Simpson Street intersections and also the intersection of E. Main and Walnut to try to improve traffic flow. This week traffic counts were conducted by Pennoni to record accurate traffic volumes. This week the modeling is being updated and after PennDOT reviews and approves the new timing sequences will be implemented. This is anticipated to occur next Tuesday. The installation of turn arrows at the lights on Simpson Street was discussed. PennDOT is considering this request. A punch list of items for testing was provided to the contractor. The 30 day timing cycle currently underway will continue until all the punch list items are resolved. The pre-emption devices were tested yesterday. Discussion followed on some of the problem areas where traffic is stacking up. Councilman Humes asked about the options for the left turn arrow on Simpson. Engineer Barber explained the possible options for a turn arrow at that location. Engineer Barber reported that he will be putting out a memo to Borough Council regarding possible parking restrictions on Simpson Street to help with traffic flow. Chief Spotts indicated that the pre-emption devices worked when tested today.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Seagrist reported holding a fire officers meeting last week. He also attended the quarterly Mechanicsburg Fireman's relief meeting. Chief Seagrist reported that he and Chris Trace from Station 28 held fire extinguisher training for B & S Transportation, the company that provides bus service for the School District. Approximately 35 drivers attending the training and the Fire Company received a donation of \$500, which will be split between the two Fire Companies.

JR. COUNCILPERSON REPORT:

Jr. Councilperson Keenan-Koch reported that the school musical got underway with a charity show for seniors on Wednesday and show for the public beginning Thursday and continuing through Saturday.

The Model UN conference was cancelled.

Math team had two competitions and they won first place.

She also reported receiving a Jr. Councilperson pin from PSAB.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Capital Area COG – McDermott – Councilman McDermott – The next meeting will be held Monday night. Information will be distributed in Council packets.

Community Development– Humes – The Comprehensive Plan implementation effort is continuing from the meeting in January. From that meeting objectives were identified and groups were identified to work towards these objectives. A task force is being formed to monitor progress and report to Borough Council.

Environmental/Recycling Committee – Ryder – Boyer reported that the Environmental Advisory Council met this evening and discussed progress on the Rain Garden Project at the Compost Site. Councilman Seagrist reported that the Penn State Master Gardeners of Cumberland County working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection are offering four composting workshops and 100 free composting bins this spring in Cumberland County. The event is scheduled for April 26th from 10 – 11 AM at the Lower Allen Township Park is the closest location for Mechanicsburg

residents. Interested residents can register by calling the Cumberland County Penn State Agriculture Extension Office at 240-6400. Councilman Seagrist stated that he attended a workshop here in Mechanicsburg facilitated by Carl Hursh and found the presentation extremely informative and worthwhile. Compost bins like those distributed retail for approximately \$80, so it is a significant savings for gardeners interested in home composting.

Finance/Appropriations/Insurance – Whitcomb – No report.

Fire Committee –Ciecierski – Councilman Ciecierski reported that the Committee met on April 2nd at the Citizens Fire House. He reported that he will have meeting minutes distributed shortly. The next meeting will be held on June 4th at the Washington Fire House on East Main Street at 7 PM.

Health/Recreation –Seagrist – Councilman Seagrist – The April 8, 2008 Recreation Commission meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. The next Recreation Commission will be held on May 13th at 7 PM.

Highway/Public Safety – Stoner – No report.

Loan Review Committee- Humes – No report.

Ordinance/Administration/Legislative Action – Ciecierski – No report

Property/Buildings – Stoner – Councilman Stoner reported that at Memorial Park Pavilion the sewer department employees are installing a new metal roof. Manager Stough reported that work crews from Messiah College will be in the Borough on Thursday for their Annual Service Day. About 40 volunteer will be in Memorial Park painting picnic tables and cleaning up the park for spring. Councilman Seagrist asked Manager Stough to add the creek along Mulberry Drive to the list of potential clean up projects.

Public Communication – McDermott – No report

School Board – Ryder – No report

Agenda Items April 15, 2008

◆ **Discussion and possible action on Certificates of Appropriateness for:**

- **Gilbert Canevari – 501 S. Market St. for Window Replacement.**
Councilman Humes made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Gilbert Canevari for window replacement at 501 South Market Street as outlined in his application. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion. After a brief discussion the motion passed with all in favor.
- **Commonwealth of PA – 211-213 W. Main St. for Wayfinding Signage for Civil War Trails.**
Councilman Ciecierski made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Commonwealth of PA for Wayfinding Signage at 211-213 West Main Street Street as outlined in the application. Councilman Stoner seconded the motion. After a brief discussion the motion passed with all in favor.
- **Mechanicsburg Museum Association – 3 W. Allen St. for Siding, Door and Platform replacement.**
Councilman Stoner made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for The Mechanicsburg Museum Association for siding, door and platform replacement at 36 West Allen Street as outlined in the application. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion. After a brief discussion the motion passed with all in favor.
- **Joseph M. Fisher – 200 W Locust St. – Door Replacement.**
Councilman Humes made a motion to deny the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the door replacement at 200 West Locust Street. Vice President Ryder seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of six in favor (Ciecierski, Humes, McDermott, Ryder, Stoner, Whitcomb) and one against (Seagrist)
- **Frederick & Kate Fegan – 601 W Main St. – Window Replacement.**
Councilman McDermott made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Frederick & Kate Fegan for window replacement at 601 West Main Street as outlined in the application. Vice President Ryder seconded the motion. After a brief discussion the motion passed with all in favor.
- **Greg Jones – 40 E. Main Street – First Floor Signage.**
Councilman Humes made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Greg Jones for signage at 40 East Main Street as outlined in the application. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion. After a brief discussion the motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on the Memorial Park Football Field reconstruction project.**

President Whitcomb stated that he and the Manager met with the School District representatives yesterday to discuss this project and agreed that extension of the lease would be the logical resolution to the issue of maintenance of the artificial surface. Councilman Humes stated that her concern is that the School District would be responsible to repair or replace the turf service as needed so that maintenance or replacement would not fall to the Borough in the future. Manager Stough reported on the meeting stating that the School District recently replaced all the bleachers at the stadium which was a significant investment. With the installation of the artificial surface, much of the installation costs are in the site preparation. Replace of the field surface would not be as costly as the original installation. There is verbiage in the lease about up keep and maintenance of the field, which is not as extensive as the solicitor would recommend, but does speak to the issue. Discussion followed on field use within the Borough at both School Districts and Borough facilities. Councilman Humes asked if the school district was budgeting for future replacement of the turf.

Mr. Wirt, from the Wildcat Foundation, indicated that the School District is planning to set aside monies over the 1st ten years after installation to pay for the turf replacement when needed. After some additional discussion, Vice President Ryder made a motion to offer the School District a ten year extension on the lease for the Memorial Park Football Field. Councilman Ciecierski seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor. Vice President Ryder then made a motion to approve the installation of an artificial turf service at the Memorial Park Football Field by the School District as per the plans submitted and recommended for approval by the Mechanicsburg Planning Commission. A discussion followed on storm water issues related to the turf installation. Councilman Seagrist asked Mr. Wirt asked who would be paying for the turf installation the Wildcat Foundation or the taxpayers of the Mechanicsburg School District. Mr. Wirt stated that all the improvements would be made with funds donated to the Wildcat Foundation and no taxpayer dollars would be used for this project. Councilman McDermott asked if the future replacement of the turf would be financed with taxpayer dollars. Mr. Wirt indicated that it would, but the turf would reduce maintenance costs over the it's ten year life expectancy which would result in savings to the school district. Discussion followed on the reduced maintenance and extension of uses provided by the artificial surface. After some additional discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed by a vote of six in favor (Ciecierski, Humes, Ryder, Seagrist, Stoner, Whitcomb) and one against (McDermott).

◆ **Discussion and possible award of the Concrete Bid for 2008.**

Manager Stough reported that five bid packets were distributed to potential bidders and two bids were received, with Rich Gilmore submitting the low bid. Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to award the concrete bid to Rich Gilmore for the 2008 season. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on Resolution 9-2008 in memory of Jim Neff.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion, second by Councilman McDermott, to adopt Resolution 9-2008 in memory of Jim Neff. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on Resolution 10-2008 in honor of the Mechanicsburg Area High School Basketball Team.**

Councilman McDermott made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to adopt Resolution 10-2008 in honor of the Mechanicsburg Area High School Basketball Team. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on the request of the Mechanicsburg Little League Association for storage of building supplies.**

Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Stoner to approve the use of an area at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, designated by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager, for building supply storage for a period not to exceed twelve months. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on paving of the parking lot at the Senior Adult Center.**

Manager Stough reviewed the proposed paving at the Senior Adult Center. He indicated that the Senior Adult Center would pay for the labor if the Borough paid for the paving materials. The Senior Center received a \$7,000 donation from the Mechanicsburg Club to help defer their costs and would be providing \$2,000 in funds to total a \$9,000 Contribution. The Borough's costs would be approximately \$9,500. Councilman Humes stated that the EAC had inquired about pervious paving at this location as an option. Engineer Barber reported that pervious paving is considerably more expensive. Discussion followed about direction of the storm water run off and the liability issues due to the deteriorated condition of the parking area. After discussion, Councilman Ciecierski made a motion that the Borough provide the paving material for the Senior Adult Center parking lot, provided the Senior Adult Center pay for the labor costs. Councilman McDermott seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on the placement of a bench being donated by Giants Food on Earth Day.**

After discussion on a possible location, Councilman Humes made a motion, second by Councilman Ciecierski, to accept the donation of the bench from Giant and to install the bench at Finkenbinder Field. The motion passed with all in favor.

◆ **Consider action on a Letter of support for SB 710 opposing Salvia.**

Councilman Seagrist made a motion to send a letter of support for Senate Bill 710 to our State Legislators and carbon copy State Senator Steward Greenly and Senator Lisa Biscolli. Vice President Ryder seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Consideration and possible action to hire Brian F. Grzyboski, Jamie L. Heatherly and Jay S. Trimble as Park Security Officers.**

Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Stoner to approve hiring of the three new park security officers recommended by Chief Spotts. Councilman Stoner seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on copy machine replacement.**

Manager Stough suggested to Borough Council that the administrative office copy machine be replaced and the machine currently in the Borough Office be placed in the Police Department as their copy machine is not working well. The Police Department machine could be traded in and the cost could be distributed between the department's budgets. The machine currently in the Admin Office is not able to handle the weight of the sewer bill paper stock. Price quotes and a memo will be prepared for Council's consideration.

◆ **Discussion and possible action on Resolution 11-08 in memory of Glenn Swank.**

Vice President Ryder made a motion, second by Councilman Humes to adopt Resolution 11-08 in memory of Glenn Swank.

◆ **Approval of Expenditures from February 1, 2008 through February 29, 2008.**

Vice President Ryder made a motion to approve the expenditures from February 1, 2008 through February 29, 2008 as follows: General Fund: \$220,979.57 Capital Fund: \$24,614.21 Highway Fund: \$18,057.01

Councilman Ciecierski seconded the motion. Councilman Humes asked if the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures would be for a one month period in the future. Boyer indicated that it would be, but it was provided for January and February combined as it was not provided in January. President Whitcomb called for a vote and the motion passed with all in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Bob Arbogast, 508 S Market St., asked the Manager how the Realty Transfer estimates were arrived at for the 2008 budget. Manager Stough stated that it was an educated estimate based on past years revenues. He stated he felt the estimate was high with the declining Real Estate market. Councilman Seagrist stated that Council will look at that when preparing the 2009 budget.

Lana Glaser, Apple Drive, noted that the sewer bills were not yet out to residents and the Manager's Annual Report just arrived at residences this week and it is already April. Manager Stough stated that sewer bills were delivered to the post office on Monday. She then asked what was the expenditure amount that had to be placed out to bid. President Whitcomb indicated that it was any purchase in excess of \$10,000 and that is a state requirement.

Rita Towler, 8 East Portland Street, asked if residents would have input on the possible changes to the Borough animal control ordinance. Councilman Ciecierski stated that he would take contact information from the interested parties here this evening and advise them of the date that the committee would meet to discuss the matter.

Sherrie Shatzer, Please don't Litter, stated that she has received calls about strays from Mechanicsburg residents since their article was placed in the Borough newsletter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:26 PM, President Whitcomb adjourned the meeting to Executive Session on a personnel matter

At 9:50 PM, President Whitcomb reconvened the Public Meeting.

Vice President made a motion to except with deep regret the resignation of Jonathan S. Stough as Borough Manager effective July 4, 2008. Councilman Humes seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

None

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:55 PM with no further business to discuss, President Whitcomb adjourned the meeting.



Jonathan S. Stough,
Borough Secretary