

BOROUGH OF MECHANICSBURG VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
36 West Allen Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

May 19, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER**

**7:30 PM**

President Weber reviewed the rules for virtual meetings then called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with the following members in attendance:

President Weber, Vice President Miller, Councilwoman Agerton, Councilmen Anthony, Pellman, Whitcomb, Mayor Ritter, Solicitor Zei, Engineer Rogalski, Chief Myers, Chief Neff, EMC Wardle and Manager Ciecierski. Councilman Bucher, Assistant Manager Boyer and Administrative Assistant Martin were absent.

**GUESTS**

Councilwoman Agerton introduced Professor Paul Miller from Central Penn College and his students, Alexa Shugart, Kate Freeman and Ryan Stevens. President Weber introduced Boy Scout Troop 300 and their leader Linda Willis. Mrs. Willis noted that Troop 300 had a tour of Mechanicsburg. Ms. Willis introduced the Scouts in attendance Austin, Cyrus, Lincoln, Zachary, Eion, Harry and Sam who are working on their Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS/REQUESTS**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Whitcomb made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Borough Council held on May 4, 2021 as presented. Councilwoman Agerton seconded the motion. Councilman Anthony noted that there is a change required in the last paragraph, \$7,500 not \$75,000 was put in the Mechanicsburg community through the Mechanicsburg Bucks Program. The motion and second were amended, the change in the amount distributed and the amended motion passed unanimously.

**BOROUGH BOARDS LIAISON**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD – BUCHER**

Councilman Bucher sent a written report, which was read by Manager Ciecierski.

**HARB – BUCHER**

No report.

**LOAN REVIEW – MILLER**

No report.

**MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY - MILLER**

Vice President Miller reported that the Authority Board met Monday evening and addressed two appeals from Landmark LLC related to the stormwater fees. The appeal of the billing rate related to undeveloped properties was approved, and the second appeal was determined to be not in the scope of the Authority Board, as per Solicitor Coyne.

**PLANNING COMMISSION – PELLMAN**

Councilman Pellman reported that the Planning Commission met on April 26<sup>th</sup> and the Conditional Use Application of Jason Smith for the property at 308 East Main Street, was reviewed and recommended for approval.

**RECREATION BOARD - AGERTON**

Councilwoman Agerton reported that the Recreation Board met last Tuesday and discussed items related to the pool season and noting that there are several pools related items on the agenda this evening. The Recreation Board continues to work on Community Day with the Downtown Partnership and the Hometown Hero Banners Project with the American Legion.

**SHADE TREE – BUCHER**

Council inquired if the trees on Walnut Street that were cut down by the School, were approved by the Shade Tree Commission. Manager Ciecierski stated that the tree removal was part of the land development plan and they will be replaced with 48 trees to be planted on the site.

**SCHOOL BOARD - WEBER**

President Weber stated the School Board hired a new principal for the Kindergarten Academy, as the principal is retiring. The new principal will be Kristen Saxes from Derry Township School District.

## **BOROUGH MANAGER**

Manager Ciecierski submitted a written report in packets. Manager Ciecierski stated that he and Engineer Rogalski met with Mr. Hennessey from Energy Optics to review the Borough's energy consumption. On Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup> Manager Ciecierski met with Pennoni to discuss a data collection system that would enable the Borough to have a complete mapping of the infrastructure for sewer and stormwater. On May 6<sup>th</sup> the Manager met with a company to learn about full depth reclamation paving, which would provide a 30 to 40 % saving over traditional paving. On May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Manager Ciecierski attended training to be an amenities inspector, so he could be the inspector for the pool amenities as a vendor was not available to do the inspections. Councilwoman Agerton asked if any other local community in our area have used the full depth reclamation process. Engineer Rogalski stated Newberry Township did a project with similar technology and realized a 30% savings.

## **MAYOR**

The Mayor Reported the following activities

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April 30<sup>th</sup> – Swore in Jim Musselman to the office of Fire Police.

May 12<sup>th</sup> – Performed a wedding at 25 West Main Street, no fee was charged.

May 20<sup>th</sup> the Annual Veterans Breakfast was held at Strock's Farms. The event is sponsored by our local State Representative Cheryl Delozier.

Mayor Ritter reported that the Memorial Day Parade was cancelled. A program will be held at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery at 11 AM. Later in the day, a program will be held at the Lincoln Cemetery on West Winding Hill Drive.

## **CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Myers thanked Chief Neff and the Fire Department for their help with two recent incidents. One incident was a missing child and the other involved a canine rescue.

Chief Neff stated that he is glad that he and the Fire Department can work cooperatively with the Police Department. Chief Neff stated that the Fire Department receives assistance from the Police Department, and he would like to thank Chief Myers and the Department for their help and support.

## **SOLICITOR**

No report.

## **FIRE CHIEF**

Fire Chief Neff stated a few weeks ago he was asked to represent the Borough on a talk show with the PA State Fire Director. A Tabletop discussion was held on how Covid impacted the volunteer fire service, decreasing the number of volunteer and impacting volunteer retention. The show will air on PCN Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 AM, Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM, Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM and Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. This film will be used as a recruitment tool in schools, throughout the Commonwealth. Chief Neff noted that the purchase of a Fire Command Vehicle is on this evening's agenda.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR**

EMC Wardle submitted a written report. EMC Wardle highlighted the last paragraph from his report as follows:

*While numbers in all cases are trending in a positive direction, the next month is going to be very indicative of the future of the virus in Pa. With the lifting of mitigation, along with Memorial Day, proms, graduations, the beginning of summer, etc., we will see if our numbers increase again, or if the recent downward trend continues or levels off. This will all play a major role in painting the picture of what the future looks like in terms of the virus.*

Today there were less than 1300 cases and it is his hope that will continue.

## **ENGINEER REPORT**

The engineer reported that the work at the pool is complete.

## **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Manager Ciecierski stated that the Executive Session scheduled will be removed and there are no additions.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilwoman Agerton made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended, for the regular Council meeting of May 19, 2021. Vice President Miller seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Discussion and Action on adjusting the Lifeguard hourly starting pay to \$10.00, providing a \$200.00 taxable bonus for the lifeguards at the pool if they work the entire year as scheduled, no call offs or late for work and have five or less days of vacation.**

Councilwoman Agerton made the motion to approve the proposed salary increases and bonus payments for pool staff, which was seconded by Councilman Pellman. The floor was opened for discussion. Councilwoman Agerton stated that the Borough is below the starting rate for Summer Playground Staff employed by the School District and spoke in favor of the changes. Vice President Miler asked about hiring for the pool. Manager Ciecierski stated that there are 15 confirmed lifeguards and two lifeguards with pending applications. Ciecierski reported that the front desk and concession stand are staffed. The pool will be open Memorial Day weekend from 1 PM to 5 PM. Councilman Anthony asked the current starting rate of lifeguards and Manager Ciecierski stated it is \$9.25. Vice President Miller noted that the Borough must remain competitive with other seasonal employment opportunities available in the area. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion and Action to authorize the Fire Chief to purchase a 2014 Ford Explorer as a Command vehicle for \$16,500.00, using Fire Capital revenue.**

Councilman Whitcomb made a motion, seconded by Councilman Anthony, to approve the purchase of the 2014 Ford Explorer Command Vehicle for \$16,500 from the Capital Fire Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion and Action to reschedule the Conditional use Hearing for 308 East Main Street to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 7:15 PM.**

Manager Ciecierski stated that due to personal issues, the Conditional Use Hearing was not advertised, so it will need to be rescheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:15 PM. Councilman Pellman made a motion, second by Councilman Whitcomb to reschedule the Conditional Use Hearing for 208 East Main Street for June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:15 PM. The motion passed with all in favor.

### **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the 2020 Draft Audit by Trout Associates.**

Councilman Whitcomb made a motion to approve the 2020 draft financial audit as prepared by Trout Associates. Councilman Pellman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### **Discussion and Possible Action to Offer an E-Billing Option for Utility Bills beginning with the July 2021 Billing.**

Councilman Anthony made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Agerton, to approve offering an e-billing option for the July 2021 utility bill. Councilman Anthony asked if there would be a cost in offering the service. Manager Ciecierski stated that he was not sure, but he thought any costs would be minimal. Manager Ciecierski stated that e-billing could potentially cut down on mailing costs. Vice President Miller stated that the availability of e-billing would need to be properly advertised and he believes that it is a feature in the software that the Borough currently uses. Vice President Miller stated that there currently is a convenience fee to pay online and would like to know what the cost would be to the Borough to eliminate the convenience fee. After some additional discussion on the e-bill process the motion passed with all in favor.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Melissa Halsey addressed the Borough Council on the sale of Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation center and requested that Council consider a Resolution to encourage the County Commissioners to stop the sale to a for profit facility.

Nate Wardle stated that he can provide additional information to Borough Council on the proposed buyer and the pending sale. Councilwoman Agerton stated that the Cumberland County Commissioners are moving ahead with the sale. President Weber stated that staff could provide a Resolution for consideration meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>. President Weber asked Councilwoman Agerton and EMC Wardle to provide any background information they have to the Borough Manager for inclusion in Council packets.

Paulette Matthews thanked the Borough Council members for all the work that has been done to get the pool opened. Ms. Matthews expressed support for the increase in salaries for employees at the pool.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Agerton reported that she is attending a South Mountain Trolley meeting at 10 AM, Saturday at the trail head off of Trindle Road.

Councilman Pellman noted that the Memorial Day Parade was cancelled, but there will be a Memorial Ceremony at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery at 11 AM on Memorial Day. Councilwoman Agerton asked if volunteers were needed for that. Councilman Pellman advised that the veterans organizations handle the event.

Manager Ciecierski offered congratulations to Nate Wardle for the promotion he received. Manager Ciecierski asked Borough Council about reopening the Borough Office. After discussion, it was decided to reopen June 1<sup>st</sup> with mask requirements and one way traffic patterns remaining in place. Manager Ciecierski reported that Pool pass sales have increased this week. He reported that the Aqua Zippins have been retro fitted with new retraction devices. Councilman Pellman asked if patrons that paid for their pool passes last year for this year would receive confirmation e-mails that their passes were active. Manager Ciecierski stated that Ms. Martin will do an e-mail blast to let them know the pass has been activated. Manager Ciecierski asked Borough Council if they would be resuming in person meetings in June. Discussion followed on the matter, including a discussion on if the meeting could be broadcasted live. After discussion, it was decided that when Council meetings resume, masks and social distancing will remain in place, however, a date to resume in person meetings was not finalized.

**ADJOURN.**

At 8:40 PM, President Weber adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Roger Ciecierski, Borough Secretary

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