

MOUNT PENN BOROUGH  
BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
August 12, 2024

The Mount Penn Borough Council met for a Special Meeting on August 12, 2024, at Borough Hall at 200 N. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, PA 19606. Council President Troy Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Members in attendance were Mayor Ryan Maurer, Council President Troy Goodman, Council Vice President Rick Lombardo, Council Member Thomas Baer, Council Member Christine Dise, Council Member Michael Kindlick, and Council Member Roger Stief. Staff and Professional Members present were Borough Manager Hunter L. Ahrens and Chief of Police Raymond Serafin.

Several community members were also present.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Community Relations Discussion**

Mr. Stief expressed concerns about Mayor Maurer's veto and addressed two items in the written veto. He discussed the enforcement of ordinances, particularly the restriction on oversized vehicles and permit parking on residential streets. He emphasized the need for fairness in enforcement and that all residents should be equally protected from inconvenience. Mr. Stief also referenced that the Borough Office currently collects a large amount of personal information and maintains it well with the staff.

Mrs. Dise addressed misconceptions from the previous meeting regarding permit parking. She provided detailed statistics from past meetings and a recent survey, including the initial meeting discussions, which showed mixed opinions on permit parking. She also shared survey results, which indicated a majority (52%) in favor of permit parking, with 33% against and 14% undecided among directly affected residents.

**Permit Parking Ordinance**

Mr. Lombardo thanked the council and residents for their efforts in addressing the permit parking issue. He acknowledged that it is impossible to please everyone but stressed that the council's goal is to serve the majority of residents.

Mr. Maurer reiterated his position on the permit parking ordinance, emphasizing that the ongoing process reflects democracy in action.

*Roger Stief motioned to override the Mayoral Veto of Ordinance 895 Adopting a Permit Parking Program. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to 6-1, with Mss. Dise and Garcia, Messrs. Goodman, Kindlick, and Stief voted in the affirmative, and Mr. Baer voted in the negative.*

**Discussion of Hourly Rates for Systems Design Engineering**

This item was briefly discussed, and there was a consensus to table it for a future meeting. The council noted the importance of having clear and fair rates for engineering work, but more information was needed to make an informed decision. Troy Goodman suggested gathering more data on rates and practices in similar municipalities. The item was tabled for further discussion.

### **Permit Parking Ordinance Discussion Draft**

Roger Stief provided an update on the permit parking ordinance, highlighting changes made to reduce costs, including the number of signs and poles required. He detailed the pricing adjustments and proposed adding penalty clauses and dumpster regulations. Hunter Ahrens emphasized the need for clear and enforceable rules to ensure compliance.

Suggested penalties ranged from \$75 to \$300 for violations, emphasizing ensuring that the fines were sufficient to deter infractions without being overly punitive. Roger Stief recommended a structured penalty phase to provide consistency in enforcement.

Proposed amendments to include provisions for dumpster permits within the ordinance to prevent parking violations. This would help manage space and ensure that dumpsters do not unnecessarily obstruct parking areas. The council raised concerns about the potential for misuse of temporary permits and suggested additional safeguards.

*Richard Lombardo motioned to advertise the Draft Ordinance for consideration at the Council's July meeting. Roger Stief seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

### **Additional Discussion on Permit Parking Implementation**

Mr. Stief suggested issuing another letter to residents as only 56 permits had been issued, and the final deadline was approaching. The council discussed extending a grace period for enforcement until the start of the school year on August 26<sup>th</sup> and installing signs to notify residents of the new parking regulations.

Ms. Garcia asked the staff to consider easier ways for residents to register, including the potential use of temporary permits or a streamlined process for submitting necessary documents. Mr. Ahrens and Ms. Garcia discussed logistical concerns about the registration process. Mr. Ahrens emphasized the importance of residents providing all required information upfront to avoid complications.

Mr. Stief highlighted a recent issue where a resident from a non-permit zone mistakenly registered for a permit. He emphasized the need for careful verification during registration to prevent such errors.

The council agreed to hold an additional registration session on Thursday, August 22nd, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. They also discussed sending a final letter to inform all affected residents.

### **Regular Approvals**

The Council agreed to table the July 30, 2024 meeting minutes and the August Treasurer's Report.

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### **Adjournment**

*Roger Stief made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Rick Lombardo seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*A copy of Mayor Maurer's veto memo is attached to these minutes.*

Submitted,

Hunter L. Ahrens  
Borough Manager

*These meeting minutes were developed with the assistance of Otter.ai and ChatGPT 4.0*