

**MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**October 24, 2023**

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in a Business Meeting on October 24, 2023. President Goodman brought the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were, President Troy Goodman and Council Members: Rick Lombardo, Roger Stief, Christine Dise, and Michael Kindlick. Also in attendance were Mayor Ryan Maurer, Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineer Ty Leinneweber, Christeena Hauck, and Crystal Johnson.

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None.

**V. ENGINEERING-Ty Leinneweber**

1. The letter to Antietam School District regarding off-street parking was reviewed.
2. Permit parking for residents in the area of the school buildings was discussed. The committee will map out the streets and generate the ordinance. Both will be sent to Mr. Klonis for review and approval.
3. The ADA ramp project is in progress. There are thirteen locations.
4. The street paving is set to begin October 26<sup>th</sup> on Grant St, Hollywood Ct, and Philmay Terrace. No parking signs are being posted. A Facebook notice will be posted.
5. Solid Waste bid tabulations were reviewed at the Workshop Meeting. Bids were submitted by Hollenbach's Trash & Recycling and JP Mascaro. A discussion was held regarding the Council's desire to award all three services as one bid to one hauler. Mr. Leinneweber's opinion was the bid documents allowed for the haulers to bid on each service separately, therefore each service would be awarded to the lowest bidder.

Mr. Bill Fox, JP Mascaro General Council, asked the Council to consider awarding all three services to Mascaro, stating the language in the bid documents allowed for the combined lowest total or any options combined. Also, no language specifies that each must be awarded separately, only that they may be bid separately. Mr. Fox promised his legal team that any legal action should come against the Borough.

Mr. Klonis reminded the Council the bid process was in place to find the lowest bidder as a savings to the residents. He advised against accepting the higher bid or the combined bid of all three. His recommendation was to accept the lowest bidder for each service. He suggested tabling the discussion to investigate the lowest bidder and the complaints against it.

After discussion, Mike Kindlick made the motion to accept the combined bid of JP Mascaro for all three services, seconded by Rick Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Maurer was against the motion.

This motion was against the advice of Mr. Leinneweber and Mr. Klonis.

STE will prepare the notice of intent to award and review with the solicitor.

6. Mr. Leinneweber reported the Local Share Account grant submission is due on November 30<sup>th</sup>. He met with Dave Okonski to review the project for the application. More will be reported at the next meeting.
7. Rick Lombardo reported there was a fire call for a property on Cumberland Ave at which it was discovered it is being run as an AirBnb. Mr. Klonis will request an example ordinance from PSAB that includes annual inspections.

## VI. ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

1. **Minutes:** Motioned by Jim Cocuzza, seconded by Rick Lombardo to approve the September 26, 2023 Business Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.
2. **Finance Report**-Motioned by Rick Lombardo, seconded by Roger Stief to approve the October Treasurer's Report. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **Payment of Bills:** Motioned by Jim Cocuzza, seconded by Rick Lombardo to approve payment of bills presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Tuan Doung arrived at 8:15 PM

## VII. LIASION REPORTS

- A. **Fire Company** (Rick Lombardo) -No Report
- B. **MPBMA**- No Report
- C. **AVMA** - There is a vacancy on the board.
- D. **Planning Commission** (James Cocuzza)-No Report
- E. **Police Commission** (Ryan Maurer)-Meeting November 2, 2023.  
Christine Dise questioned why officers were on duty at Octoberfest but could not attend the Block Party. Chief Serafin explained Reading Leiderkrantz hires the officers for security. She also questioned the divide of services to the non-commissioned member communities receiving police coverage. Chief Serafin explained both non-commission and commission member communities have officers on patrol. She also asked for a list of calls/assists to the Antietam School District.

## VIII. COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORTS (Troy Goodman)

- A. Troy Goodman reported one response was received from the request for proposal for the STMP program from the Pennsylvania Economic League.
- B. Waiting on an answer from Berks Homes regarding the Townhouse community's trash collection. The community is an HOA and will be private with no plowing/public services.
- C. Mr. Goodman questioned if Crystal Johnson could be appointed as a temporary secretary/treasurer. Mr. Klonis advised she must be a permanent employee of the Borough. Crystal is still under the temporary contract.

## IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Streets** (Dave Okonski)
  1. Rick Lombardo reported the committee meeting with St Lawrence Borough. Solicitors working on the intergovernmental agreement.
  2. Leaf collection began this week.
  3. After a discussion regarding the increase of the current \$10.00 dumpster fee, it was decided the fee will not be increased to \$150.00 for a retainer at this time.
  4. Pricing for the trees for Mr. Fountain will be provided at the next meeting.
- B. **Parks and Buildings** (Troy Goodman, Tuan Duong)
  1. The heater at Borough Hall was fixed today.
  2. The water heater and garage thermostat need to be replaced. A quote for the next meeting.
- C. **Solid Waste and Public Utilities** (Christine Dise, Tuan Duong)
  1. Solid waste reported under Engineer's Report.

**D. Insurance/ Pension** (James Cocuzza)- No Report.

**E. Personnel** (Roger Stief)-

1. Working with Mr. Janssen of Albright Center for Excellence to hire a Borough Manager.
2. An ordinance to hire a manager is required.

**F. Codes** (Rick Lombardo)-Everyone received a copy of Elva's report. She is sending certified letters to unresponsive landlords.

**G. Finance** (Troy Goodman, Ryan Maurer)

1. A budget meeting was held with the Albright Center for Excellence in Local Government. There is a lot of work required to get the bookkeeping up to date before the next budget meeting.
2. The tax increase last year should be enough to ward off an increase for 2024.

## **X. OTHER REPORTS**

**A. Mayor** (Ryan Maurer)-No Report.

**B. Police Report** (Chief Serafin)- The roof at the police building has been completed.

**C. Solicitor** (Tom Klonis)- Tom Klonis reported he was asked for his professional opinion from PSAB regarding House Bill 1232. Current law allows the auditor to surcharge the elected officials for an expense that is prohibited or unauthorized by stature or Borough Code that causes a hardship to the Borough. Bill 1232 would allow the opinion of the solicitor either written or stated at a public meeting and recorded in the minutes to alleviate the charges. His opinion was in favor of the bill.

**D. Secretary**-No Report.

## **XI. ORDINANCES-**

1. Motion to advertise Handicapped Parking for 2436 Filbert Ave for adoption at the next meeting. Motioned by Rick Lombardo, seconded by Christine Dise. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Discussion on the school zone on Cumberland Ave action taken.

## **XII. RESOLUTIONS-**

1. **23-23** Appointing Roger Stief to the Planning Commission. Motioned by Tuan Duong, seconded by Michael Kindlick. The motion carried unanimously.
2. **24-23** Halloween Curfew- Trick or Treat October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-9 PM. Curfew 9 PM-5 AM. Motioned by Christine Dise, seconded by Michael Kindlick. The motion carried unanimously.

## **XII. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Mike Kindlick continues to work on getting the old website removed.
2. Crystal Johnson reported she is in touch with Karina at Onboard and will notify her by email of the Council's wishes to cancel the program.
3. Zoning Hearing Board Meeting- November 15, 2023. Open to public comment. Council and Mr. Leinneweber will attend.

**XIV. NEW BUSINESS-None.**

**XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION-None.**

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Rick Lombardo made the motion for adjournment at 9:17 PM, seconded by Michael Kindlick. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Christeena Hauck*