

MOUNT PENN BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
September 24, 2024

The Mount Penn Borough Council met for a Business Meeting on September 24, 2024, at Borough Hall at 200 N. 25th Street, Reading, PA 19606. Council President Troy Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Members in attendance were Council President Troy Goodman, 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. Mayor Ryan Maurer and Council Member Rick Lombardo were absent.

Several community members were present, including Amanda Stief, Fire Chief John Theodossiou, and other community members.

Public Comment

Amanda Stief, 125 N. 25th Street—Mrs. Stief asked for clarification on the Borough's service relationship with Safety Net Sanctuary for Animal Control. Mr. Goodman and Chief Serafin responded that the service relationship worked through the Police Department, and the Police Department would call Safety Net Sanctuary when an animal needed to be collected, but shared that residents should contact the Berks Non-Emergency number when seeking that help.

Additional discussion about the Safety Net Sanctuary contract for 2025 concluded that the contract would cost the Borough approximately \$4,833.00 and would be discussed at the November meeting.

ADA Ramp Construction

Mr. Leinneweber shared a payment application for \$98,649.22, which represented work completed satisfactorily to date. The remaining balance of the project was \$150,980.78. Mr. Stief asked for clarification about whether any recently completed ramps were being replaced as part of this round of construction. Discussions with other members of the Council concluded that no recent ramps were being replaced.

Michael Kindlick motioned to approve the 1st Payment Application for the ADA Ramp Construction Contract with Lamb Construction totaling \$98,649.22. Christine Dise seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Leinneweber raised concerns about change orders for additional work being completed and the need to review additional costs. The final decision on the proposal was postponed.

Municipal Garage Project

Discussion regarding the municipal garage project, including cost estimates and authorization to begin site surveys. The Council debated whether to proceed with public bids for construction or use stock drawings under existing contracts. It was agreed to move forward with SDE conducting the stormwater plan and working through the Land Development waiver process, a requirement for approval from Exeter Township.

Thomas Baer motioned to approve Systems Design Engineering developing a Stormwater Plan for the Municipal Garage Project. Yrisol Garcia seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

2018 Construction Codes Ordinance

Discussion of various ordinance amendments related to commercial use permits and permit parking.

Troy Goodman motioned to advertise the Uniform Construction Code Amendments Ordinance. Thomas Baer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

High-Yield Savings Accounts

Further conversation was tabled in favor of Mayor Maurer being able to participate.

Permit Parking Ordinance Amendments

Specific amendments were debated, including expanding permit parking zones on North 25th Street, between Grant Street and Cumberland Avenue, and Perkiomen Avenue, between St. Catherine of Siena Church and N. 23rd Street. The Council voted on each amendment.

Christine Dise motioned to amend the Permit Parking Ordinance Amendment to include an additional Block on N. 25th Street between Grant Street and Cumberland Avenue. Michael Kindlick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Thomas Baer motioned to amend the Permit Parking Ordinance Amendment to include an additional Block on Perkiomen Avenue between St. Catherine Church and N. 23rd Street. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. Discussion occurred based on the amendment's motivation: providing parking relief to residents on Perkiomen Avenue who would otherwise park on Grant Street or N. 24th Street. The motion was not agreed to 2-4, with Messrs. Baer and Goodman voting in the affirmative, and Mss. Dise and Garcia, Messrs. Kindlick, and Stief voted in the negative.

Christine Dise motioned to advertise the Permit Parking Ordinance Amendment. Michael Kindlick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Glenn Terrace and Center Street Parking Restriction Ordinance

An ordinance was proposed to establish additional no-parking zones on Glenn Terrace and Center Street during specific waste collection hours. Details were discussed to clarify the exact locations and times for the restrictions.

Christine Dise motioned to advertise the Parking Restrictions on Glenn Terrace and Center Street Ordinance with the solicitor's final approval. Yrisol Garcia seconded the motion. Solicitor Klonis commented that he needed to review the ordinance and prepare a final draft for the Council's approval. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Motorized Devices and ATV Ordinance

The board discussed an ordinance allowing for stricter penalties, including the forfeiture of ATVs and motorbikes violating local regulations.

Roger Stief motioned to advertise the Motorized Devices and ATVs Ordinance. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

The council reviewed various international building codes for adoption, including the International Building Code, International Plumbing Code, and International Fire Code. The council is awaiting feedback from Central Berks Regional Codes, Systems Design Engineering, and the Borough's other inspectors regarding the proposed updates. The Ordinance draft was tabled.

Approvals

Roger Stief motioned to adopt a Resolution 43-24 approving the 2025 Minimum Municipal Agreement. Thomas Baer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Thomas Baer motioned to adopt Resolution 44-24, approving a Fund Balance Policy. Michael Kindlick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Michael Kindlick motioned to adopt Resolution 45-24, approving an Investment Policy. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Christine Dise motioned to adopt Resolution 46-24, approving a Solid Waste Fund Policy. Michael Kindlick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Michael Kindlick motioned to adopt Resolution 47-24, approving a Capital Fund Policy. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Ahrens shared that the First National Bank Credit Cards would replace the Elan Credit cards. The proposed credit limit of \$23,200.00 allowed the staff to make down payments on vehicles and large equipment, consistent with the bid threshold. Only two cards for Mr. Ahrens and Mr. Okonski were approved for the time being.

Yrisol Garcia motioned to adopt Resolution 48-24, approving First National Bank Credit Card Applications. Roger Stief seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Ahrens shared the priority items of the Category 4 LSA Grant Application, which included municipal vehicles and equipment, a building renovation to Borough Hall, and technology purchases. The application would also feature the Fire Company's joint grant application with Mount Penn Borough.

Michael Kindlick motioned to adopt Resolution 49-24, approving the Category 4 LSA Grant Application. Thomas Baer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Ahrens introduced the cover letter to the employee handbook; he shared that the letter is intended to provide an opportunity for the Union to comment on the employee handbook, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Michael Kindlick motioned to send a letter requesting comments from the Union on the Employee Handbook. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Thomas Baer motioned to approve the Winter Maintenance Services Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

The Council discussed Halloween trick-or-treating hours for October 31st, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Christine Dise motioned to approve the Halloween Trick or Treat Hours. Michael Kindlick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Thomas Baer motioned to approve the Minutes for August 27, 2024. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Christine Dise motioned to approve the September Financial Reports, and Troy Goodman seconded it. There was no further discussion, and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

Consider Planning Commission Zoning Change Recommendations

The Council discussed whether to forward the Planning Commission's recommended Zoning Changes to Lower Alsace Township. Those zoning changes aimed to facilitate commercial growth in the Borough's Main Street area of Perkiomen Avenue. Discussion concluded that the Borough opened the Zoning conversation with Lower Alsace Township to be narrowed to the most important items, but it would be open to requests that the Township had.

Richard Lombardo motioned to send the summary letter and request to Lower Alsace Township to discuss a Zoning Amendment. Michael Kindlick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Other Business

Troy Goodman shared that the Finance Committee had asked a Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) representative to present information about their program at an upcoming meeting. The consensus of the Council was to have that take place at a future workshop meeting.

Chief Serafin shared that the next Police Commission meeting would be November 7th, 2024. Chief Serafin also shared information about Police Commission reports that was brought up at the Workshop meeting, including Monthly Reports in lieu of Quarterly or Annual reports, and the Police Budget was provided in October rather than September because the Police Commission approved that framework several years ago. Chief Serafin shared that those changes were not reflected in the bylaws to save money for the Police Commission that would be required if a formal change was made.

Adjournment

Roger Stief made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 PM. Yrisol Garcia seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Executive Session on Personnel Matters

The Council held an Executive Session after the meeting to discuss Personnel Matters.

Submitted,

Hunter L. Ahrens
Borough Manager

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