

Meeting of the Mount Penn Borough Council (Dec. '22 - Mtg. #2) Minutes

Mt. Penn Borough

Dec 27, 2022 at 7:30 PM EST

@ 200 N 25th St, Reading, PA 19606

Please click the links below to listen and view the full recording.

- [Part 1](#)
- [Part 2](#)

- I. CALL TO ORDER (Presenters: Troy Goodman)
- II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG (Presenters: Troy Goodman)
- III. ROLL CALL (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

Attendance

Present:

Members: Shannon Billman, Joseph Cunliffe, Troy Goodman, Rick Lombardo, Roger Reto, Nathan Rupright, Roger Stief, Tanya Weaver

Guests: Tom Klonis (Solicitor), Mr. Perilli

Absent:

Guests: Chris Falencki (Engineer), Ryan Maurer (Mayor), Chief Serafin

- IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

Request to address Council

- A. Christine Dise

- 5 minutes
- Highlights from Christine Dise's questions:
- 1 - My first question is related to the requirements regarding accurate information being shared with taxpayers, specifically business meeting agendas and minutes.
 - I recognize that a transfer of responsibility occurred, but I've also noticed that with this change, the amount of information that's being shared in the minutes seems to have decreased the past month or so.
 - There are also no agendas posted for October 25 or December 13 on the website.
 - So I was curious about the requirements that if they're being met for sharing information a specific example of a lack of sharing information is related to the October 25 business meeting where I personally questioned an agenda note from a workshop that was listed for business agenda, but it was not there.

- You explained the situation to me, and I appreciate that, but I note that within the published minutes that the question and answer were not included in the meeting minutes.
- I'm curious if this was an oversight or if it's directly related to the requirements of the Sunshine Act, since I was not officially on the agenda.
- I'm also curious if there is a minimum requirement for inclusion of information in the minutes and how can adequate notes related to all topics be included for residents who wish to access information, especially those who can't be here?
- I'm requesting consideration moving forward that business minutes from the business meetings include more specific details so as to be transparent to our community.
- Some people may, who may be unable to attend the meetings aren't seeing full details in the minutes and this is the disturbance of the taxpayers.
- In my opinion, this would aid community members in having full information about the borough and also with making informed decisions at election time.
- 2 - My second question is related to why in the past few months, specifically September and October, resident attendance not being documented in business meeting minutes.
 - My personal reason for this concern is that attendance at meetings was a question that was asked of me during council interviews.
 - So if this is of importance, I would advocate that accurate attendance documentation be kept each month.
 - This information would maintain accurate record keeping and again, it would aid our taxpayers from having complete access to transparent information in order to make important decisions at election time as needed.
- 3 - My final remark was related to the environment of the meetings which you have made a change this evening, which I appreciate because the old setup I felt needed to be reconfigured because we were unable to see the faces of all of the council members.
 - And he always sometimes were unable to hear their remarks, especially if they were talking quietly.
 - It felt unwelcoming, disrespectful and professional. So I do appreciate that the change was made, and that's all I wanted to say and answer tonight.
 - So I appreciate your time and I appreciate everybody's dedication to the Borough because I know it's a lot of work.
 - Thanks

B. Lower Alsace EMS

- 5 minutes
- not present

V. ENGINEERING (Presenters: Chris Falencki)

 [2022-12 Engineer Report.pdf](#)

A. PERMITS ISSUED

1. Zoning Permits-Issued various applications
2. Building Permits-Issued various applications.
3. Occupancy Permits-Issued no U & O certificate this month.

B. PLANNING ITEMS

1. Hartline Subdivision - Received plan resubmission to PC. Need action on Time Extension.

Motion to approve. Shannon and Roger Reto.

Motion:

To approve time extension

Motion moved by Shannon Billman and motion seconded by Roger Reto.

Motion passed with 7 votes in favor

C. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (SUBDIVISIONS AND LAND DEVELOPMENT)

1. Mt. Penn Townhomes - Construction on hold.
2. 270 Freidensburg Road- Inspected Handi cap parking. Passed.
 - Inspection last month, necessary revisions to be in compliance
 - Everything is good with handicap parking

D. MISCELLANEOUS

1. ADA Handicap Ramp Projects - Draft bidding documents prepared. On Hold.

Bid doc's repaired, onhold for now

2. Handicap Ramp Center/Cumberland - Work complete. Notified FHW A.

Work has been complete

3. Endlich Av. Pipe Restoration - Inspecting construction. See attached construction schedule and Payment Application #2

- ongoing construction
- Tentative schedule within packet
- Mid February ETA wrap up date

Motion:

To authorize payment of \$6828.30 (see \$ amount)

Motion moved by Roger Reto and motion seconded by Shannon Billman.

Motion passed with 7 votes in favor

4. DCED Multimodal Grant-Work complete. See attached final completion certificate to sign, Project summary, Final Change order #3 to sign and final payment #5 to sign . DCED Application #2 submitted.

- Complete.
- Cost summary found in report
- To include Borough responsibility (\$340,061.00): **\$102,018.30**

Motion:

To approve change order#3 in amount of \$2,776.50

Motion moved by Rick Lombardo and motion seconded by Roger Reto.
Motion passed with 7 votes in favor

Motion:

To issue final completion certificate

Motion moved by Roger Reto and motion seconded by Rick Lombardo.
Motion passed with 7 votes in favor

Motion:

To approve \$113,399.36 on the contractor's payment application

Motion moved by Roger Stief and motion seconded by Rick Lombardo.
Motion passed with 7 votes in favor

5. 2022 Road Projects - Prepared draft paving bidding. PennDOT approved project. On Hold.
6. DCED "LSA" Grant - Awaiting grant award.
Need to sign back on, enter the SAM # and any other pending items by Fri. 12/30
7. Borough Hall Roof- Currently in maintenance period.
8. Stormwater Ordinance - Preparing small project application.

VI. STREETS (Presenters: Rick Lombardo)

Crew put down heavy salt earlier in the day last weekend, ahead of the freeze

Status of Bobcat did arise. Delay with heavy equipment.

VII. ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

- A. Minutes from previous meeting (Presenters: Nathan Rupright)
 - Make motion to approve Tues. 12/13/22 Meeting Minutes (attached)

 [Meeting of the Mount Penn Borough Council \(Dec. '22 - Mtg. #1\) Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion:

To approve the Tues. 12/13/22 Business Meeting Minutes.

Motion moved by Rick Lombardo and motion seconded by Joseph Cunliffe.
Motion passed with 7 votes in favor

- Shannon asked for status of donations from Aulenbach.
- Solicitor: we can proceed with approving minutes, although the item above is pending, as that document was not supplied at the time of the meeting.

VIII. LIASION REPORTS (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

A. Fire Company (Presenters: Rick Lombardo)

- Busy with recent fires over past 4 days
- 1 basement fire from burning candles

B. MPBMA

Vote to retroactively approve letter of support

Motion:

To approve the letter of support

Motion moved by Roger Stief and motion seconded by Rick Lombardo. Motion passed with 7 votes in favor

C. AVMA

D. Police Commission

E. Planning Commission

 [hartline.pdf](#)

F. Aulenbach Cemetery (Presenters: Joseph Cunliffe)

IX. COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORTS (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

A. Parks and Buildings (Presenters: Roger Reto, Joseph Cunliffe)

1. Review and approve Wagner's Heating & Cooling LLC Boiler Estimate

 [Estimate 10420 from Wagners Heating Cooling LLC.pdf](#)

Motion:

To approve Wagner's Heating & Cooling LLC to do the work set forth of \$2,961.90.

Motion moved by Roger Reto and motion seconded by Joseph Cunliffe.
Motion passed with 7 votes in favor

- B. Solid Waste/Public Utilities (Presenters: Joseph Cunliffe, Roger Stief)
- C. Insurance/Pension (Presenters: Roger Reto)
- D. Personnel (Presenters: Shannon Billman, Nathan Rupright)
 - 1. Temporary time period extension (an additional 90 days) - through mid Feb. --- Make a motion (Presenters: Shannon Billman)

Motion:

To retroactively approve an extension up through and including January 31, 2022.

Motion moved by Shannon Billman and motion seconded by Roger Reto.
Motion passed with 7 votes in favor

- 2. Employee Handbook - Council Signatures via OnBoard "Signature Request" (Presenters: Nathan Rupright)
- E. Codes (Presenters: Rick Lombardo, Roger Stief)
- F. Finance (Presenters: Shannon Billman, Nathan Rupright)
 - 1. Approve 2023 Budget (Presenters: Shannon Billman, Nathan Rupright)
 - The budget has been advertised for 10 business days.
 - We'll make a motion to approve (see Old Business section).

Motion:

To approve 2023 Budget

Motion moved by Roger Reto and motion seconded by Shannon Billman.
Motion passed with 5 votes in favor and 2 not in favor (Roger Stief and Rick Lombardo)

XI. OTHER REPORTS

- A. Mayor - Ryan Mauer (Presenters: Ryan Maurer)
- B. Police Report - Chief Serafin (Presenters: Chief Serafin)
- C. Solicitor (Presenters: Tom Klonis)

XII. ORDINANCES (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

- A. Make motion to approve Fire Ordinance (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

Motion:

To adopt the Fire Ordinance - Ordinance #881

Motion moved by Roger Stief and motion seconded by Rick Lombardo. Motion passed with 7 votes in favor

- B. Make motion to approve Tax Increase Ordinance

Motion:

To adopt Tax Increase Ordinance - Ordinance #882

Motion moved by Roger Reto and motion seconded by Nathan Rupright. Motion passed with 5 votes in favor and 2 not in favor (Rick Lombardo and Roger Stief)

XIII. RESOLUTIONS (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

- A. Resolution for 2023 Meeting Dates (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

We need to advertise for meeting dates.

Motion:

To advertise our 2023 Borough Business and Borough Workshops Meeting dates as listed for a start time of 7:30

Motion moved by Joseph Cunliffe and motion seconded by Roger Reto. Motion passed with 6 votes in favor and 1 not in favor (Roger Stief)

XIV. OLD BUSINESS (Presenters: Troy Goodman, Roger Stief)

- A. Emergency Management Coordinator Assignment (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

Dave Kline would be an ideal candidate for this position.
He is interested but has not committed yet. No action today.

- B. Lower Alsace Merger Letter (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

- Already voted
- Need signatures at tonights meeting

 [Merger Inquiry Letter to LAT 2022.pdf](#)

No action needed

- C. Roger Stief Resignation Letter Rescinded (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

Roger has rescinded and will complete his full term.

- D. Approve 2023 Budget (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

2023 Budget has been posted for 10 day period

XV. NEW BUSINESS (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

A. Borough Newsletter (Presenters: Roger Stief)

Roger Stief handed out a sample from hometownpress.

- Only cost to the Borough is postage
- Roger will invite our contact at our Jan. 24 2023 Workshop meeting to present and will confirm if he can make the meeting.
- Roger will also see what information we can get from our contact prior to the meeting.

B. 2023 Workshop & Business Meeting Dates

Vote to advertise

 [2023 Workshop & Business Meeting Dates.docx](#)

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

XVII. ADJOURNMENT (Presenters: Troy Goodman)

Motion:

To adjourn

Motion moved by Rick Lombardo and motion seconded by Roger Stief. Motion passed with 6 votes in favor (1 Council Member, Shannon Billman, left meeting prior to adjournment)