

MOUNT PENN BOROUGH  
BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING  
December 17, 2024

The Mount Penn Borough Council met for a Business Meeting on December 17, 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 9:35 PM.

Members in attendance were Council President Troy Goodman, Council Member Thomas Baer, Council Member Christine Dise, Council Member Yrisol Garcia, Council Member Michael Kindlick, Council Member Roger Stief, and Mayor Ryan Maurer. Staff and Professional Members present were Borough Manager Hunter L. Ahrens, Borough Solicitor Zachary Morey, Borough Engineer Ty Leinneweber, and Codes Administrator Arthur Kelly. Council Member Rick Lombardo was absent.

Several community members were present.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**CY 2025 Fee Schedule**

Mr. Ahrens provided an overview of changes to the fee schedule including; transitioned permits into an application fee and review fee model; increased rental fees; adjusted zoning hearing board fees proportionally to expenses; conditional uses for properties over 50,000 sq. ft. to cost \$15,000 (refundable when under the expense).

**Budget and Tax Resolutions**

The proposed CY 2025 Budgets were discussed, including separating ambulance fund approval from other funds.

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve Resolution No. 55-24 adopt the General Fund and Other Fund Budgets for 2025. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was evenly divided 3-3, with Messrs. Baer, Goodman, and Kindlick voting in the affirmative and Mrs. Dise, Ms. Garcia, and Mr. Stief voting in the negative. The motion was agreed to with Mayor Maurer voting in the affirmative.*

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve Resolution No. 56-24 adopt the Ambulance Fund Budget for 2025. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was evenly divided 3-3, with Messrs. Baer, Goodman, and Kindlick voting in the affirmative and Mrs. Dise, Ms. Garcia, and Mr. Stief voting in the negative. The motion was agreed to with Mayor Maurer voting in the affirmative.*

*Thomas Baer motioned to approve Ordinance No. 901 adopt the Real Estate Tax Millage for 2025. Michael Kindlick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was evenly divided 3-3, with Messrs. Baer, Goodman, and Kindlick voting in the affirmative and Mrs. Dise, Ms. Garcia, and Mr. Stief voting in the negative. The motion was agreed to with Mayor Maurer voting in the affirmative.*

*Thomas Baer motioned to approve the Solicitor to draft an Ordinance repealing the Borough's Per Capita Tax. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

### **Engineer's Updates**

Ty Leinneweber reported on ADA ramp project updates: Final change order resulted in a \$14,198.25 decrease. Total project cost finalized at \$260,952.25.

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve the 7th Change Order Application for the ADA Ramp Construction Contract with Lamb Construction totaling \$14,198.25. Thomas Baer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

Payment Applications for ADA Ramps Payment application #4 for \$19,354.32 presented. Retainage of \$13,047.61 held pending final closeout documents.

*Roger Stief motioned to approve the 2nd Payment Application for the ADA Ramp Construction Contract with Lamb Construction totaling \$19,354.32. Michael Kindlick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

Mr. Leinneweber reported that core borings are scheduled for January 6, which would be provided by grant funds.

### **Joint Meeting with Lower Alsace Township**

Mr. Ahrens shared that Lower Alsace Township invited the Borough Council to attend a joint meeting for both governing bodies at the next Police Commission meeting or another date. Council agreed to attend and agreed to discuss the proposed Police Department Study and potential municipal merger on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The Council agreed to request the proposed study team to attend.

### **Tax Collector Compensation Ordinance**

Mr. Ahrens shared that the proposed compensation is set at \$25 per bill collected, capped at \$32,000 annually. Council had some discussion on historical salary structure and future transitions.

*Thomas Baer motioned to advertise the Ordinance No. 902 Establishing Tax Collector's Compensation. Roger Stief seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

### **Police Study STMP Phase III Grant Application**

Mr. Ahrens shared that he obtained a proposal from Aspirant Consulting, who works exclusively with first responder agencies to conduct a review of Central Berks Regional Police Department in conjunction with the recommendations of the Strategic Plan. Consultant's participation highlighted as a key element. The proposal was estimated to cost \$37,895 which would leave a local share of \$3,769.

*Thomas Baer motioned to approve Resolution No approving application for a STMP Phase III Grant for a Police Study. 57-24. Yrisol Garcia seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

### **Discussion of Glen Terrace & Center Street Parking Restriction Ordinance**

*Christine Dise motioned to amend the agenda to discuss the Parking Restriction Ordinance for Glen Terrace and Center Street. Michael Kindlick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Roger Stief motioned to advertise Ordinance No. 903 Restricting Parking on Glen Terrace and Center Street. Christine Dise seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

### **2025 Meeting Schedule**

The Council agreed to maintain the same schedule as 2024, with workshop meetings occurring monthly and business meetings only in June, July, August, and December.

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve and advertise the 2025 Meeting Schedule. Christine Dise seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

### **Approvals**

*Tom Baer motioned to accept core sample proposal by Ingram Engineering for the 2025 Road Projects. Roger Stief seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Roger Stief motioned to approve Resolution No. 66-24 approving the CY 2025 Fee Schedule Resolution. Michael Kindlick seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Christine Dise motioned to approve Resolution No. 58-24 appointing Fran Kelly to the Antietam Valley Municipal Authority board. Tom Baer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve Resolution No. 59-24 appointing Josh Nowotarski to the Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority board. Roger Stief seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve Resolution No. 60-24 affirming the Earned Income Tax for CY 2025. Tom Baer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve Resolution No. 61-24 affirming the Local Services Tax for CY 2025. Tom Baer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve Resolution No. 62-24 affirming the Business Privilege Tax for CY 2025. Tom Baer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve Resolution No. 63-24 affirming the Real Estate Transfer Tax for CY 2025. Tom Baer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Roger Stief motioned to approve December 2024 Treasurer's Report. Tom Baer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Roger Stief motioned to approve the November 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Troy Goodman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

### **Other Business**

Mrs. Dise reported that she was still awaiting the calendar for 2025 solid waste collections from J.P. Mascaro. The Council directed the Solid Waste Committee and Mr. Ahrens to address the matter with J.P. Mascaro.

### **Executive Session on Personnel Matters**

The Council held an executive session during the meeting to discuss Personnel Matters. The Borough Council was in Executive Session from 8:35 PM until 9:24 PM.

### **Other Business**

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve Resolution No. 64-24 setting Compensation for the Borough Manager. Roger Stief seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Michael Kindlick motioned to approve Resolution No. 65-24 setting Compensation for Borough Staff. Roger Stief seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Michael Kindlick motioned to appoint Ryan Maurer to the Central Berks Regional Police Commission for the year 2025. Roger Stief seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

*Michael Kindlick motioned to appoint Thomas Baer to the Central Berks Regional Police Commission for the year 2025. Christine Dise seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously. Mr. Baer abstained.*

*Michael Kindlick motioned to appoint Troy Goodman to the Central Berks Regional Police Commission for the year 2025. Roger Stief seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously. Mr. Goodman abstained.*

### **Adjournment**

*Roger Stief made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM. Christine Dise seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was agreed to unanimously.*

Submitted,

Hunter L. Ahrens  
Borough Manager

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