

## **MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **November 30, 2021**

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on November 30, 2021. President Goodman brought the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were, President Troy Goodman and Council Members John Fielding, Rick Lombardo, Ryan Maurer, Tom Staron, James Cocuzza and Roger Reto. Also in attendance were Assistant Secretary Rochelle Gresh, Chief Serafin, Mayor Josh Nowotarski, Engineer Chris Falencki, and Solicitor Zach Morey. Engineer Chris Falencki left at 9:01 PM.

#### **I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Santiago Serrano from State Representative Chrissy Houlahan spoke about the services they provide for the Borough and the residents.

Kyla Ramsey from 2449 Fairview inquired about the zoning hearing and an update on the alley, shed and other issues on 2451 Fairview Street and mentioned how she wasn't properly notified of the hearing.

Paul Janssen discussed the budget and how we will not have to raise taxes. A discussion was made on getting a loan for the current projects and a short-term loan for another capital project. A motion was made by Mr. Lombardo to look into getting a loan with our bank. Seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **II. EXECUTIVE**

Executive Session was held from 8:08 to 8:19PM and personnel issues were discussed.

Motion made by Mr. Fielding to raise Rochelle's rate to \$28.00 an hour effective January 1, 2022 and authorize benefits for her effective January 1, 2022 to an increase to 35 hours per week. Seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to authorize solicitor's office to develop and ordinance to create the position of borough manager and advertise it accordingly. Seconded by Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to advertise for the budget 2022 and advertise an ordinance for your taxation rates to remain the same as last year. Seconded by Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **III. ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL –**

Solicitor explained how the emergency declaration expired and since we did not have an in person quorum, therefore all the actions we took at the last meeting are totally void and have no effect.

##### **a. Minutes from September 28, 2021**

Motion was made by Mr. Fielding to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Reto. All Ayes.

**b. Finance report for September 2021**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2021 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported:

Checking	169,379.67
Savings	499,010.03
Liquid Fuels	92,286.10
PIB Loan	40,352.51
Fire Tax	7,195.77
Ambulance Tax	5,129.92
Petty Cash	50.00
Street Light Tax	14,847.55

**c. Payment of Bills**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding for retroactive payment of all borough bills in all accounts including checks 18871-18900 for \$140,687.65 as well as payroll of \$14,977.63 in September 2021. Seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

**d. Retroactive approval to ratify the acknowledgement of receiving of funds from the VFA and transfer the funds to Mount Penn Fire Company.**

Mr. Fielding made a motion to retroactively approve to ratify the acknowledgment of receiving the funds from VFA and the transfer the funds to Mount Penn Fire Company on October 6, 2021 for the amount of \$12,514.98. Seconded by Mr. Maurer. The motion carried unanimously.

**e. Finance report for October 2021**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to accept the Treasurer's Report for October 2021 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Maurer. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported:

Checking	104,480.90
Savings	463,172.22
Liquid Fuels	92,295.63
PIB Loan	40,356.68
Fire Tax	5,512.06
Ambulance Tax	5,193.60
Petty Cash	50.00
Street Light Tax	13,804.73

**f. Payment of bills for October 2021**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to approve payment of October 2021 bills as presented. Seconded by Mr. Maurer. The motion carried unanimously.

**g. Possible Bobcat purchase**

A motion was made to table the bobcat purchase by Mr. Maurer and seconded by Mr. Fielding. The motion carried unanimously.

**h. Signal service invoice**

A motion was made to retroactive approve by Mr. Fielding to fix the free swinging light at Perkiomen and 26<sup>th</sup> as well as the Perkiomen Avenue school flasher.

Seconded by Mr. Reto. All Ayes.

**i. Parking Lot-**

A motion was made by Mr. Maurer to advertise in the newspaper the parking lot for sale on 2328 Perkiomen Avenue for a minimum bid of \$160,000.00. The ad needs to reflect the website, so any interested purchaser can be directed to the website. Ad to be reviewed by solicitor first. Seconded by Mr. Fielding. The motion carried unanimously.

**j. A motion to retroactive approval on selected health insurance plan-**

Mr. Fielding made a motion to retroactively approve to adopt the union plan base benefit 14 B. Seconded by Mr. Lombardo. All Ayes.

**k. Ratify MMO-**

Mr. Fielding made a motion to retroactively ratify in paying the MMO as of September 29, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Staron. The motion carried unanimously.

**l. Retroactive approval hiring of part-time leaf collector:**

A motion was made by Mr. Staron to retroactive hiring Dustin Wolf at \$15.00 an hour for leaf collection and not to exceed 29.5 hours per week, starting date retroactive November 1, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Fielding. The motion carried unanimously.

**m. Retroactive approval for tires needed for codes car:**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to retroactively approve the replacement of the tires for the codes vehicle. Seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

**n. Ratify 270 Friedensburg:**

A motion was made by Mr., Fielding to ratify authorization to Mr. Klonis's office to file a motion to intervene in a zoning hearing appeal. Seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

**o. Retroactive approval for advertising to withdraw from Mount Penn Preserve-**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to retroactive approval for advertising to withdraw from Mount Penn Preserve. Seconded by Mr. Staron. One Nay Mr. Maurer. The motion still carries

**p. Retroactive approval for advertising Lutz Funeral Home parking signs-**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to retroactively approve advertising for parking for funerals only at Lutz funeral home. Seconded by Staron. The motion carried unanimously.

**q. Retroactive approval to rescind several handicap spaces-**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding for retroactively approve to rescind handicap parking on Grant Street and others. Seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

**r. Retroactive phone system AT&T-**

A motion was made by Mr. Maurer to retroactively approve to join the water authority and move to AT&T for our phone service with no additional charge to the borough. Seconded by Mr. Fielding. The motion carried unanimously.

**s. Retroactive contribution payment to Aulenbach Cemetery-**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to retroactively approve to the release of money to Aulenbach Cemetery. Seconded by Mr. Maurer. The motion carried unanimously.

**t. Workshop meeting for December 23, 2021-**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to cancel the workshop meeting for December 23, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

**u. Retroactive scheduling budget meetings-**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to retroactively approve to schedule and advertise for two budget meetings on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 7PM and Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7PM. Seconded by Mr. Maurer. The motion carried unanimously.

**v. Contribution Exeter library-**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to delete the contribution to Exeter Library from the Budget. Seconded by Mr. Maurer. The motion carried unanimously.

**w. Contribution Crime Alert-**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to delete the contribution to Crime Alert from the Budget. Seconded by Mr. Maurer. The motion carried unanimously.

**x. Increase in contribution to Center of Excellence from budget amount to \$500.00-**

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to increase the contribution to the Center of Excellence to \$500.00. Seconded by Mr. Maurer. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **IV. ENGINEERING**

1. Engineering Report September 21-November 21, 2021 submitted to council- Received revised plans for the Mount Penn Townhomes subdivision and paid for review fees. A motion was made by Mr. Lombardo to authorize to advertise to send the revised plans to the Planning Commission at a time to be determined. Seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. All Ayes.
2. Advertise for Bid for Glenn Terrace/DCED Multimodal Grant- A motion was made by Mr. Staron that we advertise once we get an answer from the water authority. Seconded by Mr. Maurer. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Lombardo to pay \$600.00 to Berks County Conservation District to review the plan. Seconded by Mr. Fielding. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding for the President to sign the letter of support for the water authority to use their grant money on our project. Seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

3. 2021 Road Projects- No report
4. ADA Handicap Ramp Projects- No report
5. Handicap Ramp Center/Cumberland- No report
6. DEP Endlich Project- Discussion was held on this project. No action was taken. Tom Staron stepped out between 8:50PM to 8:53PM.
7. Roof Replacement- A motion was made by Mr. Lombardo to accept change order #2. Seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Staron to authorize payment of substantial completion of \$55,550.00 and holding \$5,950.00 until the rest of the work is completed. Seconded by Mr. Fielding. The motion carries unanimously.

8. Engineer Fees for 2022- A discussion was held on this. Engineer Chris Falencki left at 9:10PM.

**V. LIASION REPORT**

- a. Fire Company- Santa will coming through town the time and date to be determined.
- b. MPBMA:
- c. AVMA:
  - i. Appointment- A motion was made by Mr. Maurer to turn over to personnel committee to make a recommendation for the appointment. Seconded by Lombardo. All Ayes.
  - ii. Gate repair- A motion was made by Mr. Maurer to table until we get the invoice for the gate. Seconded by Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Planning Commission:
- e. Police Commission: Next meeting, Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 6:30PM
- f. RCAV- Mr. Reto read a letter received from the Commission.
- g. Mt. Penn Preserve- Discussion was held on correspondence.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Streets- Last day for leaf collection is December 3, 2021. Discussion was made on free upgrades for street crew phones. The tree was decorated today. Discussion was made on trash pick up at Carsonia park. A motion was made by Mr. Maurer that as of January 1, 2022 our streets department no longer takes care of trash. Seconded by Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Park and Public Property- No report
- c. Solid Waste/Public Utilities- No report
- d. Insurance/Pension- Discussion held on the new health insurance coverage. A motion was made by Mr. Lombardo for employees to have 5% taken out of their pay for any family plan and this goes into effect at the time the new plan begins. Seconded by Staron. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion was made on long-term disability.
- e. Personnel
- f. Codes- Discussion was held on rental fee permits.

**VII. OTHER REPORTS:**

- a. Mayor- Read a letter from Aulenbach Cemetery thanking us for the contribution.
- b. Police Report-Chief Serafin- Presented Chief report for October and September 2021. A discussion was held on which types of crime have increased.
- c. Solicitor
  - i. 270 Friedensburg motion to authorize execution of variance agreement- Solicitor reviewed the stipulation agreement. A motion was made by Mr. Lombardo for council to adopt and execute stipulation as presented. Seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.
  - ii. Insurance agreement- Explained the health insurance agreement.
- d. Secretary-

**VIII. ORDINANCES:****IX. RESOLUTIONS:****X. OLD BUSINESS:****XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Schedule Council meetings/workshops for 2022: A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to advertise for the reorganization meeting for Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 7:30 PM. Seconded by Mr. Maurer. The motion carries unanimously.

- b. Employee Christmas party- A motion was made Mr. Lombardo to use the funds President Goodman would receive as a council member for a Christmas party and gift cards for employees. Seconded by Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. New council member orientation- A motion was by Mr. Cocuzza for four members to take the classes for \$60.00 per each person. Seconded by Mr. Lombardo. All Ayes.
- d. Advertise for Budget-  
A motion was made by Mr.Maurer to cancel the December 7, 2021 budget meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.
- e. PA State Association of Boroughs and Association of Mayors of Boroughs of PA- Discussion was made on this. The Pa Association is budgeted and Mayor declined Mayor membership.
- f. Advertise letters of interest to fill vacancies on Council. A motion to advertise for two (2) vacancies on council. Seconded by Fielding. The motion carried unanimously.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Mr. Lombardo made the motion for adjournment at 9:50 P.M. seconded by Mr. Staron. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 P.M., Tuesday, December 28, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rochelle M. Gresh*  
*Assistant Secretary*