

## MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### September 28, 2021

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on September 28, 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, and Roger Reto. Also in attendance were Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineer Jim McCarthy, and Assistant Secretary Rochelle Gresh. Mayor Josh Nowotarski arrived at 8:17 PM and Councilman Tom Staron arrived at 7:32PM. Absent was James Cocuzza and Ryan Maurer. Engineer Jim McCarthy left at 8:45 PM.

#### I. EXECUTIVE SESSION- None

#### II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

1900 Block of Perkiomen parking request from resident. No appearance.

Jason Bailey gave an update on 270 Friedensburg Road. A motion was made by Rick Lombardo to waive the land development to accept the site plans to build as part of the building permit process. Seconded by Tom Staron. The motion carried unanimously. Beth Kohl counsel for Smith Chiropractic spoke on how the parking issue was resolved and on the proposed sign for the building. The business would like a freestanding sign. A motion was made by John Fielding to approve sign in the dimensions as proposed. Seconded by Rick Lombardo. 4 Ayes and 1 Nay by Roger Reto.

Attorney Keith Mooney and Brian Boyer the engineer for Mt. Penn Townhomes spoke on two minor variances needed. A motion was made by Tom Staron to recommend to zoning hearing board to allow the variance with respect to prevent the one house from being custom or a change in setback. Seconded by Rick Lombardo. 4 Ayes and 1 Nay by John Fielding.

John Lutz of Lutz Funeral Home spoke on the parking issues that may develop with the new development coming in and his concern over parking for funerals in the future. Staron made a motion to get road crew to get measurements of where the proposed no parking will be to prepare an ordinance. Seconded by Rick Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

#### III. ENGINEERING

- Engineering Report August 21- September 21, 2021 submitted to Council.
- **Roof Replacement**- Discussion was made on the roof replacement and concerns over the water damage on the roof. Barry Lucas from Acrylabs and Scott Weber from Olsen Design Group Architects were present to discuss the roof replacement. Roger Reto commented that we need to budget for the roof maintenance of recoating for every 10 years at \$3500.00.
- **2021 Road Projects**- Engineer McCarthy stated that Endlich/Glen Terrace emergency road surface repair completed.
- **ADA Handicap Ramp Projects**- Resolution adopted and work to be scheduled.
- **Handicap Ramp Center/Cumberland** – Work being done with DCED grant.
- **DEP Endlich Project**- Resubmitted revised permit to DEP and awaiting approval.
- **DCED Multitmodal Grant**- Proceeding with design and bidding.
- **MS4**- Preparing for DEP inspection of program on September 24, 2021.

- **Code issues** –. Jim Lorah spoke on how they cannot enforce the zoning and BCO issues, because they are not certified for that. There is overlap between the codes department and the BCO. The codes department would like to be able to discuss some issues with the engineering department. Council agreed.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Tom Staron to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Rick Lombardo. All Ayes.

#### V. FINANCE REPORT

Finance report for July and August 2021 were presented by Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer Rochelle Gresh.

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

Checking	159,867.26
Savings	606,680.34
Liquid Fuels	112,356.21
PIB Loan	40,339.29
Fire Tax	28,459.75
Ambulance Tax	8,781.35
Petty Cash	50.00
Street Light Tax	19,380.20

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding for payment of all borough bills in all accounts including checks 18800-18834 for \$120,162.30 as well as payroll of 17,128.43 in July 2021. Seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Checking	176,154.17
Savings	522,584.89
Liquid Fuels	92,562.73
PIB Loan	40,348.20
Fire Tax	6,433.54
Ambulance Tax	8,976.73
Petty Cash	50.00
Street Light Tax	19,264.24

A motion was made by Mr. Fielding for payment of all borough bills in all accounts including checks 18835-18870 for \$130,095.81 as well as payroll of 16,268.79 in August 2021. Seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor mentioned the profit and loss showed retainer fee has not been paid for Council Solicitor for several months. Assistant Secretary and Treasurer Rochelle Gresh stated next billing cycle he will be paid up to date.

#### **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. STREETS:** Starting leaf collection this week. Looking into purchasing a backhoe with St. Lawrence.
- B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY:** No report
- C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:** Discussion was held on recycling that was not picked up by a couple of residents last week.
- D. PERSONNEL:** President Goodman stated we are looking for a part time leaf collector and to post advertise on website. President Goodman made a motion to authorize a part-time volunteer Tanya Weaver to volunteer in the office and to fill in for the part-time secretary. Seconded by Roger Reto. The motion carried unanimously. Teresa returning Wednesday, October 6, 2021. Personnel committee to meet and discuss what they would like office staff to do.
- E. INSURANCE/PENSION:** Discussion was held on health insurance benefits. President Goodman mentioned we need to make a decision at next month's meeting and consider contributions to the healthcare.

#### **VI. LIASION REPORTS:**

- A. Fire Company:** No Report
- B. MPBMA:** No Report
- C. AVMA:** A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to accept the resignation of Fran Kelly from AVMA. Seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Fielding to advertise to seek an appointment for AVMA. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. Planning Commission:** No report
- E. Police Commission:** Next meeting Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:30PM.
- F. MT. PENN PRESERVE:** No report

#### **VI. OTHER REPORTS:**

- A. Mayor:** No Report.
- B. Police Report:** Presented September 2021 Police Chief Report. Discussion was held on school crossing zone lights and the need for them to be serviced.
- C. Solicitor:** No Report.
- D. Secretary:** Treasurer report was updated to include relief funds and escrow accounts. White House picture frame completed.

#### **VII. ORDINANCES:**

- a. Use and Occupancy-** A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to adopt the Mt Penn Borough Use and Occupancy ordinance. Seconded by Reto. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Road cut ordinance-** A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to amend No. 653, that adopted the code of the Borough of Mount Penn, by amending Chapter 21, part 1, Sections 102, 104.6 and 106.c (1) of the code, pertaining to excavations and openings of borough streets and placement of utility facilities. Seconded by Mr. Reto. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. Withdraw of Mount Penn Preserve-** Discussion was made on withdrawing from Mount Penn Preserve

#### **VIII. RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 33-21**- A motion was made by John Fielding to enter into agreement with the County of Berks to provide EMS services. Seconded by Roger Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 34-21** – A motion was made by John Fielding for Halloween curfew to become effective Friday, October 1st, and shall extend through Sunday, November 7th, 2021. Curfew shall exist between the hours of 9:00 PM and 5:00 AM Sunday through Thursday and 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM Friday and Saturday. No child age 17 and under may be out after curfew unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible adult. Seconded by Roger Reto. The motion carried unanimously.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**X. CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Met-Ed Pole replacement-** Roger Reto. Discussion was made on Met-Ed poles that are breaking the sidewalk concrete.
- b. Phone system with AT&T-** President Goodman discussed the borough hall phone issues and is recommending switching to AT&T. A motion was made by Mr. Fielding to switch to AT&T providing the water authority decides to switch too with the monthly amount not to exceed \$200.00 for the borough. Seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. 904 performance grants due September 31, 2021-** Council asked Assistant Secretary Rochelle Gresh to look into this further.
- d. Rescind handicap parking at 2451 Grant-** Solicitor Klonis commented that once the Borough can confirm the property transferred than the attorney can prepare the ordinance to advertise in the future. Solicitor Klonis suggested the borough look into any other handicap signs that need to be rescinded and we could rescind them all at the same time.
- e. Scheduling council meetings for 2022-** Tabled to next month.
- f. Scheduling a budget meeting-** President Goodman suggested scheduling a budget meeting next month. Mr. Fielding made a motion to authorize the advertisement of budget meeting for Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 7PM. Seconded by Mr. Lombardo.
- g. Relief fund reporting due October 31, 2021**
- h. Special levy maintenance for 2022-** Mr. Staron made a motion to appoint President Goodman as the representative for Mt Penn for the Berks County Office of the Treasur's new billing and collection system.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Staron made the motion for adjournment at 9:41P.M. seconded by Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried unanimously.

Workshop meeting scheduled for 7:30 P.M. Thursday, October 21, 2021.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 P.M., Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rochelle M. Gresh*  
Assistant Secretary