

MOUNTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2019

A meeting of the Mountville Borough Council was held on Monday, October 14, 2019, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Mountville Borough Hall, 21 East Main Street, Mountville, PA 17554.

The following Council members were present: Richard D. Spiegel, Harry L. Morgan, Jesse Hersh, Council President Lenny D. Heisey, Christine D. Eshleman, Michael Trimble and Charlie Thomas. Mayor Philip S. Kresge was absent. Also attending were: West Hempfield Township Police Chief Lisa Layden, Mountville Fire Company #1 Chief Dean R. Gantz, Jr. and Pamela J. Mitchell, Secretary/Treasurer.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Heisey who gave an invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Thomas moved to accept the meeting minutes from September 9 and September 23, 2019. C. Eshleman seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

M. Trimble moved to accept the financial reports and distribution of funds as presented. J. Hersh seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

At this time Council President Heisey recognized David Winters of Scout Troop 90. Mr. Winters had previously requested permission to use the community park for the Troop to camp during the Scouting for Food event to be held November 15, 2019 through November 17, 2019. The Troop has been granted permission to use the restrooms of the Mountville Church of the Brethren during the event and requests that Borough Council grant permission to use the park to camp and to use a fire pit during the event. A written confirmation would be appreciated. The letter should be sent to the Scout Master, Derick Shelor.

Standing Committee Reports

Public Safety – Police/Fire/EMS

Chair R. Spiegel recognized West Hempfield Township Police Chief Lisa Layden. Chief Layden reviewed the September report noting that there were 196 calls for service. The township detectives have been investigating several cases including fraud in which out of state individuals have purchased postage stamps with checks that were not good. The Mountville Post Office was one of the offices targeted by the scam. The detectives have also been involved with a case involving the “Felony Lane Gang” which targets unlocked vehicles for items to be stolen.

The police have been in place at Field of Screams, during the Route 30 closure and participated at the Bridge Bust over the Susquehanna River. Chief Layden noted that Corporal Doug Ober has been promoted to Sergeant.

Mountville Fire Company #1 Chief Dean Gantz introduced Mountville Fire Company President Paul Rossi prior to reviewing the September report. Mr. Rossi told Council that the recent comments reported in Lancaster Newspapers were received as negative by the fire company members. The members are all trained volunteers who spend time away from their homes and families in response time as well as for continuing training. It was incorrectly stated that the Mountville Fire Company walked away from the possibility of a merger with other Hempfield School District fire departments. That statement was not accurate. L. Heisey apologized for any uninformed and uneducated comments he made and stated he did not intend to create ill will between Borough Council and the Fire Company. While Council members feel the need for greater transparency of fund use, Chief Gantz reminded them that a financial report is included with the other monthly reports submitted by the Fire Company Secretary.

Deputy Chief Andrew Kalbach reported that the annual carnival has generated a source of income but is not guaranteed with the weather affecting the profitability of the event. Other alternate means of fund raising have been explored, but were not feasible. R. Spiegel noted that the Fire Company did not request the proposed increase in funding, it was his request.

Lastly, L. Heisey asked the Fire Company to not hold the Borough staff accountable for actions taken by Borough Council.

Chief Gantz reported 20 calls in September with 238 calls for the year. The current fund raising level is at \$33,180, the projected income from the fund drive is \$45,000. C. Eshleman asked if any social media attempts have been made to raise awareness of the Fire Company's needs. With some new technological savvy members now on board, more efforts are being made. Judy Snyder, 335 Huntington Drive, noted that greater eye appeal in the mailing may help with the fund raising effort.

Public Safety – Planning/Zoning

Chair J. Hersh reported that there were three zoning permits, three building permits and two certificates of occupancy issued in September. There is an upcoming Places 2040 meeting scheduled that J. Hersh will attend.

General Government

Chair M. Trimble noted that the costs for the 2020 Trash Collection will not be finalized until after October 25, 2019. Until those numbers are obtained the budget discussion is on hold, if any Chairs have anything further to request or are able to decrease some expenses, those numbers will be needed for final agreement to advertise at the November 11, 2019 meeting. The recommended contribution to the Mountville Fire Company #1 will be increased from \$40,000 to \$60,000 and the amount budgeted for the Fire Company building maintenance will be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Public Works – Streets

Chair C. Thomas reported that the proposed snow maintenance contract for the 2019 – 2020 seasons has been received from D. H. Funk. The rates are comparable to the 2018 – 2019 seasons. With the agreement to remain "on an as needed basis", C. Thomas moved to award the contract to D.H. Funk, H. Morgan seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

C. Thomas asked if any progress reports on the Hill Street overpass project have been received from PennDot. The Borough as well as West Hempfield Township Police and the Mountville Fire Company #1 have not received any updates. The secretary will request a progress report from the project contractor.

Public Works – Health & Sanitation

Chair H. Morgan had nothing new to report until the new trash rates have been determined.

L. Heisey reported the Federal Small Business Administration (SBA) has been contacted regarding the former Mountville Wallpaper Factory. The SBA offered the property to the Borough as is with no remediation. The Borough solicitor has emailed the SBA representative, Kevin Hardy, but has not received any further information.

The trash fee reduction requested by the owners of both 234 West Main Street and 240 West Main Street are denied by consensus of Council. The Borough is contractually bound to pay for each residence whether the service is used or not, therefore the property owner must reimburse the Borough for the service.

Culture & Recreation

Chair C. Eshleman has received a request from Jeff Book, Hempfield Area Recreation Director, for more uses of Lake Grubb. When all of the information has been compiled, she will further report on the request to Council.

Special Committee Reports

Borough Hall Renovations Committee

There is nothing new to report.

Personnel Committee

There has not been a need for the committee to meet.

Old Business

Mayor's Report

In the absence of Mayor Kresge, there is nothing new to report.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary had nothing new to report.

Miscellaneous

An email regarding extensive noise at Field of Screams has been received. Field of Screams will work to eliminate the volume of the attraction during the late hours of the event.

C. Eshleman moved to cancel the Council meeting scheduled for October 28, 2019. C. Thomas seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Mitchell
Secretary

Gallery:

Michael Dicely
Bryan Duquin, Jr.
Joseph Iacono
Andy Kalbach
Herb Landau, LNP
Steve Mitchell
Paul Rossi
Mark Shenk
Judy Snyder