

MOUNTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2020

A meeting of the Mountville Borough Council was held on Monday, April 27, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Conferencing from the Mountville Borough Hall, 21 East Main Street, Mountville, PA 17554.

The following Council members participated: Richard D. Spiegel, Harry L. Morgan, Jesse Hersh, Council President Lenny D. Heisey, Christine D. Eshleman, Jonah Eastep and Matthew Auker. Also participating were: West Hempfield Township Police Chief Lisa Layden, Mountville Fire Company #1 Chief Dean R. Gantz, Jr. and Mayor Philip S. Kresge.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Heisey.

C. Eshleman moved to accept the minutes from the meeting of April 13, 2020. R. Spiegel seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried.

President Heisey welcomed all guests to the meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Public Safety – Police/Fire

Chair R. Spiegel had nothing to report and asked Chief Layden for comment. Chief L. Layden has nothing new to report since the meeting of April 13, 2020 but noted that all police vehicles have been professionally sanitized.

Chief Gantz reported that the annual Carnival has been cancelled for this year. The Carnival committee is planning a Food Truck Event which is still in the planning process but will take place on Friday, May 15, Saturday, May 16, and Sunday May 17, 2020. The 50/50 drawing previously planned will still be held with the number of tickets increasing to 8,000.

Public Safety – Planning/Zoning

Chair J. Hersh reported that he did have discussion with the Borough Zoning Officer, Sam Meckley, regarding a proposal to consider rental property inspections. More information should be available for the May 11, 2020 meeting.

General Government

Chair C. Eshleman had nothing new to report at this time.

Public Works – Streets

Chair M. Auker reported that Jonah Eastep had brought concerns to him regarding the lack of pedestrian crossing signs on East Main Street at Lemon Street and College Avenue and at the intersection of West Main Street with North Church Street. There are currently not any signs in the Borough inventory to be used. H. Morgan noted that both College Avenue and Main Street are state roads which would necessitate permission and cooperation with PennDot for any signage to be placed on the streets. L. Heisey reported that there are traffic control buttons at these street crossing allowing for control of the traffic signals. R. Spiegel also noted that in the state of Pennsylvania all traffic is to yield to pedestrians at any crosswalk. L. Heisey recommended further discussion before the purchase or installation of signage occurs.

M. Auker also reported that Rettew will prepare cost estimates for future street projects.

Public Works – Health & Sanitation

Chair H. Morgan had nothing new to report at this time.

Parks & Recreation

Chair J. Eastep reported that Scout Troop 125 has reserved the large pavilion at the Community Park for their yearend event. With the pavilions currently closed, the Troop has asked for a credit for the future use of the pavilion. Council was in consensus that a credit for a future rental be given.

Beth Hess, on behalf of the VFW, has announced that the yearly Memorial Day Parade, previously scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 2020 has been cancelled.

At this time, J. Eastep recognized Preston Haines who presented a preliminary plan for an Eagle Scout Project that would include providing waste containers with the appropriate bags for dog waste at the Community Park and Spring Hill Park. There could also be a receptacle for the waste bags at the entrance to the park along Hill Street but as there isn't currently a regular trash container there all bags would need to be deposited in the trash containers along the Spring Street Side of the park.

R. Spiegel asked how the bag containers would be refilled and noted that the Community Park has a trash in/trash out policy. There are other trash containers throughout the park that the Borough staff maintains on a regular basis. Three to five years of waste bags would be provided as part of the project and the exteriors of the containers would be wrapped in a composite material for long term maintenance. L. Heisey asked if an immediate decision was being requested. The project must be approved and started prior to the Scout's 18 birthday in the fall, but extensions have been provided due to the current health crisis. L. Heisey recommended that further discussion take place at the May 11, 2020 meeting and this will be added to the agenda for consideration.

Old Business

There is nothing to be discussed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor P. Kresge reported on a state and county event, Bells Across Pennsylvania, to be held on May 3, 2020. Mayor Kresge read the proclamation into the record (please see attachment to minutes), with Council in consensus the Borough staff will help to notify area churches and will announce the event on the sign in front of the building. On May 3, 2020 bells will be rung across the state at 7 p.m. for three minutes.

Secretary's Report

In the Secretary's absence there is nothing new from the Secretary.

Personnel Committee

A proposed ordinance for the hiring of a Borough Manager has been distributed for all of Council to review. Mayor Kresge has noted a few grammatical corrections and asked that consideration be given to adding some specifics to items in the proposed document, specifically item #5, addition of Public Works; item #13 removing the swimming pool management portion; item #14 adding the word "professionally" in addressing concerns from citizens; item #24 adding Mountville to the Code to be maintained and item #27 to be more specific to the related job description. After discussion by all of Council the changes will be made to items #5, #13, #14 and #24. Item number #27 will remain as presented. H. Morgan asked to confirm that the Borough Solicitor had reviewed the document and it was noted that the Solicitor created the Ordinance.

M. Auker asked how the compensation will be determined and how will the approved candidate be held accountable. Council will continue to review all financial reports and all checks will continue to require two signatures as well as the detailed reporting done by the Borough's appointed auditing firm.

L. Heisey proposed that with the changes agreed upon that the Ordinance be advertised for approval at the May 11, 2020 Council Meeting if appropriate. C. Eshleman moved to have the Borough solicitor make the changes and advertise the Ordinance for approval. H. Morgan seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried. The approval of the Manager Ordinance does not make Borough Council obligated to immediately fill the position.

Miscellaneous

L. Heisey reported that the Secretary/Treasurer had ordered masks for the entire staff which should have been received last week.

With no further business, J. Hersh moved to adjourn at 7:59 p.m., H. Morgan seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Mitchell
Secretary/Treasurer

Gallery:

Jeremy & Preston Haines

Emily Jones, LNP

Mark G. Pugliese, I