

**MOUNTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

July 13, 2020

A meeting of the Mountville Borough Council was held on Monday, July 13, 2020, 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 Vice-President Christine D. Eshleman, Jonah Eastep and Matthew Auken. 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. Council President Lenny D. Heisey and Mayor Philip S. Kresge were absent.

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

C. Eshleman recognized Jackson Gates, an Eagle Scout candidate. J. Gates presented Council with pictures of the project he did at the Veteran's Memorial Park on Spruce Road. J. Gates reported that there is about \$50 of unused funds and asked if the money should be returned to the Borough or if it may be donated to the Mountville Youth Athletic Association (MYAA). J. Eastep noted that the MYAA had been seeking funding to purchase a digital thermometer and made a motion to have J. Gates donate the funds to the MYAA. H. Morgan seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried. J. Gates was instructed to contact Derrick Woods.

J. Hersh moved to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2020 meeting as distributed. H. Morgan seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

R. Spiegel moved to accept the financial reports and fund distributions as presented. J. Hersh seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Public Safety – Police/Fire**

Chair R. Spiegel gave the floor to Chief Layden who reviewed the June report which included 116 calls. Chief Layden reported that two people have been arrested for drug delivery resulting in death. H. Morgan asked who the Police assist in calls. Chief Layden stated most often the officers assist with fire or medical emergencies. Chief Layden reported that the officers are fund raising by selling pink patches to benefit breast cancer. Information regarding how to purchase the patches will be provided to the Borough office. Chief Layden asked if there are any special items that Council would prefer to see in future reports. R. Spiegel reported on the recent concerns from residents regarding traffic volume and speed on Hoover Street. West Hempfield Township Police will conduct a traffic study and present those results at the meeting of August 10, 2020.

H. Morgan asked if there were any concerns or problems related to the community fireworks display. There were no problems with the fireworks display at Froelich Park, however, the police are still receiving calls related to private individuals using fireworks unsafely and inappropriately.

National Night Out was scheduled to be held in October at Leisure Lanes but it is becoming less likely that the event will be held this year.

M. Auker noted that there will be residents from Hoover Street with traffic concerns attending the next meeting.

Chief Gantz reviewed the June Fire Company report which 13 calls for the month. Chief Gantz noted that the Fire Company has already had 13 calls in 13 days in July.

The letter for the Fire Company Fund Drive is to be approved tonight and mailed to residents and businesses. The fund drive is currently at \$4,500. The second food truck event was relatively successful with an income of \$2,000 to \$4,000.

**Public Safety – Planning/Zoning**

Chair J. Hersh reviewed the Zoning Officer’s Report which included seven zoning permits, three building permits and one certificate of occupancy.

#2166	129 Ruby Street	Storage addition	\$175.30
#2171	323 Huntington Drive	Basement alteration	\$174.00
#2175	414 Hillside Drive	Deck	\$ 69.50
#2177	431 Huntington Drive	Fence	\$ 35.00
#2178	14 West Main Street	Sign	\$154.50
#2179	Fence	Fence	\$ 35.00
#2180	311 Pennridge Avenue	Fence	\$ 35.00

J. Hersh reported work to establish a rental property registration is progressing. Of approximately 1,100 total residences in the Borough about 160, or just over 10% have been identified as rental properties. The ordinance would include a yearly inspection and registration every two years. The plan is for the ordinance to be in place by the end of 2020.

**General Government**

Chair C. Eshleman reported that a CD invested at Fulton Bank reached maturity on July 3, 2020. Upon the advice of the auditors, the CD was cashed, but had to be done by the close of business today. Therefore, C. Eshleman retroactively made a motion to cash the CD. H. Morgan seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried. C. Eshleman made a motion to reinvest these funds in Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT). R. Spiegel seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

C. Eshleman asked Council to look at each of their specific chairs for items to be budgeted for 2021. C. Eshleman and P. Mitchell will begin work on the budget in August.

C. Eshleman also acknowledged an email from John Hess regarding a dead tree that is about to fall on East Main Street/College Avenue. Council was in consensus that a letter should be sent to the property owner.

The franchise fee contract with Comcast will need to be renegotiated in 2021. Mountville has an opportunity to work with East Hempfield Township and East Lampeter Township on the negotiations to lessen the legal fees. C. Eshleman moved to work with the other two municipalities. H. Morgan seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

### **Public Works – Streets**

Chair M. Auker reported that the two-year maintenance contract with Signal Service for lights in the Borough was renewable on July 1, 2020. The document was not received in time for discussion at the June 8, 2020 meeting, therefore, M. Auker retroactively made a motion to approve the contract. J. Hersh seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

M. Auker reported that the pedestrian crosswalk signs are in place. There are two located facing in each direction at Bridge Street and two at Church Street. The final cost was \$584.00

Council has received a letter from PennDot reporting that a reduction in speed on Main Street is not justified and the speed limit will remain at 35 mph.

The trucking firm that damaged the traffic signal at College Avenue and Clay Street has paid the full amount of the repair, therefore, the Borough's insurance company has refunded the deductible of \$250.00.

The public works employees have been in discussion with M. Auker regarding the dangerous state of Spring Street and have requested consideration of Spring Street's closure. H. Morgan reported that he has seen railroad crossings such as the one on Spring Street with mirrors placed on each side of the crossing so that traffic is more aware of oncoming vehicles. Further discussion with all of Council and Mayor Kresge attending will be needed.

M. Auker addressed the email received regarding the condition of the Wallpaper Factory property. The grass has not been addressed this season and is very high. M. Auker moved to have the Borough public works staff mow the grounds. The staff should keep record of the time involved and the Small Business Administration will be invoiced.

M. Auker also addressed an email regarding the condition of Fridy Street. Both Fridy Street and Bridge Street will be up for bid for spring 2021 repair. More discussion is needed regarding the repair to Commerce Street and the willingness of CNH to help with the cost.

### **Public Works – Health/Sanitation**

Chair H. Morgan reported that there are residents who are not happy with the trash service currently being received.

### **Parks & Recreation**

Chair J. Eastep reported that several requests for pavilion rental refunds have occurred due to the continuing health concerns. J. Eastep moved to refund any requests for these refunds. R. Spiegel seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

The swale in the community park will be restored per guidelines provided by Rettew Associates. With the Borough public works staff assisted by staff from West Hempfield Township the cost of the restoration should be less than \$5,000. J. Eastep moved to proceed with the restoration, H. Morgan seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried.

Due to the ongoing COVID 19 concerns, J. Eastep moved to cancel the Community Picnic which was scheduled for August. H. Morgan seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried.

**Old Business**

There is no old business for discussion.

**Mayor's Report**

In the absence of Mayor Kresge, there is nothing new for discussion.

**Secretary's Report**

The secretary has nothing new to report.

**Personnel Committee**

The personnel committee will meet when Council President L. Heisey returns to review the applications received for Borough Manager.

**Miscellaneous**

With no unfinished business, C. Eshleman moved to cancel the July 27, 2020 meeting. R. Spiegel seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Mitchell  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Gallery:**

Jackson Gates  
Elaine Jones, LNP  
Steve Mitchell  
Mark Pugliese  
Karl Smith