

MOUNTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2020

A meeting of the Mountville Borough Council was held on Monday, September 14, 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 President Lenny D. Heisey, Christine D. Eshleman, Jonah Eastep and Matthew Auker. Also attending were West Hempfield Township Police Chief Lisa Layden, Mountville Fire Company #1 Chief Dean R. Gantz, Jr., Mayor Philip S. Kresge and Pamela J. Mitchell, Secretary/Treasurer. Borough Council Solicitor Brad Zuke was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Council President L. Heisey at 7:00 p.m. who gave an invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Heisey announced that there would be a brief Executive Session later in the meeting.

R. Spiegel moved to accept the minutes of the August 24, 2020 meeting as distributed. C. Eshleman seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

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

Public Safety – Police/Fire

Chair R. Spiegel recognized West Hempfield Township Police Chief Layden. Chief Layden does not have an August report for review at this time, but nothing out of the ordinary occurred. Chief Layden proceeded to review the year end report with Council. Chief Layden stated that the administrative office has fewer employees.

Mayor Kresge reported that there have been online complaints regarding ticketing of unmoved vehicles and has tried to explain the need for enforcement to those individuals.

Mountville Fire Company #1 Chief Dean Gantz reviewed the August report which includes 21 calls. With no questions regarding the report, Chief Gantz reported that the fund drive is at \$39,536 with 395 returns. Of these returns 14% are from Borough residents. The Fire Company has successfully changed their tax status from 501C4 to 501C3 which allows greater opportunities for grants and reduced rates for things like computers and computer support.

R. Spiegel asked if any more food truck events are being planned. Chief Gantz responded that the preparation at this time is for the carnival in spring 2021.

Public Safety – Planning/Zoning

Chair J. Hersh reported three zoning permits, one building permit and two certificates of use and occupancy were issued in August.

#2185	120 College Avenue	Re-roof Community Center	\$ 4.50
#2186	113 Spring Hill Lane	Fence installation	\$35.00
#2188	174 Hill Street	Patio	\$35.00
#2191	41 Village Drive	Shed	\$35.00

J. Hersh noted that the Mountville Planning Commission has not met recently.

Zoning Officer Sam Meckley reviewed the proposed Rental Property Registration. There is currently a tenant registration in use and the proposed ordinance would replace that. The code administration would be enforced by the International Property Maintenance Code. S. Meckley encouraged Council to review the proposed ordinance and noted that it would be best if it became effective January 1, 2021. There would be a three-month period for letters to be sent to property owners. A fee schedule needs to be considered for licenses. Third party agencies would be used for inspections. L. Heisey asked who would act as Code Enforcement Officer. Borough staff would do the paperwork with enforcement by Rettew. L. Heisey asked for an estimate of fees for service provided by Rettew to help determine the fees charge to landlords.

J. Hersh asked Council to carefully review for further discussion.

General Government

Chair C. Eshleman reported that there are two CDs maturing and per the recommendation of the Auditor, C. Eshleman made a motion to redeem both CDs and deposit the funds in the new Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) checking account. H. Morgan seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried. The CD's are valued at \$234,301.76 and \$195,245.80.

C. Eshleman asked Council to please review their budgetary needs for 2021. C. Eshleman and P. Mitchell plan to work on the budget this week.

Public Works – Streets

Chair M. Auker reported that Signal Service has completed the yearly inspections of the traffic signals at Route 462 and Manor Street, Route 462, College Avenue and Lemon Streets and College Avenue, Clay and Hoover Streets.

M. Auker reported that D.H. Funk has offered a snow removal contract at the same rates that were applicable for the 2019/2020 season. M. Auker moved to award the contract to D.H. Funk. H. Morgan seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried. P. Kresge asked that M. Auker investigate having D.H. Funk plow the state roads in the Borough with PennDot reimbursing the Borough for the fees.

M. Auker reported that he spoke with Ms. MacKenney regarding her request for a streetlight on Clay Street. M. Auker will contact PPL to determine the procedure for a new light installation.

At this time, Sam Meckley addressed the concerns regarding high volume traffic on Hoover Street. The memorandum explaining all options and the costs associated with those options is attached to these minutes. Mike Trimble, 325 East Main Street, asked why extra measures should be taken to streamline traffic on Hoover Street, when other Borough streets also have speed and volume issues. L. Heisey explained that Hoover Street has an unusually high volume of traffic. L. Heisey asked S. Meckley to make a recommendation to move forward. A traffic data counter would be a good starting point. H. Morgan moved to install two traffic counters. R. Spiegel seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried. The cost is \$300.00 per counter.

M. Auker addressed the request from the Public Works Department for the closure of Spring Street. M. Auker has verified that temporary closures of streets may be made at the discretion of Council and staff as needed. Spring Street

would be closed to all through traffic during winter weather events so that the staff can safely clear the street and would be reopened upon completion.

A request was received from Ed Fisher on behalf of Field of Screams pertaining to the refusal of a permit to conduct traffic control during their events. Mountville Borough has not received any communication from PennDot regarding the situation.

M. Auker presented Council with quotes for paving on Bridge Street and Fridy Street from B.R. Kreider & Son, Inc., Martin Paving and D.H. Funk & Sons, LLC. Council is asked to review the quotes for further discussion at the next Council meeting. B. R. Kreider has offered to take three core samples at a cost of \$600. There is also a concern regarding the integrity of the storm pipe under Fridy Street. Rettew could evaluate the condition of the pipe with a camera at a cost of approximately \$350.00 with the assistance of Borough employees Dave Pott and Ed Benner. M. Auker moved to have the core samples taken and to have the storm pipe inspected, all at a cost to not exceed \$950.00. C. Eshleman seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

Public Works – Health/Sanitation

Chair H. Morgan had nothing new to report and is waiting for the trash fee rates to be established for 2021.

Parks & Recreation

Chair J. Eastep reported that Hempfield Area Recreation Commission (HARC) has requested that Council honor the donation currently to given to continue in 2021. That amount is \$5,940.00 distributed quarterly.

J. Eastep also has further concerns regarding the safety and integrity of the playground but will address that at the next Council meeting.

Old Business

There is no old business for discussion.

Mayor's Report

Mayor P. Kresge reported that the large pavilion at the Community Park was painted as an Eagle Scout Project by Preston Haines and the job was well done.

P. Kresge asked Council to allow the substitute crossing guard to work on Thursday and Friday morning to help the students maneuver around a sidewalk reconstruction. Council gave approval by consensus.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary had nothing new to report.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee needs to meet to address some requests made by the public works staff. The meeting is tentatively planned for Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 8 a.m.

L. Heisey reported that a letter has been received from Secretary/Treasurer Pam Mitchell regarding her date of retirement. J. Hersh moved to accept the retirement, C. Eshleman seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried.

At 8:40 p.m. Council went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

At 8:59 p.m. Council reconvened.

L. Heisey reported that in the desire to hire a manager, interviews have taken place and a candidate has been chosen.

Mayor Kresge noted that wage categories were established in 2018, and a new classification is in order for the Manager position. H. Morgan moved to have the Manager classification range from \$70,000 to \$85,000. As no one seconded the motion, the motion was withdrawn. C. Eshleman asked that factors related to the workload affect the classification range. R. Spiegel asked why the personnel committee did not have the pay range established prior to seeking a manager. P. Kresge felt a more reasonable range would be \$55,000 to \$75,000. H. Morgan then moved that the salary range be \$57,000 to \$80,000 with benefits. J. Hersh seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried. H. Morgan moved to hire Mark Pugliese for the position. R. Spiegel seconded the motion. More discussion took place regarding M. Pugliese knowledge and qualifications with Council, followed by a unanimous vote to hire M. Pugliese.

A draft employment agreement has been prepared. C. Eshleman asked about the length of the term of the agreement. Solicitor Brad Zuke stated that the term will not exceed two years and August 31 will be the yearly date for review. There is a proposal to include three weeks of vacation for the first year of service. C. Eshleman felt two weeks would be more appropriate. Discussion continued with no resolve, therefore, L. Heisey tabled that discussion in favor of discussing the starting salary. Mayor Kresge repeatedly expressed his displeasure with the proposed salary and vacation time discussed. After further discussion, R. Spiegel moved to accept the terms of the employment contract as presented and offer \$75,000 starting salary with three weeks of vacation. H. Morgan seconded the motion. Four Council members voted in favor of the motion, R. Spiegel, H. Morgan, L. Heisey and J. Hersh. One member opposed the motion, C. Eshleman. Council members, M. Auker and J. Eastep, did not participate in the vote. The motion carried to offer the Manager position to Mark Pugliese at a starting salary of \$75,000 with three weeks of vacation.

Miscellaneous

As there is no unresolved business, Council was in consensus to cancel the September 28, 2020 meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Mitchell
Secretary/Treasurer

Gallery:

Emily Jones, LNP

Jennifer MacKenney

Steve Mitchell

Nicole Rieker

Mike Trimble