

MOUNTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2020

A meeting of the Mountville Borough Council was held on Monday, October 12, 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, Jesse Hersh, Council President Lenny D. Heisey, Christine D. Eshleman, Jonah Eastep and Matthew Auker. Council member Harry L. Morgan was absent. Also attending were West Hempfield Township Police Sgt. Doug Ober, Mountville Fire Company #1 Chief Dean R. Gantz, Jr., Mayor Philip S. Kresge, Borough Manager Mark G. Pugliese I and Pamela J. Mitchell, Secretary/Treasurer.

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

C. Eshleman moved to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2020 meeting as distributed. R. Spiegel 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.

At this time, President Heisey greeted the visitors and noted that they may ask to speak at any time or may wish to wait for the specific chair report that addresses their concerns.

Public Safety – Police/Fire

In the absence of Chief Lisa Layden, Sgt. Doug Ober was in attendance to review any questions or concerns related to the September Police Report. With no questions for Sgt. Ober, Chair R. Spiegel moved to the Fire Company Report.

Chief D. Gantz, Jr. asked if Council had any questions regarding his monthly report. With no questions from Council, Chief Gantz reported that the fund drive is at \$43,000 with 468 donors. The return is 18% with Borough residents at 15%. C. Eshleman asked if the \$43,000 was a typical amount at this time in the fund drive. Chief Gantz stated that the amount falls somewhere in the middle of lowest and greatest donations.

Chair R. Spiegel asked if there are any special events planned for the remainder of the year. At this time, Chief Gantz believes the Cookies with Santa event will be held.

Chair Spiegel addressed the continuing complaints being received regarding dogs running off leash, defecating on other people's property, etc. M. Auker asked if there is signage at the Borough Parks regarding control of dogs. There is. Sgt. Ober stated that the police need to be contacted, and after repeat offenses, enforcement is made.

Public Safety – Planning/Zoning

Chair J. Hersh reviewed the Zoning Officer's Report. There weren't any permits of any type or certificates of occupancy issued in September. In October one zoning and one building permit have been issued.

The Planning Commission has not had any meetings recently.

J. Hersh reported that the draft ordinance for rental property registration has been prepared. The fee rates are undetermined at this time. The International Property Maintenance Code is to be used and short-term rentals must be addressed. L. Heisey asked if the fees will cover the costs involved. Additional fees may be incurred if Rettew must administer the program. Logan Kibler, owner of rental units in Mountville, asked if he may review the proposed ordinance. He also asked if there will be a checklist form from the agency inspecting prior to the inspection appointment. L. Kibler asked what is driving the adoption of the ordinance. Good, safe rental units are the ideal result.

General Government

Chair C. Eshleman reported that the proposed 2021 Budget should be prepared by October 16, 2020. The proposed budget will be distributed to all of Council for review prior to the November meeting.

The Personnel Committee has arrived at the following wage rates for staff in 2021.

Doris Reisinger	\$16.77 per hour
David Pott	\$22.18 per hour
Ed Benner	\$19.47 per hour
Crossing Guards	\$13.52 per hour

Karl Smith, 234 Froelich Avenue, asked if there has been any further clean up progress at the former Wallpaper Company. At this time, the Borough has not received any response from the Small Business Administration.

Public Works – Streets

Chair M. Auker noted that the request received from Field of Screams for an acknowledgement to PennDot has been rescinded.

M. Auker reported that the street sweeping has been postponed until Tuesday, October 13, 2020 and Wednesday, October 14, 2020 if necessary.

M. Auker has been in discussion with PennDot regarding the plowing of state roads located within the Borough. With some unanswered questions, more discussion is to follow. M. Pugliese will follow through with D.H. Funk. The certificate of insurance for D.H. Funk has been sent to the office.

M. Auker reported that a work order is in place for the installation of an LED streetlight on Clay Street close to the School Crossing markings on the street.

Rettew has completed a traffic study on Hoover Street from September 21 – 27, 2020. That data obtained does not support heavy volume or high rates of speed. Rettew reported that a sight line obstruction at the intersection of West Hoover and North Manor Streets is of concern and M. Pugliese will address that with a letter to the property owners.

B. Hess, 2 West Main Street, noted that many of the elementary school children that walk to school use these highly traveled streets.

With further discussion relating to options for Hoover Street, L. Heisey asked if more information and clarification could be provided for discussion at the November 9, 2020 meeting.

M. Auken then moved to approve a \$1,200 engineering study for three way stop signs on Hoover Street. R. Spiegel seconded the motion, Council was in accord and the motion carried.

A discussion took place related to the safety of the intersection at Manor and Main Streets. As it appears most of the accidents taking place are the result of east bound traffic failing to see the Manor and Main traffic signal, instead looking ahead and seeing the College Avenue and Main Street traffic signal.

Rick Appleby of 25 Cedar Chase Drive reported that it was family that was in the most recent accident at the intersection and asked that swift action be taken.

The use of strobe lights was proposed but PennDot will no longer allow those. The current lights are eight inches while newer signals have twelve-inch lights. Rettew has recommended Optical Programable Signals at the College Avenue and Main Street intersection. That would deter motorists from first noticing the light farther east. That cost would be approximately \$4,000.00. PennDot would need to be notified of the installation but would not need to give permission.

Looking further into the future , it could take 2 to 3 years to accomplish an improved signal program. Because the road is owned by the state, everything at the intersection would need to be improved. Including but not limited to ADA ramps and new poles. Melissa Kelly, of Rettew, stated that to make the total improvement to the intersection could be a \$1,000,000 project. L. Heisey asked if PennDot would take any responsibility as the road belongs to them. The cost to make the improvement would be the Borough's expense. S. Mitchell, 30 Park Avenue, asked if a black border around the lights facing westbound might make a difference. L. Kibler asked if there might be an option to retrofit the lights. M. Auken moved to install Optical Programable Signals at a cost not to exceed \$4,500. C. Eshleman seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried.

Core samples have been taken and costs and options will be provided for future paving projects on Bridge Street and Fridy Street.

Public Works – Health/Sanitation

In the absence of Chair H. Morgan, there is nothing new to report.

Parks & Recreation

Chair J. Eastep reported that the community park swale project has been completed successfully. The approved cost of the project was \$5,000, but the final cost was \$1,079.66.

M. MacKenney, 133 Clay Street reported that children are trespassing on her property in an attempt to collect fouled baseballs. J. Eastep will provide a contact number for her to call the Mountville Youth Athletic Association regarding her concerns.

Old Business

There is no old business for discussion.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that he recently performed a marriage ceremony for a long time Borough resident.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary had nothing new to report.

Personnel Committee

L. Heisey welcomed Mark Pugliese. Today was Mark's first day on the job and there will be an opportunity for him to meet with each chair to review projects or concerns. M. Pugliese said he's very glad to be here.

At 8:37 p.m. an Executive Session was called to discuss possible litigation. At 8:46 p.m. Council reconvened.

Miscellaneous

With no unfinished business, R. Spiegel moved to cancel the October 26, 2020 meeting. M. Auker seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried. With no further business J. Hersh moved to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Mitchell
Secretary/Treasurer

Gallery:

William Coder
Gillian Gdylardi
Katie Harlin
Beth Hess
Emily Jones, LNP
Melissa Kelly, Rettew
Logan Kibler
Monique MacKenney
Steve Mitchell
Chad Rieker
Robyn Scheck
Karl Smith
Greg Workman