

Minutes – August 14, 2019

McSherrystown, Pennsylvania

Council of the Borough of McSherrystown met at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday August 14, 2019 in the Municipal Building at 338 Main St. McSherrystown, Pennsylvania with Patricia McKim-Bortner presiding.

President McKim-Bortner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the Invocation for Divine Guidance.

Present on roll call were the following members of council constituting a quorum: Patricia D. McKim-Bortner, Joseph E. VonSas, Michael J. Calderone, James A. Forbes, Lisa B. Koontz, Robert D. Niedererr, Stephen J. Pascoe. Other Borough Officials in attendance included Robert Campbell, Esq. (Solicitor,) Scott J. Cook (Manager,) Gerald C. Walmer (Secretary/Treasurer,) and Michael F. Woods (Chief of Police.) Mayor Anthony J. Weaver was absent.

Minutes of the regular meeting held July 10, 2019 were approved on a motion moved by Councilmember Calderone, seconded by Councilmember Pascoe. Motion carries.

The Financial Review and Budget Analysis reports were given to all council members by the Treasurer. Secretary/Treasurer Walmer reported the expenses incurred since the meeting prior were as follows:

General Fund: \$107,483.03
Highway Fund: \$2,103.01
Payroll Fund: \$60,471.80
Total: \$170,057.84.

COMMUNICATIONS

A new, digital recorder for Borough Council meetings has been purchased for \$134

The 2018 904 Performance Recycling Grant is to be awarded in September, 2019 for \$2,640 representing an increase of \$660 dollars from the year prior.

Hanover Borough is to invoice McSherrystown Borough for software modifications in order to eliminate McSherrystown Borough's sewer balances from their daily file upload. The quoted cost for this software modification is \$477.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joy Murren of Ridge Ave., spoke about comments pertaining to the signs she made supporting the McSherrystown Police Dept. She commented that her signs were meant to inform the public about the Borough Council's actions.

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REPORTS

Mayor Weaver was absent. No monthly report available at this time.

Police Chief Woods' report for the month of July was distributed. It included 164 calls for service. There were 5 criminal arrests and 56 summary arrests. Patrols traveled 3,364 miles using 421 gallons of fuel averaging 7.9 mpg.

Chief Woods read a letter from the Borough of McSherrystown Police Officers Association. The letter addressed labor negotiations and the resulting arbitration associated with the current contract conducted in 2018. The letter read by Chief Woods stated that in the labor negotiations impasse letter, the Borough Council negotiating committee wanted to give a 1.5% increase. According to Chief Woods, legal costs incurred by the Borough in contract and arbitration negotiations totaled \$30,000.

Councilmember Pascoe made it known that arbitration was not an uncommon occurrence in municipalities similar to McSherrystown Borough. He further stated that the goal of the negotiating committee was to retain officers. He expressed dismay about comments made by Chief Woods during negotiations referencing proposed pay increases being higher for other members of the Association than himself.

Visitor Danielle Smith, addressing members of the police contract negotiating committee, stated that under the Sunshine Act, when a quorum exists, it must be public. Mrs. Smith, referring to prior discussions regarding Chief Woods' pay increase during contract negotiations, said that offering a breakout pay increase for the Chief would be illegal. Councilmember Pascoe offered to look in to and evaluate the authenticity of Mrs. Smith's statements.

Manager Cook's report for the month of July had been previously distributed to the Borough Council and Mayor. He requested a motion to have the double yellow lines on all roads within the Borough repainted by Alpha Space Control Company Inc. of Chambersburg. He stated that the cost, budgeted for 2019, would be \$0.0978 per linear foot through the Hanover joint bid award and would total around \$3,400. Councilmember Vonsas made a motion to have the Borough's double yellow lines painted. Councilmember Niedererr seconds the motion. Motion carries.

Manager Cook relayed to the Council that he was approached by Chuck Messersmith who would like to donate the materials needed to supply water to the dog park. Manager Cook said that volunteers would be needed to install a water line from the Borough Public Works facility to the dog park. According to Manager Cook, Mr. Messersmith would like to have a small sign installed at the park noting his donation of the materials. A motion was made by Councilmember Calderone to approve having a water line installed to the dog park using materials donated by Chuck Messersmith and installed using volunteer labor. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pascoe. Motion

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carries.

Manager Cook's report for the month prior (July) included the following: Installed new electrical outlet at Sr. Center. Sprayed weed killer along all street curbs and at all rec. parks. Repaired storm water pipe in 300 block of Ridge Ave. Cleared and removed weeds at misc. storm drainage areas. Replaced and repaired wood on lawn sheds at public works as needed. Used cold patch on pot holes as needed. Swept all streets. Emptied trash containers at all parks and Boro. Offices. Performed daily maintenance and repairs on Police vehicles, Borough vehicles, and equipment. Mowed and maintained all recreation areas as needed. Dragged and lined all ball diamonds as needed. Gasoline used in the prior month totaled 149.7 gallons. Diesel usage totaled 125.4 gallons. S.A.V.E.S use 370.2 gallons of diesel fuel and 8 gallons of gasoline.

Civil Service Committee Chairman Neidererr reported that the committee met and proposed to advertise for a new police officer to replace Officer Travis Smith. Chairman Neidererr and Chief Woods reiterated that by state statute, a candidate must have completed a certified Act 120 program. Committee Chairman Neidererr made a motion to advertise for the officer vacancy in the Borough. Councilmember Pascoe seconds the motion. Motion Carries.

Solicitor Campbell spoke about upgrading the Borough's software to reflect lien fees and miscellaneous court costs for delinquent accounts when bills are sent for sewer and/or garbage. Secretary/Treasurer Walmer said that he would look in to it and that there was room for improvement.

President Mckim-Bortner introduced the new reporter, Andrea Grabenstein, from The Gettysburg Times to the Council and all in attendance. She thanked Andrea for coming.

Chief Woods let it be known for the record that he did not ask for a 22% raise verbally or in writing during arbitration talks in 2018. Councilmember Neidererr said that Council was not responsible for sending the matter to arbitration. Solicitor Campbell regretted that the issue was being rehashed and that the back-and-forth needed to stop.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval to pay listed expenditures of \$170,057.84 (General Fund- \$107,483.03; Highway Aid - \$2,103.01 and Payroll - \$60,471.80) was given on a motion moved by Councilmember Koontz, seconded by Councilmember Vonsas. Motion carries.

President Mckim-Bortner requested a motion to approve the yearly donation to RabitTransit of \$500. Councilmember Pascoe made the motion and was seconded by Councilmember Koontz. Motion carries.

President Mckim-Bortner mentioned that Community Media had been approached about their fees to record and broadcast Borough Council meetings. She stated that they charge \$100 per hour to record meetings and \$50 per hour to edit the recordings and to broadcast them. There is also a flat rate of \$200 to record, edit, and air each monthly meeting.

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Councilmember Pascoe offered to look in to the matter and possibly seek donations.

Adjournment was declared at 7:33 p.m. on a motion moved by Councilmember Calderone and seconded by Councilmember Pascoe. Motion carries.

Gerald C. Walmer
Borough Secretary