

January 11, 2023

MOHNTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Business Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2023

The meeting was called to Order at 7:00 PM by Council President, Jon Davis who presided. Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll taken. Present were Mayor Eric Burgis, Gary Hafer, Jason Kercher, Brian Simmon, Kerry Hoffman, Alicia Bressler, Daniel McDevitt, Solicitor Jason Ulrich, Veronica Henry, and Borough Engineer Jennifer Van Dyke from Technicon.

Public comment was opened with Brenda Marsh stating her concerns over not receiving trash bills for 8 years. Jon Davis advised her that we will correct the address in the system.

Joe Schaeffer reported the website looks good. He also wanted an updated trash pick-up schedule and wanted to know why the minutes can't be posted as draft right after a meeting. Jon Davis said he would look into the feasibility of that and was told that the new schedule would be posted on the website shortly. The delay was due to the trash company not providing their holiday schedule to us.

Jason Potter requested a detailed explanation of the change in trash fees which was detailed by Jon Davis.

Terry Stephenson thanked the borough for the Christmas lights and keeping the Christmas in Mohnton event going in his absence.

Sheri Sponagle verbally reported a car parked since Thanksgiving that is out of inspection. She was told that the police would check into it. Ms. Sponagle additionally stated her disappointment in social media postings.

**Engineer Report**

Jennifer Van Dyke submitted her report a copy of which was given to all council members and asked for formal direction on the wall and Fern St. Bridge.

**Code Enforcement**

Jennifer Van Dyke submitted her report a copy of which was given to all council members and indicated that within the complaint log, there were certain violations for which further council direction is needed, She will work with Jason Ulrich, Esq to establish a process to obtain that direction from council in compliance with all Sunshine rules etc., Jason Ulrich noted that for two properties that citations were at the DJ's office, the owners are avoiding service and he will proceed with the Court of Common Pleas and published notices as the next venue for these violations.

**Police Chief Report**

Mayor Burgis gave his report and said that a \$1000 doantion was made to the police by the Pennwyn club.

A 7 year analysis of police coverage was given to all council members.

In 2020 41% of all hours went to PSP and in 2021 45% or 4065 hours went to State Police.

In 2022 we reduced hours to 2565 or 29% of our time went to State Police.

15% and 14% respectively of calls went to PSP in 2020 & 2021 while we dropped to 11% in 2022.

The additional coverage was the result of 2 new PT officers and some overtime in 2022.

### **Fire Chief Report**

Report attached. And there was no slow down in calls. Chief Josh Keller reminded everyone about the breakfast that is still on.

### **Solicitor Report**

Jason Ulrich reported that a change in the monetary requirements for necessary bids has changed to less than \$12,200 no bids necessary, from \$12,200 to \$22,500 telephonic bids are required and anything over \$22,500 requires a regular bid.

A discussion regarding vacant properties was had and further conversation will continue with Jennifer Van Dyke and Jason Ulrich.

### **Council President's Report**

The Shillington sewer deposits delinquency was reported as paid.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Eric Burgis gave his report and stated that the Civil Service Commission Annual Report was received last week. Full rules and regulations is on the new borough website. He also wanted to thank the commission for effectively re-building themselves from the ground up since January of 2022.

We had 4 candidates for FT officer and 3 made it through first round of the Civil Service process and all 3 are Veterans.

Mayor Burgis reported that we may have a 4<sup>th</sup> candidate for part time police officer.

The Physical agility test is January 14, 2023

Oral Exam is January 21, 2023

The Chief of police contract has been signed by all parties.

The chief is working on a possible grant that will help with the cost of vests.

## **Finance & Administration Report**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Veronica Henry gave the financial report with status which was given to all council members. The report on delinquent Trash collections was made.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Dan McDevitt, seconded by Brian Simmon and carried by unanimous vote.

A list of bills to pay was given and attached. A motion to pay the bills was made by Brian Simmon, seconded by Gary Hafer and carried by unanimous vote.

### **Secretary Report**

Veronica Henry provided Minutes of last meeting December 14, 2022 a copy of which was given to all council members. An addition to the minutes to detail the discussion on the trash fees was made and a motion to accept the minutes as changed was made by Alicia Bressler, seconded by Jason Kercher and carried by unanimous vote.

### **Personnel and Public Safety Report**

Jason Kercher reported that the trucks were used to remove Christmas lights and trim trees. Jason reported that there was quick reaction to the downed trees and complimented the work crew on their response.

### **Buildings, Grounds & Maintenance Report Gary Hafer**

Gary Hafer stated a new exhaust fan was installed by our maintenance crew at the large park pavilion with the assistance of a volunteer.

### **Recreation Programs Report**

No report

### **Grants, Community Relations, Inter-government Cooperation Report**

Nothing to report

### **Street and Lights Report**

Jason Kercher reported that all trees left at the borough have been chipped.

### **Health, Sanitation, Water, Sewer Report**

Alicia Bressler reported that the ordinance for what is considered a rental property is being worked on in conjunction with Jason Ulrich, Esq, and Jennifer Van Dyke.

A motion to accept all reports was made by Alicia Bressler, seconded by Brian Simmon, and carried unanimously by vote.

Adjourned for Executive Session.

Action items from Executive Session:

Motion to approve a \$2 raise in hourly wage (retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>) for the part time Police officers was made by Alicia Bressler, seconded by Dan McDevitt and carried unanimously by vote.

### **New Business**

Brian Simmon will check on pricing for new banners (replacement) for the next meeting.

There being no other new business, old business, comments or Notes from other Council Members nor any other Action Items, a Motion to adjourn was made by Brian Simmon, seconded by Alicia Bressler, and carried unanimously by vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.