

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Zoom Call due to COVID-19

May 13, 2020
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order with the following Councilpersons were on the Zoom Call: Mr. Shearer, Mr. Walker, Mr. Robol, Mr. Moralez, Mrs. Meckley, Mr. Specht, Mr. John Pfeil, Mr. Dale Pfeil, Ms. Fawess, and Mr. Swartz. Also on the Zoom Call were Jess Novinger, Shelly Sandstrom, Attorney Benion, Chief Zettlemoyer, Scott Derr, Sam Shaffer, and Kevin Mertz. Mayor Nelson, and Doug Diehl were not on the Zoom Call. From the public Karen Bower was in the zoom call meeting.

Minutes: On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Dale Pfeil and carried, Council approved the minutes from the April 8, 2020 meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Ms. Novinger informed Council that she has been diligently keeping up with the ever-changing regulations and best practices of the COVID-19 health pandemic. The focus now being on re-opening procedures. The current plan is to have administrative staff continue teleworking where able, rotating through the office each week. The Department of Public Works is practicing social distancing, staggering lunches and breaks, and wearing masks when interacting with each other or the public.

The Marsh Road Project is moving forward. We are working toward an RFQ rather than an RFP for Engineering as this is a very technical project.

Next, Ms. Novinger reported that she received a verbal "No Findings" from Klacik & Associates, our auditors. They are awaiting additional guidance from DCED due to COVID-19 before filing our audit.

She also completed the exit conference with Vicki Baker for our 2019 Liquid Fuels funds and there were no findings.

Ms. Novinger then asked for Council's permission to enter into an agreement to lock in the Borough's electricity rate with Freepoint for 24 months at \$0.05339/kWh. Mr. Walker asked if she thought the rates would drop further and Ms. Novinger indicated that the representative was unsure but felt it was unlikely. On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council approved this request.

Ms. Novinger then requested that all members of Council meet at the Milton Community Pool on Wednesday, June 10th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the future course of action for the pool. She needs Council's guidance for a vision at the pool. Prior to the meeting, she will be sending a feasibility study on the complex that was completed in 2008. She will also be sending a fact sheet on some of the possibilities for the complex. She asked that Council attend, social distance/wear a mask if still needed at that time. No decisions will be made prior to this discussion. We then return home or back to Council Chambers to conduct the regularly scheduled meeting. She will be asking for Council's decision on how to proceed at the June 10th Council meeting as we need to get work done this summer to avoid losing another swimming season.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Nelson was not on the zoom call, but Chief Zettlemoyer informed Council that he is doing well and has nothing to pass on to Council.

Report of the President of Council: President Shearer had no report.

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer reported that the Department continues to see a rise in mental crisis situations due to the pandemic.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that all of his staff is back to work. They have been mowing and working on the parks and cemeteries. Ms. Fawess asked how the re-opening of the recycling center was going. Sam responded that it is going well but the bins are filling up quickly. Mrs. Meckley asked if he has been notified that we may be able to mix commodities. Sam stated that he has not been contacted about this.

Report of the Fire Chief: Scott Derr thanked those that attended the Pierce Firetruck demo. The department is slow with COVID cases. In April, they responded to 19 calls, 5 so far in May, and the ambulance service has an upward increase in Mental Health cases. John Pfeil asked if there would be more firetruck demonstrations? Scott responded that there would be. Mr. Pfeil also asked what funding would be used to purchase a fire truck. Ms. Novinger stated that there is a fund with partial funding, and they would research USDA Rural Development Grant funds as well as the Firemen's Relief money. She also stated that there is a lot of research and steps to take before any specs would come before Council. Mr. Walker asked if there was a committee doing the research on this and if there is, one or two Council members should be on that committee. Mrs. Meckley offered to be on a committee because of her experience in the Fire Department.

Public Comments: Karen Bower asked when the Recycling Center would re-open. Ms. Novinger responded that we opened the Center on May 11th.

Highways and Protection to Persons and Property: No report

General Government and Recreation:

- A. On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. John Pfeil and carried, Council authorized advertising for Paving Request Proposals. Mrs. Meckley asked if this paving schedule is following the previously scheduled paving. Sam Shaffer responded it is not as the proposed streets need to be done now due to poor conditions.
- B. On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Walker and carried, Council approved advertising the approved changes to the Borough Manager Ordinance.

Finance, Health and Sanitation

- A. On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council approved paying the bills from General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Community Pool and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$244,759.93.

Mr. Swartz asked if there was anyone we could reach out to about the railroad tracks. Ms. Novinger will contact Norfolk Southern.

There being no further questions or business, on motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Dale Pfeil and carried, Council adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom
Secretary/Treasurer