

## MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

October 28, 2020

7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Shearer. The following Councilpersons were present: Mrs. Meckley, Mr. Specht, Mr. Shearer, Mr. John Pfeil, Mr. Dale Pfeil, Ms. Fawess, Mr. Morales, Mr. Robol, and Mr. Swartz. Also in attendance were Jess Novinger, Shelly Sandstrom, Mayor Nelson, Chief Zettlemoyer (via zoom), Sam Shaffer, Joe Lupo, and Kevin Mertz. Mr. Walker was absent.

Minutes: On motion of Mr. John Pfeil, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council approved the minutes from the October 14, 2020 Council meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mrs. Novinger asked for Council's consideration to allow her to purchase a Kioti CK3510HB tractor with loader bucket from the Cemetery Fund. This tractor will allow the Department of Public Works (DPW) to have two pieces of equipment that are capable of loading trucks (the backhoe being the other piece of equipment capable of loading) and offer more stability on the hills in the cemetery. The total cost of this tractor and loading bucket to be purchased via Co-Stars from Hoover Tractor is \$17,326.95. There is a 6-year warranty on the tractor. On motion of Mr. Specht, seconded by Mr. Robol and carried, Council approved this request.

DPW currently has a 2014 Kioti 2410 Subcompact tractor that is too small for loading trucks and becomes unsteady when working on the hills in the cemetery. In addition, the frame on this tractor has been welded back together and this piece of equipment has over 1,000 hours on it. She then asked for Council's consideration to allow her to place this tractor on Muncibid and all proceeds will be placed back in the Cemetery Account. On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Swartz and carried, Council approved this request.

Next, Mrs. Novinger informed Council that the Holiday Lighting Committee is planning to go through the older Holiday Decorations and she is asking Council's consideration to allow her to place any unwanted decorations on Muncibid with all proceeds being placed back in the Holiday Lighting Committee Funds. On motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council approved this request.

She then reported that she and Shelly met with representatives from the Community College Initiative Board Members on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. They are requesting to do a presentation for Council in which they would be seeking a letter of support to be sent to the Northumberland County Commissioners stating that the Milton Borough would support a \$1.14/month per household tax county-wide to fund a "local" community college – where the main campus would be in Sunbury and a "learning center" could be placed here in Milton. According to these Board Members, Lackawanna and Luzerne Community Colleges both require students to take final courses on their main campus and many students drop out and never finish due to this requirement. If Council would like to hear the Board's presentation (approximately 15 minutes) Mrs. Novinger recommends waiting until 2021 after the budget has been addressed and the holidays have passed. On motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Swartz and carried, Council agreed to receive a presentation from the Board Members at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in January 2021.

Mrs. Novinger then asked Council's consideration to allow her to attend the Pennsylvania Municipal League's virtual Annual Conference/Summit which will run October 29 – 31. Some topics of interest being: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Panel; Pandemic, Protests and Recession: Labor and Employment Issues; Making Sense of the Markets; Unemployment in Review Now and for the Future; How to Make Sure Governments Aren't

Leaving Money on the Table. The fee to attend is \$100. On motion of Mr. Moralez, seconded by Mr. John Pfeil and carried, Council approved this request.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Nelson informed Council that a long-term representative from SEDA-Council of Governments, Glenda Ruch, has passed away.

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

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer reported that the Department received grant funds to link the RMS systems. He asked that the public be aware and careful on Halloween night even though the Borough is not endorsing trick-or-treating, many residents will. The Police Department will do extra patrols that evening.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that leaf pick-up began on Monday and will continue until the first plowable snowfall. The Department continues to work on the community pool.

Report of the Fire Chief: Joe Lupo reported that the Department has responded to 14 calls so far in October with 169 manhours. The Department received \$25,000 in Federal CARES funds which will be used to cover general bills and expenses that the department has incurred since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Highways and Protection to Persons and Property: No report.

General Government and Recreation: No report.

#### Finance, Health and Sanitation

- A. On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. John Pfeil and carried, Council approved paying the bills from General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Community Pool and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$117,543.00.

Mr. John Pfeil addressed Council with his concerns after reading an on-line article from outside of the area that outlined racist activities within the Borough. Chief Zettlemoyer said his department has not seen an increase in calls related to racist activities and that he communicates regularly with an individual who was quoted in the article. He said the individual believes the entire article was a misrepresentation of what was shared with the person who wrote the story. Chief Zettlemoyer also reported that his Department has a positive relationship with residents advocating against racism in the community and regularly meets with some of them. After further discussion, President Shearer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moralez and carried, that racism is not acceptable within the Borough. A roll call vote was called and was unanimous.

There being no further questions or business, on motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Dale Pfeil and carried, Council adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom  
Secretary/Treasurer