

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

March 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order with the following Councilpersons in attendance: Mr. Shearer, Mrs. Meckley, Mr. Specht, Mr. John Pfeil, Mr. Dale Pfeil, Ms. Fawess, and Mr. Swartz. Also in attendance were Jess Novinger, Shelly Sandstrom, Mayor Nelson, Attorney Benion, Chief Zettlemoyer, and Sam Shaffer. Mr. Walker, Mr. Robol, Scott Derr, Doug Diehl, and Mr. Moralez were absent.

Minutes: On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Dale Pfeil and carried, Council approved the minutes from the February 26, 2020 meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Ms. Novinger reported that the Public Works Department has a chipper in need of repairs. This is very timely as Spring Clean-up will be here soon. Sam has ordered parts from Cleveland Brothers and the work will be done in-house saving the Borough close to \$6,500 as opposed to the work being outsourced. Next, Ms. Novinger informed Council that the audit process has begun, and things are running smoothly with Klacik & Associates.

At the last meeting, Council voted to approve two handicapped parking spaces. One was at 424 Hepburn Street and the other at 19 Rose Street. These approvals did not follow proper protocol, as they should have been authorized via Resolution. After Ms. Novinger personally reviewed each property, she does not feel either is warranted. Both have off-street parking options and both properties have parking limited to one side of the street which makes parking a premium for all other residents in that neighborhood. It is for the above-mentioned reasons that she asked Council to consider rescinding the prior approval of these requests. On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council rescinded the handicapped parking space approvals at 424 Hepburn Street and 19 Rose Street. Mr. John Pfeil abstained.

Next, Ms. Novinger read a letter from the Milton School regarding an additional SRO Officer. The school has attained funding through a PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency grant to provide for a second SRO for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Novinger said that the grant will cover all fees associated with the position, with the exception of liability insurance, worker's compensation, and the costs of maintaining an SRO police vehicle. After some discussion, on motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council authorized the Borough Manager to enter into negotiations with the Milton School District for the 2nd SRO Officer. Ms. Novinger asked Council to comprise a list of questions they have about the SRO program so the school can respond as the two sides negotiate a new contract. Both Mr. Specht and Mrs. Meckley asked for a copy of the current SRO agreement for their review.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Nelson had no report but thanked the school and administration for coming to tonight's meeting.

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

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer reported that the Department has had to use Narcan to revive an individual due to a drug overdose. They also stopped someone going the wrong way on a one-way street and discovered drugs and a large amount of money in the vehicle.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that the department continues to work on Brown Avenue Park. They continue to clean up the cemeteries. Maintenance on the chipper is going to take some time. Our new employee is a great mechanic and can do the work on this. Ms. Fawess asked what the turn around time would be on this. Sam is hopeful that it can be put into service by next week.

Report of the Fire Chief: Scott Derr was absent.

Public Comments: High School Principal Andrew Rantz and Assistant Principal Mike Bergey spoke on the value of the SRO Program. This school year alone, SRO Dennis Derr has had extensive involvement in 53 disciplinary referrals, 98 Safe to Say hotline tips, and 105 Children and Youth Services referrals. He also responds when mental health issues arise for students during the school day. Officer Derr has developed a positive rapport with the students and most students greet him when walking through the halls and he knows most of the high school students by name. Mr. Bergey stated that the district would like the SRO to spend more time developing relationships with elementary students. In addition to assisting with Officer Derr's workload, the addition of a second SRO will allow the officers to spend more time in the elementary and middle schools. They thanked Council for their consideration on this issue.

Highways and Protection to Persons and Property:

- A. On motion of Mr. Dale Pfeil, seconded by Mr. Swartz and carried, Council approved a request from Dane Neilson to build eight (8) benches for the Community Pool for his Eagle Scout Service Project. The benches are expected to be completed by the end of May. President Shearer will sign as beneficiary of the project which is a requirement.

General Government and Recreation:

- A. On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Swartz and carried, Council authorized the Borough Manager to submit the 902 Recycling Grant in the amount of \$73,000 from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). If approved, the Borough will be required to provide a 10% match to the grant. The funding will be used to purchase two new dump containers and two new roll-off containers for the Borough's recycling center as well as a new chipper.

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 \$90,271.72.

At this time, 7:33 p.m., President Shearer announced that Council would be entering into Executive Session to discuss Administrative Personnel and would reconvene. Council reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council authorized Attorney Benion to prepare and advertise to repeal Ordinance #1226 which pertains to the Non-Uniformed/Bargaining Pension Plan Ordinance #1158.

On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council authorized Attorney Benion to draft and advertise the amendment to the Non-Uniformed/Non-Bargaining Pension Plan Ordinance #1159.

On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Jonn Pheil, and carried, Council authorized Attorney Benion to amend Ordinance #1218 – Borough Managers Ordinance; changing the Borough Manager to reside within a 10-mile radius to a 20-mile radius and the \$1 million bonding to \$500,000 bonding.

On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council adopted the Terms and Conditions of Employment for the position of Borough Manager.

There being no further business, on motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Dale Pheil and carried, Council adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom
Secretary/Treasurer