

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Zoom Call due to COVID-19

May 27, 2020

7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. by Vice-President Walker as President Shearer was having technical difficulties. 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, Linda Sterling from SEDA-COG, Attorney Benion, Chief Zettlemoyer, Scott Derr, Sam Shaffer, Mayor Nelson, and Kevin Mertz. Doug Diehl was not on the Zoom Call.

Minutes: On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council approved the minutes from the May 13, 2020 meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mrs. Novinger reported that the Borough was awarded \$500,000.00 for a Housing Rehabilitation Grant for no-cost home repairs for eligible residents. This is the second time in 20 years that these funds have been awarded to the Borough. The funds are from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development HOME Program and were recently awarded to the communities by the State Department of Community and Economic Development. SEDA-COG will oversee the entire process for both the homeowner and the Borough.

We have been informed that there are several changes to the voting locations due to COVID-19. They are as follows:

1st Ward – 1st Baptist Church, 316 Golf Course Road
2nd & 3rd Wards – Borough Office, 2 Filbert Street
4th Ward – Senior Action Center, 219 Filbert Street
5th Ward – Teamster's Local Union, 450 Beaver Street

This information will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Nelson had no report, but thanked Council for their efforts to continue holding the zoom meetings.

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. They are also seeing an increase fights and overdoses.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that they have been mowing and working on the parks and cemeteries. All of the new flags are now at the cemeteries. They are also continuing with the sign program.

Report of the Fire Chief: Scott Derr reported that so far in May they responded to 20 calls with 187 manhours. He also reported that the department has applied for a Department of Justice Grant which, if approved, would be used to replace the department's radios.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

At this time, 7:23 p.m., the regular Council meeting was ended to go into the First Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Linda Sterling from SEDA-COG reported that in 2020, the Borough is eligible to apply for projects for both regular CDBG funds and CDBG-COVID-19 Relief funds. She informed Council that the Borough has been allocated \$124,199 in funds for regular projects and \$68,865 in COVID-19 relief funds. Next, the Borough must select projects and formally apply for the funds. Of the \$124,199, \$103,939 can be used toward projects with the balance for administrative costs to SEDA-COG. Ms. Sterling outlined the application schedule and what are eligible and ineligible CDBG activities. Next, she reviewed the Fair Housing Notice, Antidisplacement Plan, Section 3 Preference, and Section 504 Outreach notice for CDBG regulations and use. She then asked for proposed projects from Council and the public. Council person Mr. Morales, who serves on the board of directors for the Milton Public Library said the library would like to be considered to receive an estimated \$50,000 of the CDBG funds to provide a job-training program for low- to moderate-income families. With this training, he said that the library would provide Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) training for 20 individuals. In addition to that, direct-care worker training would be provided for 30 individuals. Linda Sterling noted that the COVID-19 money must be used for projects to prepare for or prevent the impacts of COVID-19. Mrs. Novinger said that the Borough is considering applying to use the funds to purchase personal protective equipment for the first responders. Additionally, she stated that the Borough would like to apply to use the funds to install showers at the Police and Public Works Departments. The facilities would be used if responders need to shower if they believe they have been exposed to the virus. Ms. Sterling said that Council must select its projects to fund at the June 24th Council meeting, with the final application for the COVID-19 funds to be submitted by July 31st. The application for use of the regular funds must be submitted by October 28th.

There being no further comments or concerns about the CDBG Public Hearing, on motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, the hearing was closed at 7:46 p.m. and President Shearer reopened the regular Council meeting.

Highways and Protection to Persons and Property:

- A. On motion of Mr. Walker seconded by Mr. John Pfeil and carried, Council approved a request from the Milton School District waiving the Borough's Noise Ordinance for the school to have fireworks on June 4, 2020 to conclude the 2020 Graduation Ceremony.

General Government and Recreation:

- A. On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. John Pfeil and carried, Council adopted Resolution #20-04 authorizing extension of time for payment of the Borough of Milton's 2020 Real Estate Taxes to September 30, 2020.

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 \$123,269.07.

Mr. John Pfeil addressed Council that he received a request from Meghan Beck from the Community College Organization Group to come to Council. Ms. Fawess stated that this was discussed previously with Tom Aber. Mr. John Pfeil reported that the group would like to be on a Borough Council agenda to discuss the possibility of the proposed Northumberland County Community College initiative. After further discussion, the decision

was made that the group reach out to the Borough Manager so that she can review the information prior to them coming before Council.

There being no further questions or business, on motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Dale Pfeil and carried, Council adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom
Secretary/Treasurer