

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

June 23, 2021

7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Walker. The following Councilpersons were present: Mr. Walker, Mrs. Meckley, Mr. Specht, Mr. John Pfeil, Mr. Moralez, Ms. Fawess, Mr. Dale Pfeil, Mr. Robol, and Mr. Swartz. Also in attendance were Jess Novinger, Shelly Sandstrom, Sam Shaffer, Mayor Shearer, Scott Derr, Attorney Benion, and Kevin Mertz. Chief Zettlemoyer joined via zoom.

Minutes: On motion of Mr. Dale Pfeil, seconded by Mr. Moralez and carried, Council approved the minutes from the June 9, 2021, Council meeting.

At this time, 7:05 p.m., President Walker closed the regular meeting and opened the 2021 CDBG First Public Hearing. Linda Sterling, representing SEDA-COG, addressed Council with an overview of the CDBG Program. She outlined the program overview including the allocation which is \$126,233.00 for 2021. Ms. Sterling then announced the application schedule and explained which projects could or could not be eligible. Mrs. Novinger stated that the Borough had lost its Low to Moderate (LMI) status for the utilization of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding with the last telephone survey conducted. The loss of this status greatly impacts how the Borough is able to utilize CDBG funding. Most recently, the Borough decided to utilize funds for curb cuts, removal of architectural barriers (RAB) and demolition. Without the LMI status we are unable to complete park projects, which often used CDBG funding as match for DCNR. She has been working with Ms. Sterling to see how the Borough can once again qualify as LMI. Ms. Sterling is working with DCED to compile a list of specific addresses that will be selected at random to survey inquiring about income level. This process is underway.

Mr. John Pfeil asked if the funding could be used for broadband access. Ms. Sterling responded that it can be, but it is not an easy process and is very prohibitive. With no further questions, President Walker closed the CDBG Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m. and reopened the regular Council meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mrs. Novinger asked Council's consideration to allow her to attend a PSAB online training entitled: Integrating Strategic Plans into Comprehensive Plans. It is a two-day course on June 28 and 29 from 10:00am – 11:30am each day. The PSAB+ membership price is \$50.00. On motion of Mr. John Pfeil, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved this request.

Next, she reported that all of the parking meters have been certified and enforcement by Bill Haas will begin next week. Mr. John Pfeil asked if the downtown businesses were informed. Mrs. Novinger responded that she and Doug Diehl are working on this.

She then informed Council that The Kilmer Group told her that EMC would be paying a dividend again this year – it is estimated to be approximately \$17,000.00, last year's check was \$11,626.66, approximately \$5,373.34 more than last year.

As of Tuesday, June 15, 2021, Gov. Tom Wolf's administration certified the results of the May primary election, bringing a formal end to the disaster emergency declaration that the Democrat first issued at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that the Borough of Milton can also end its disaster emergency

declaration if Solicitor Benion can prepare a resolution doing so. On motion of Mr. Specht, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council authorized Attorney Benion to prepare this Resolution.

Mrs. Novinger also stated that Doug Diehl distributed a draft Ordinance for Council's review. This Ordinance amends Section 233-51 schedule 6 of the Milton Code by adding an unnamed one-way alley. Please review this prior to the July 14th Council meeting.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Shearer stated that he had lunch with the General Federation of Women's Club and was happy to report the donated \$200 to the Milton Community Pool. The group also recognized Mayor Nelson's long-time presence in the community. Mayor Shearer hopes to attend the Police Department's testing process on Friday.

Report of the President of Council: President Walker thanked the Borough staff for their help this past two weeks while learning his duties as President of Council. He thanked Sam and the Public Works crew for their work at the Community Pool. He also thanked members of Council that reached out to him in the past two weeks.

President Walker then informed Council that Mr. Specht has decided to resign from the Library Board. He asked Mr. Morales to send a letter from the Library to Mr. Specht for his years of service. On motion of Mr. Dale Pfeil, seconded by Mr. Morales and carried, Council appointed Ms. Fawess to fill the vacancy on the Library Board. President Walker thanked Mr. Specht for his time and efforts while serving on the Board.

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer reported that they will be conducting both written and physical testing this Friday. He then asked for Council's permission for the Civil Service Commission to compile a promotional list to fill a position. On motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Dale Pfeil and carried, Council approved this request.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that work continues at the community pool. They are also working on stormwater issues throughout the Borough. Mowing continues in the parks and cemeteries. President Walker asked how extensive the damage has been to the playgrounds. Sam responded that it has basically been minor. Some pieces will need to be replaced soon because they are wearing out.

Report of the Fire Chief: Scott Derr reported that the Fire Department for the month of June, the Fire Department responded to 18 calls for service for 233 manhours. They have relicensed the ambulance which is now good for 3 years. He thanked everyone for the donations of water and Gatorade and thanked the Public Works Department for their help unloading the cases.

Public Comments: Ruben Medina, 606 Pine Street, addressed Council that he was interested in the Council vacancy in the 4th Ward. He stated that he has lived in Milton for 8 years and has an interest in helping the community. President Walker informed him that this is on the agenda tonight.

Highways and Protection to Persons and Property:

- A. On motion of Mr. Dale Pfeil, seconded by Mr. Morales and carried, Council approved a request from the Harvest Festival Committee to hold their activities as outlined in their letter of request.
- B. On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Swartz and carried, Council denied a request from Penn Valley Shows, LLC to host a carnival at Brown Avenue Park on August 25 – 28, 2021. Mr. Morales was opposed.

Attorney Benion stated that the Borough does not allow profitable organizations to hold events on Borough property, only if sponsored by a non-profit organization.

General Government and Recreation:

- A. Regarding the Council vacancy in the 4th ward, Ms. Fawess stated that we should advertise this vacancy to see if there is anyone else interested in filling this. We have 30 days to fill the position to interview and approve at the July 14th Council meeting. President Walker felt we should ask for a Letter of Interest from anyone responding. On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. John Pfeil and carried, Council authorized advertising on social media and the Borough's website for the 4th Ward Council vacancy. Mr. Morales was opposed.

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, Liquid Fuels, and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$150,107.18.

Under Unfinished Business, President Walker moved the feral cat situation from Highways & Protection to Persons and Property to the General Government and Recreation Committee. Mayor Shearer, Chief Zettlemyer, and the General Government and Recreation Committee continue to research allowing annual parking permits for the municipal parking lot.

There being no further questions or business, on motion of Mr. Dale Pfeil, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom
Secretary/Treasurer