

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

ZOOM COUNCIL MEETING

September 23, 2020

7:00 p.m.

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

Minutes: On motion of Mr. Dale Pfeil, seconded by Mr. Walker and carried, Council approved the minutes from the September 9, 2020 Council meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mrs. Novinger reported that Norfolk Southern will be re-paving the Mahoning Street (SR 642) railroad crossing from October 5 – October 9. No traffic will be permitted to cross the tracks and there is a PennDOT approved detour plan in place. She is aware this will be an inconvenience for a short time, but the re-paving of that rail crossing is much needed, and we have received many resident complaints.

Next, Mrs. Novinger stated that we received our estimated Liquid Fuels allocation for 2021, which is \$192,357.38. This estimate reflects the anticipated impacts due to COVID-19. 2021's allocation is a decrease of \$16,820.60 from 2020.

We also received 2020's State Aid allocation for the Volunteer Fire Relief Association(s) (VFRA) on September 22nd in the amount of \$32,712.40. This is an increase of \$368.40 over 2019's allocation. The allocation was made in accordance with Act 205 of 1984 which stipulates that 50 percent of your allocation is based on the population of your municipality, and 50 percent is determined by the market value of real estate in your municipality compared to the state average.

Pool Update: At the last Council Meeting (September 9th), she asked Council's consideration to allow her to authorize Jim Kadryna with Impact Management to remove concrete around a skimmer (located at the rear right-hand side of the pool) to address a known underground leak at an estimated cost of \$2,860.00. Council approved. Impact Management, however, was unable to accommodate our expedited timeline, therefore Department of Public Works went ahead with the excavation. The Department of Public Works discovered multiple large leaks in the 4" line the connects to the skimmers that runs about the perimeter of the pool. This discovery was then taken back to Impact Management for discussion and a new quote that would address those leaks, in addition, realign the pipes to allow for proper drainage and winterization (at the current time, pipes are not angled properly and therefore not draining for winter, causing freeze/thaw issues). Unfortunately, this information was not available until yesterday, therefore she was unable to contact Council about a date for an investigative meeting out at the Milton Community Complex prior to this meeting. Mrs. Novinger then proposed an investigative meeting at the Pool Complex on Monday, September 28th at 4 p.m. to discuss the findings and potential solutions in-person. She asked that if possible, Councilmembers plan to attend this meeting as we will need Council's guidance on how to proceed at the first meeting in October.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Nelson was not in attendance. Mrs. Novinger stated that we are receiving a number of calls regarding trick-or-treating. The decision is that the Borough will not sanction a date or time due to COVID-19 and residents should make the best decision for their families. She also stated that any household that opts to welcome trick-or-treaters should leave their porch lights on.

Mrs. Meckley suggested putting an end time to trick-or-treating, however, President Shearer stated that since the Borough is not sanctioning a date or time, there would be no need for that.

Mr. John Pfeil thanked the Police Department for its handling of the recent protest saying that they kept order when order was not really looking like it was going to happen.

Report of the President of Council: President Shearer had no report, but apologized to Mrs. Novinger for the last Council meeting stating that if we have questions on expenditures, Council needs to discuss it with the Borough Manager to review prior to the meetings. Discussion is good but Council needs to allow the Borough Manager to handle things and support her for doing a great job.

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemyer was not in attendance.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that they are around 75% complete on the new pavilions. He spent several days with Impact Management and will discuss more details at the informational meeting. Mr. Shaffer then announced that Fall brush pick up is scheduled for the week of October 5th.

Report of the Fire Chief: Scott Derr reported that for September the Department has responded to 15 calls for a total of 169.16 manhours. The Department had 20 members ready if necessary, during the recent protest. He also stated that the Police Department handled things well and their assistance was not needed. He then informed Council that they have received 2 proposals for new fire engines.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Highways and Protection to Persons and Property: No report.

General Government and Recreation:

Ms. Fawess reported that the committee met with Mrs. Novinger and Shelly on Friday, September 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to review the draft Usage Agreement for the fields at Brown Avenue Park. A copy of this draft agreement will be sent to Council for review and questions at the next Council meeting.

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 \$383,324.03.

Mr. Robol asked when we can begin having Council meetings at the Borough Hall. President Shearer asked Mrs. Novinger if we would be under the Governor's guidelines to do this. She responded that we could return to having meetings at the Borough Hall and offer Zoom as well. Mr. John Pfeil objected to this stating that the flu season will be starting up soon and the experts expect the corona virus to be picking up as we go into that season. Milton is not exempt from this virus and he knows a half a dozen people who have had it. President Shearer declared a decree stating that meetings will begin in the Council chambers in October and that we will revert back to zoom if necessary. It was noted again that the meetings will remain to be available via Zoom for those who are not comfortable attending in person.

Mr. Morales asked if we have a policy to do RFPs for contracted services. Mrs. Novinger responded that we do not have a policy but recently did an RFP for our insurance carrier and she feels it would be appropriate to develop a policy for this. She stated that she would develop a draft policy for Council's review.

Mrs. Meckley stated that she feels Mrs. Novinger has done an excellent job creating and revising policies.

Mr. John Pfeil asked the status of the budget. Mrs. Novinger responded that she will have a draft for the Finance Committee to review next week.

There being no further questions or business, on motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Dale Pfeil and carried, Council adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom
Secretary/Treasurer