

Borough Council Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2023

Meeting called to order by President Walker at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: President Walker, Vice President Moralez, Mr. Robol, Mrs. Meckley, Ms. Fawess, Mrs. Mabus, Mr. Derr, Mr. J Pfeil, Mayor Aber, Mr. D Pfeil, Mr. Swartz. Also present: Jess Novinger, Amy Day, Sam Shaffer, Doug Diehl, Chief Zettlemoyer, Seth Heddings and Atty Wiley

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from Nov. 21, 2023: **1st Moralez / 2nd D Pfeil / Carried / President Walker abstained**

Borough Manager's Report

- Mrs. Novinger informed the Council that the Borough received its F-550 municipal truck from New Holland Auto Group that was ordered back in February. The DPW crew is making some minor adjustments to make future maintenance easier and are awaiting graphics. The truck will be paid for out of Liquid Fuels.
- The Borough made its final payment for the unmarked Dodge Durango (PD vehicle) and we have received the title.
- The Borough is still accepting applications for the Secretary/Treasurer position. Mrs. Novinger has a few interviews scheduled for next week.
- The Milton Fire Department has made some changes to the box alarms for the Borough. The department added some additional resources to its initial dispatch to cut down on response times from mutual aid departments for working fires. Mrs. Novinger thanked Chief Derr and all the volunteers for always having the Borough residents' best interest in mind.
- The Borough Office will be closed on December 25, 2023 for observance of the Christmas Holiday and January 1, 2024 for observance of the New Year Holiday.
- Mrs. Novinger also noted that the following expenses were paid: Audit (\$12,000.00) budgeted expense; Keystone Communications for preventative maintenance/battery replacements in public warning sirens (\$2,330.00) from the Reserve Fund which was approved at the September 27, 2023 Council Meeting; and F-550 Municipal Truck (\$107,743.00) from Liquid Fuels Fund.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Aber thanked the Winterfest Committee and the Milton Fire Department for all they did bringing Santa to Milton. He stated it was nice to see so many people come together to celebrate Santa's arrival as well as donating toys to the Fire Department.

President's Report

- President Walker reserved his report for the end of the Council.

Chief of Police's Report

- Chief Zettlemoyer informed the Council that the PD is in the middle of their Christmas campaign, and it is looking like they will be able to reach more families than ever this year. It's very exciting.

He thanked everyone on the Council that has contributed to the program. They have also had a lot of outreach from the community, helping ensure the program's success, and the Chief thanked the community as well. Pictures will be on the 21st and presents will be delivered on the 22nd.

Public Works Director's Report

- Mr. Shaffer informed the Council that as advertised, this is the last week that leaves will be picked up in the Borough. Crews are making their way through each ward, each day. There is very minimal out and at this point it is just more of a waste of fuel and manpower to be out, so they'll be finishing up on Friday. Mr. Shaffer thanked Lynn Yocum and his family for allowing them to dump 90% of the leaves at their farm. It makes it real easy for them to have a place to get rid of leaves and wood chips. To date they have hauled 64 loads of leaves out of the Borough.
- Crews are continuing to work on other projects, today they started the CRS Flood Control for Flood Mitigation cleaning out Limestone Run. Everything was taken care of from Brown Avenue Park down to Marsh Park. Mr. Shaffer informed the Council members that there are some areas with erosion, and it is not safe to walk on the banks there anymore, so they are skipping over these areas and if people see that, that's the reason why. He noted a couple of places on the riverbank that will probably not get done for the same reason as it's washing out and getting very steep and is not safe for the crew to be down there walking to try and clean it off. They'll get as much of it as they can but he's not guaranteeing they'll be able to do all of it.

Fire Chief's Report

- Seth Heddings read the Fire Chief's Report as: 10 Calls for Service, 8 Volunteer EMS Calls, and 90 MICU calls.
- The Fire Department took Santa around town, and no pun intended, they got a boat load of toys. If anyone saw the pictures, it was their riverboat packed full of toys.

Public Comments

- Garrett Knopp informed the Council that he was there with Troop 622 and they were here to complete one of their requirements for the "Citizenship in the Community" merit badge. President Walker welcomed the Troop to the meeting.

Public Works and Cemeteries

- Nothing to report.

Public Safety

- *Motion* to approve a donation letter written by the Milton Fire Department to support its fundraising efforts to purchase a new utility truck.

1st D Pfeil / 2nd Swartz / Carried / Derr abstained

General Government and Finance

- *Motion* to adopt Resolution #23-08 Reducing Police Officers' Contributions to the Pension Plan for the Year 2024.

Prior to this Resolution being adopted, Mrs. Meckley had a question regarding why we were completing this and Mrs. Novinger clarified that we do this every year as the maximum is 8% and we leave it at 3% as it has been at 3% for a substantial amount of time. We have to do this resolution for our pension plan.

1st Fawess / 2nd Derr / Carried

- *Motion* to reappoint Eric McDowell to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term beginning on 01/01/2024-12/31/2027.

1st Fawess / 2nd Meckley / Carried

- *Motion* to reappoint Raymond E. Callenberger to the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term beginning 01/01/2024-12/31/2026.

1st Fawess / 2nd Meckley / Carried

- *Motion* to reappoint members of the Civil Service Commission as follows: Dave Muffley for a 4-year term beginning 01/01/2024-12/31/2027 and Robert E. Izer for a 2-year term beginning 01/01/2024-12/31/2025.

President Walker questioned if any individuals on the Council had an issue with these being done at the same time, which no one had an issue.

1st Fawess / 2nd Meckley / Carried

- *Motion* to convene the Civil Service Commission to prepare a list of eligible candidates for a Police Officer position.

1st Fawess / 2nd Derr / Carried

- *Motion* to approve a request from DRIVE for a letter of support to be included in their DCED grant application.

1st Fawess / 2nd Moralez / Carried

-COUNCIL ENTERED AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS-

7:12 pm – 7:28 pm

- *Motion* to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between The Borough of Milton and Teamsters Union for a 5-year term.

1st Fawess / 2nd Meckley / Carried

- *Motion* to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between The Borough of Milton and Milton Police Officers Association (MPOA) for a 3-year term.

1st Fawess / 2nd Derr / Carried

- *Motion* to adopt the 2024 Budget.

1st Fawess / 2nd Meckley / Carried / Mr. Moralez & Mr. Swartz were opposed

- *Motion* to adopt the 2024 Tax Ordinance #1250.

1st Fawess / 2nd Meckley / Carried

- *Motion* to adopt the Flat Occupational Tax Ordinance #1251.

1st Fawess / 2nd Meckley / Carried

- *Motion* to cancel the 2nd meeting this month (December 27, 2023).

1st Fawess / 2nd Meckley / Carried

- *Motion* to pay the bills from General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Liquid Fuels, and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$301,421.65:

1st Fawess / 2nd Meckley / Carried

Final Comments

- President Walker expressed to fellow councilmember Mr. John Pfeil that it was an honor the last 4 years to have him sit alongside them and he hopes that Mr. J Pfeil still comes by to see them perform.
- President Walker wished all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. He noted to please keep in mind there are a lot of less fortunate people out there. There's a lot of people that don't have a lot of things, clothes, food, things of that nature. It is a tough time of year for all of us. When we're out and about and get a little upset, things like that, take a deep breath.
- President Walker wished protection and thanked first responders, Fire Department, Police Department, ambulatory services, things of that nature, our Public Works and Borough employees, for everything they do and the job that is done day and night, 24/7. It does not go unappreciated. He also thanked all the Council Members, Solicitor, Borough Manger and staff for everything they've done this year, and he is looking forward to a wonderful 2024.

Motion to adjourn at **7:39 PM**

1st D Pfeil / 2nd Derr / Carried

Submitted By:

Amy Day
Borough Clerk