

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
(Hybrid Meeting)

February 14, 2024
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Morales. The following Councilpersons were in attendance: Mrs. Meckley, Ms. Fawess, Mrs. Mabus, Mr. Derr, Mr. Scheimreif, Mr. Swartz, Mr. Robol, and Mr. D. Pfeil. Also in attendance were: Doug Diehl, Jessie Novinger, Jennifer Lamoreaux, Mayor Aber, Sam Shaffer, Chief Zettlemoyer, Seth Heddings, and Atty Hartley. Absent from the meeting was President Walker.

Minutes: Correction was made to the minutes from the January 24, 2024 Council meeting. Mrs. Meckley advised that she opposed the PLCB transfer from the Watsontown Theatre to Milton for the proposed Brew Pub.

- On motion of Mr. D. Pfeil, seconded by Mr. Derr and carried, Council approved the minutes from the January 24, 2024, Council meeting, including the correction from Mrs. Meckley.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mrs. Novinger reported the following items to Council: The 2013 F-550 Municipal Truck the Borough has placed on the Municibid, sold for \$49,100.00. The funds from the sale will go back toward the purchase of the Borough's next Municipal Truck.

The new Dodge re-chassised ambulance arrived last Thursday (2/8/2024) and passed the initial inspection with Chief Derr and Cody Bennage.

The Police Pursuit Dodge Durango is anticipated to be delivered on Friday, February 16.

Mrs. Novinger then asked the Council's consideration to allow her and Chief Zettlemoyer to begin collecting quotes for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant for additional body worn cameras. This grant is due March 4, 2024, and requires a 1:1 cash or in-kind match. Once Mrs. Novinger and Chief Zettlemoyer have the amount they intend to request and any options for in-kind match opportunities they will come back to Council.

- On motion from Mr. Derr, seconded by Mr. D. Pfeil, Council approved the request.

Mrs. Novinger then asked that the General Government and Finance Committee, to consider amending the agenda to add "Consideration to approve Ordinance 1252 Reaffirming and Levying an Occupation Tax and Amending certain provisions governing the Occupation Tax". This ordinance was advertised and reviewed by Solicitor Wiley. This is due to the language calling the tax a "flat" occupational tax, which DCED caps at \$10. It will remain \$50 but needs to read that the taxation rate "of 100% on the value of all occupations. The taxation in dollars and cents is \$50.00 based on said percentage of 100%".

- On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. D. Pfeil, motion carried.

Mrs. Novinger also advised the Council that Monday, February 19th will be Jennifer Lamoreaux's first day with the Borough.

Report of the Mayor: Nothing to Report.

Report of the President of Council: President Walker was absent from the meeting, but Vice President Morales advised he sent his Best Wishes from Miami and Happy Valentine's Day.

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer reported that a few members of Council, Mrs. Novinger and himself met with the team from SIKLU/CLEARVIEW to discuss camera layout in the Borough. He stressed that the parks and cemeteries were the main areas of importance. Another meeting will be scheduled to keep the project moving forward. Chief Zettlemoyer also advised he is looking for more grant opportunities for the License Plate Reader (LPR). He advised that the closing date for new police applicants is February 22nd, and that testing will take place at Bucknell University on February 26th. He also expressed his thanks to Bucknell for allowing the department to use the facility for this testing. Chief Zettlemoyer also advised that the Borough had a pedestrian accident with fatality that is still under investigation.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that the crew had a few minor issues with the storm on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, but all were taken care of, and they are ready for the next one. He also reported that the crew is still working on the right of way clearing and cutting the grass to expose curbs, cutting tree limbs and hedges to clear the view. He discussed the vandalism of Brown Ave. He advised that they covered and cleaned it up as much as possible. He also provided the Council with a picture of the town from 1919 that shows a view from the south end of town. Mr. D. Pfeil extended thanks to the department for the plowing of the town and putting the chains up at Milton Panther Cub (MPC) field.

Report of the Fire Chief: Assistant Chief Heddings advised that so far in February the Fire Department has responded to 9 calls for service. The volunteer EMS staff has responded to 13 calls for service. MICU 1 has responded to 77 calls for service. Mr. Heddings also reported that 31 members of the Milton and Warrior Run fire departments completed the Hazmat Refresher course. He also advised that the new ambulance has been restocked and is ready for inspection in March by the PA Department of Health.

Public Comments: No Comments

Public Works and Cemeteries:

- Consideration to renew the Winter Maintenance Snow Removal Agreement with PennDOT for an additional five (5) years with options to renew annually after the initial five (5) year term for up to ten (10) years total.
 - On motion made by Mr. D. Pfeil, seconded by Ms. Fawess, motion carried.

Public Safety:

- Consideration was requested by the Central Susquehanna Lacrosse Club to utilize the Milton Panther Cub Fields March 18 – May 31, 2024, to hold practices and games one or two Sundays during this period. The following discussion ensued: Mr. D. Pfeil met with the Lacrosse Club and discussed the use of the field. Mr. D. Pfeil advised the Council that spring is a hard time to perform maintenance on the field. It is not a viable option for two (2) organizations to use it this year, however if the maintenance can be completed this year, they may have the option to use it next year. Mr. Scheimreif questioned use of the field previously.
 - On motion made by Mr. Derr, seconded by Mr. Robel, unanimously denied by Council.
- Consideration to approve a request from the Freedom Life Church to host their 4th Annual Block Party in Brown Avenue on August 17th with a rain date of August 24th, 2024.
 - On motion made by Mr. Derr, seconded by Mr. Swartz, motion carried.
- Consideration to approve an MOU between the Borough of Milton and Northumberland County Department of Public Safety to activate the outdoor “Warning Siren” remotely. This will be tested annually.
 - On motion made by Mr. Derr, seconded by Mr. Swartz, motion carried.

General Government and Finance:

- Consideration was requested to approve the quote from Keystone Communications to update and upfit the Borough's two (2) warning sirens with remote activation capabilities for a not to exceed cost of \$2,459.00.
 - On motion made by Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Derr, motion carried
- Consideration to approve Resolution 24-03 Creating Rental Inspection fees under Ordinance No. 1197 known as the Milton Rental Ordinance and repealing Resolution 23-03.
 - On motion made by Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. D. Pfeil, motion carried.
- Consideration to approve the purchase of a 2025 F-650 Municipal Truck, fully upfitted from New Holland Auto Group for a not to exceed cost of \$136,279.00 to be purchased out of Liquid Fuels.
 - On motion made by Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley, motion carried.
- Consideration to approve quote from Miracle Ford for the upfitting of the 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit Vehicle for a note to exceed cost of \$21,077.05.
 - On motion made by Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Derr, motion carried.
- Consideration to pay bills from the General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Liquid Fuels and Cemetery Accounts in the amount of \$203,522.25.
 - On motion made by Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. D. Pfeil, motion carried.

Additional Comments: Mr. Scheimreif questioned who was responsible for the fencing behind the Police Department. Sam Shaffer advised that it is Railroad property and that they have tried calling to get someone out to look at it. He advised the Railroad will not send someone out to handle it unless it is completely down.

At this time, 7:27 p.m., motion to adjourn was made by Mr. D. Pfeil, seconded by Mr. Derr, Council adjourned.

Submitted By:

Jennifer Lamoreaux
Borough Secretary/Treasurer