

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
(Hybrid Meeting)

February 8, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Walker. The following Councilpersons were present: Mr. Walker, Mr. Derr, Mr. Moralez, Mrs. Mabus, Mr. Dale Pfeil, Ms. Fawess, Mrs. Meckley, Mr. Swartz, Mr. Robol, and Mr. John Pfeil. Also in attendance were Jess Novinger, Shelly Sandstrom, Attorney Stephen Hartley (McCormick Law Firm), Mayor Aber, Officer Engleman, Doug Diehl, and Sam Shaffer. Chief Zettlemoyer, Solicitor Wiley was absent.

Minutes: On motion of Mr. John Pfeil, seconded by Ms. Fawess and carried, Council approved the minutes from the January 25, 2023, Council meeting. Mr. Dale Pfeil abstained.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mrs. Novinger informed Council that she was contacted by the Keystone Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT), our Workers Compensation Insurance provider, to see if she had an interest in serving on its Board of Trustees. She was one of three members to be considered to fill a vacancy. The Board was impressed with the Borough's reduction in "experience mod" over the last four (4) years. The KMIT Board of Trustees meets quarterly, twice in-person and twice via Zoom. She asked for Council's consideration to allow her to fill the remaining three-year KMIT Board of Trustees term, should she be selected at the upcoming KMIT meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. On motion of Mr. Moralez, seconded by Mr. Dale Pfeil and carried, Council approved this request. President Walker asked what the term of the seat was, and Mrs. Novinger answered that it is a 3-year term that started this year.

Next, she stated that she and the Borough staff have been working diligently with PennDOT to make progress on permitting our Welcome to Milton gateway signs to allow for future improvements. Danni Masteller, from PennDOT will be on-site tomorrow to review all sign locations and verify the proper permits required for each. Mrs. Novinger will then be working through the online permitting application and through the District Office Engineer for any concerns in the right-of-way.

Tim Bittner with the Milton Historical Society provided Mrs. Novinger with an email from Mr. John Gummo agreeing that if a canopy is not feasible, then additional perpetual maintenance of the ACF railcar replica located by the Milton Police Department is acceptable. The Milton Historical Society is still requesting that Council consider amending the current agreement and eliminate the requirement for a canopy to cover the railcar replica. She asked that this be moved to a committee to work through the language of the agreement. President Walker tabled this item and moved it to the Public Works and Cemeteries Committee.

The Milton Rotary Club had approached the Borough about utilizing the Borough-owned light poles in the municipal parking lot to hang additional Hometown Hero Banners. There are six (6) poles total, one in the center island that could hold two (2) banners. She and Sam had also recommended that all future banners have small half circle cuts to allow wind to pass through. Mrs. Novinger asked Council for their thoughts on the additional banners. On motion of Mr. Moralez, seconded by Mr. Derr and carried, Council approved the additional banners to be placed in the municipal lot and have circle cut-outs to allow for inclement weather.

Next, she informed Council that the undercover Durango was struck by a deer on 1/29/23 and will be undergoing some cosmetic insurance repairs in the very near future. The estimated cost for repairs is \$3,800. There is no timeframe given for repairs, but we can still drive it until that time.

Mrs. Novinger has received the updated Strategic Plan proposal from Bob Garrett at the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce. It is still the not to exceed cost of \$5,000. She feels as though an eight (8) month timeline is appropriate after meeting with Mr. Garrett and Kendy Alvarez (also of the Chamber). She asked if there was additional information that Council would like to see prior to signing the agreement to move forward. He has samples available from other communities, if that is something we would like to review in the committee. President Walker asked the General Government and Finance Committee to review the agreement with the Borough Manager.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Aber reported that on February 1<sup>st</sup>, he prepared a proclamation for Career & Technical Education Month. He also attended the National Technical Honor Society at the High School.

Report of the President of Council: President Walker stated that he attended the Fireman's Banquet with several staff and council members. It was a great presentation and a nice banquet. He then asked Mrs. Novinger how Samantha, the part-time Code Officer, was doing. Mrs. Novinger responded that she was doing a great job and has begun giving out violations.

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer was absent. Officer Engleman reported that the school threat in January has been investigated and the juvenile responsible was in custody that same day. The police department continues to look for Rick Waugaman. He stated that there is still an increase of methamphetamine use in the Borough.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that the crew has been cleaning up flood debris by the river. They are also working on renovations at the Police Department and will be for the next few weeks. All Christmas decorations are removed from the cemeteries, and they will be disposed of on Friday.

Report of the Fire Chief: Lieutenant Dakota Bearce reported that the number of fire calls were 9 fire calls, 12 for the volunteer ambulance services, and 54 for the mic unit. He thanked those that attended the Fireman's Banquet on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. John Pfeil thanked the fire fighters for their response to the fire at the Milton Developmental Services on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Public Works and Cemeteries: No report.

Public Safety: No report.

General Government and Finance:

- A. On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Moralez and carried, Council approved the conditional uses for warehouse uses for Mr. Milton, LLC. as outlined by Attorney Stephen Hartley with minor corrections by Mrs. Meckley.

On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. John Pfeil and carried, Council approved the conditional uses for distribution uses for Mr. Milton, LLC, as outlined by Attorney Stephen Hartley with minor corrections by Mrs. Meckley.

On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Moralez and carried, Council approved the conditional uses for retail establishment uses for Mr. Milton, LLC as outlined by Attorney Stephen Hartley with minor corrections by Mrs. Meckley

- B. On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Moralez and carried, Council approved a Land Development Plan for the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church.
- C. On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Moralez and carried, Council approved paying the bills from General Fund, Payroll, and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$169,849.81.

President Walker reviewed the unfinished business saying that the Feral Cat situation and amending Ordinances #409 and #516 regarding the keeping of animals in the Borough have been tabled back to the General Government and Finance Committee – he would like an update within a month; the Strategic Plan has begun by the Borough Manager and will be reviewed by the General Government and Finance Committee; Research establishing a LERTA and boundaries is now to be reviewed by the Public Works and Cemeteries Committee; and President Walker will be giving some of the other items to other committees for review.

President Walker also announced that he will not be at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, therefore, Vice-President Moralez will be running the meeting.

There being no further questions or business, on motion of Mr. Dale Pfeil, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom  
Secretary/Treasurer