

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
(Hybrid Meeting)

January 10, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Walker. The following Councilpersons were in attendance: Mrs. Meckley, Ms. Fawess, Mrs. Mabus, Mr. Derr, Mr. Walker, Mr. Scheimreif, Mr. Swartz, Mr. Robol, Mr. D Pfeil, and Mr. Morales. Also in attendance were: Doug Diehl, Jessie Novinger, Mayor Aber, Sam Shaffer, Chief Zettlemyer, Joe Sylvester, and Attorney Wiley.

Minutes: On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. D Pfeil and carried, Council approved the minutes from the December 13, 2023, Council meeting.

On motion of Mr. D. Pfeil, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved the minutes from the January 2, 2024 Reorganizational meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mrs. Novinger reported that all DCED forms have been updated with the Borough's updated elected officials and tax rates. Keystone Collections Group will be sending out a "Welcome Letter" notifying residents of the occupation tax, as many were not included in the previous mailing list.

Mrs. Novinger informed Council that SEDA-COG is finalizing the environmental reviews so the Borough may finally go out to bid on additional ADA curb cuts on S. Turbot Ave. from Susquehanna Ave. to Race Street utilizing the CDBG funding for removal of architectural barriers.

Mrs. Novinger asked for Council's consideration to allow her to register for the Focus Central PA Industrial Development Forum on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at Bloomsburg University – registration cost \$50 (\$33.77 in mileage) for a total cost of \$83.77. On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. D. Pfeil, Council approved the request.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Aber thanked Sam Shaffer and the Department of Public Works crew for the wonderful job they did with the snow.

Report of the President of Council: President Walker informed Council that he sent an email this morning to the supervisors of Turbot Township sending condolences and thoughts for their loss of their roadmaster, Justin Johnson. President Walker thanked Mr. Shaffer for already reaching out to Turbot Township and letting Turbot Township know that the Borough would do anything it can to assist in the coming days or weeks in case of a winter storm.

President Walker then informed Council that he and Mrs. Novinger received a list of proposed members for the Steering Committee from the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce for the Comprehensive Plan. He asked all Council members if they know of someone who would be an integral part of the Steering Committee to please send Mrs. Novinger an email.

President Walker sent an email to the Brown Avenue Committee; we will be reconvening relatively soon to move forward with that particular situation of the park.

President Walker thanked Sam Shaffer and the Department of Public Works for an awesome job with the snow, it was well done with no issues that he was aware of.

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer spoke highly of the Turbot Township roadmaster, Justin Johnson, he was his daughter's soccer coach and he actually coached with Chief Zettlemoyer's wife, he gave a lot to the community, AYSO, the NCP program, and he will be missed. He helped out often and was a great person to work with and a great guy to know.

Chief Zettlemoyer reported back to Council concerning when they met last and discussed the infant with the femur fracture and a bunch of other fractures, that an arrest has been made in that case. The mother and father have both been arrested in that case. It was complicated and we went down a hole bunch of rabbit holes that we are still chasing down currently but we are waiting for the preliminary hearing and things like that.

Chief Zettlemoyer reported that last Friday night we participated in a warrant round-up with Union County Sheriffs and we were around town and several people were locked up in Union County and Northumberland County as well.

Chief Zettlemoyer informed Council that today we participated with Marshall Service and got a wanted individual off the street. They had been looking for him for years. In doing so, we recovered firearms, drugs, all those things and our community is a little bit safer because of it. The guys did a great job, worked at it all day long, we had several guys involved and a bunch of agencies, including the Sheriff's office, Marshall Service, State Police and State Parol.

Chief Zettlemoyer informed Council that a Civil Service Commission meeting was held where the Mayor swore in the newly reappointed Civil Service Commission members and the Committee has authorized them to move forward with the advertising to create an eligibility list for Police Officer candidates. It has been posted and February 8<sup>th</sup> will be the closing date for applications to be received.

President Walker reminded Chief Zettlemoyer that he forgot to tell Council about one important detail that happened recently. Chief Zettlemoyer knew what he was referring to and immediately informed Council that during a training operation with the drone, the drone ended up having some damage and is going back to DJI to be repaired and hopefully we will be getting it back shortly. Mr. D. Pfeil asked a question regarding replacement blades or the severity of damage and Chief Zettlemoyer stated DJI will be handling the repairs.

President Walker then questioned Chief Zettlemoyer on the transportation time to and from Coal Township, he estimated two (2) hours, every time a prisoner is transported, meaning the officer is out of service within the Borough. Why doesn't the police department utilize the Sheriff's Office? President Walker acknowledged that he was unsure if this was an option but was seeking clarification. Chief Zettlemoyer stated that it was not an option and that at one point in time the department had discussed using Constables, however, it was at that time, or shortly thereafter, that they were going to get rid of Constables altogether. When they have done large scale round-ups, the judges have been really good about having Constables on stand-by to transport people. Chief Zettlemoyer clarified that if you pick someone up at 2 in the morning and things like that, till they would get a Constable here from the lower part of the county (Lycoming, Hughesville), not sure where'd they'd be coming from depending on the situation, man-power wise when we are waiting, it's easier for us to run them down. Chief Zettlemoyer acknowledged that it is a hassle transporting inmates down there, it's a long process and it is not easy. President Walker explained that he knew the Chief did the round-up and had a bunch of officers out and utilized other individuals as well. But he questioned that when the issue came up last time, and they talked about a child and things of that nature, more than likely you're going to use two officers if I am not mistaken? Chief Zettlemoyer confirmed they try to use one officer if they can, but the situation dictates. Ms. Fawess questioned Chief Zettlemoyer if whether probation was ever involved with the round-up. Chief Zettlemoyer answered yes but it depends, not the one we did the other night. Ms. Fawess clarified that she meant can probation transport. Chief Zettlemoyer stated that when on probation, yes, they can, but if not on probation, probation technically has no authority. If the Sherriff is there for transport, it typically has to do with some type of court action or common police level.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that crews were out and took down all of the Christmas decorations that were up and put back in storage for the year. He stated that Christmas Tree Pick-Up will begin on Monday and go through the entire week. They will pick up brush that is out if it is out to the curb where they can get to it, as snow cover won't be an issue since most of that is gone by now, unless we get more till then.

Sam informed the Council that crews were out and did salt and plow the town all Saturday afternoon, evening, into Sunday morning and were back out again yesterday. Sam reported that to date they used about 75 tons of salt on all the streets in town and they are in good shape with salt as he just got another 100 ton in today and their shed is full. He stated that everything is ready, there has been no accidents, no injuries, no damaged equipment, everything has been taken care of and went very well.

Mr. D. Pfeil questioned Sam regarding the outdated curb-cut on Mahoning and Front Street. Mr. D. Pfeil clarified that it is right where the apartments are, as soon as you're coming across the bridge, it's that curb cut that is diagonally across from when you sit at the light. If you're coming down Front Street, there's a ramp that goes down to the crosswalk, if you're coming down Mahoning Street, towards the bridge, there's a lip right there. Mr. D. Pfeil asked if that was responsibility of PennDot to put a rail or something there because as you're walking down Mahoning Street and there's snow or something, you aren't going to know that lip is right there, and something could happen. Sam informed Mr. D. Pfeil that it is actually an engineer design in the ADA ramp to show people there is a crosswalk that goes both directions, it is engineered and put in there on purpose and Sam is unsure if they would put any type of railing because they currently do not call for that. Mr. D. Pfeil clarified that the handrail would direct them down to the ramp because you just keep walking and don't see a yellow line to indicate a stepdown and it was something that was brought to his attention. Sam indicated that he can call our contact from PennDot and ask them if there is anything they can do to that, but typically no they don't do anything to those. Sam informed the Council that back when they did the curb cuts back when they did the streetscapes on Broadway and Front Street, there was the same thing, there was a small lip there and they went and painted it yellow just so people could see it.

Report of the Fire Chief: President Walker reported for the Fire Department that during 2023, the Fire Department responded to 346 calls for service. The volunteer EMS staff had 398 calls for service. Micu 15 responded to 2,472 calls for service. So far in January the Fire Department has responded to 5 calls for service. The volunteer EMS staff has responded to 14 calls for service. The Micu 15 has responded to 65 calls for service.

The ambulance rechassis is moving along and is projected to be completed and delivered by the end of the month. This will be about 2 weeks ahead of the projected schedule originally quoted.

Public Comments: Katherine McKeever introduced herself and stated she did sit on Council back when she was a student in Milton High School and sat right there next to the Mayor. She stated it was nice to be back in the room and alongside with her sister Dora they announced that on 60 Elm Street, the building that has been empty forever, they had just signed a lease and opened two new businesses. One is a non-profit for legal immigration services and the other is Alpha-Alvi Group that offers tax services, business consults, life insurance, annuities, and long-term policies. Catherine was inspired to do so after working in some senior services in the area and seen how underserved, undervalued, and taken advantage of, that they wanted to help the community by starting right here at home. Her sister, Dora Gonzalez, added that the reason they wanted to introduce themselves is because they grew up in this community here, originally, they came from South America, but she graduated from Milton High School in 1994 and came back to the area that she felt gave them a lot of foundation. They noticed that the area is growing and an immigrant community, so they wanted to do a non-profit and truly have an in simile in our community. They want them to grow, we want them to pay taxes, we want them to help that community grow, their children get the education they need. We have had a lot of negativity, perhaps because they see the immigration part, and think we don't want you to bring illegal immigrants. That's not the case, it's legal immigrants for us to help them because a lot of them do not have the financial means. Dora

reiterated that it's because of the help they obtained back in 1990 from their school friends and family that they were able to grow so they want to be able to offer that to our community. She expressed that hopefully we will let them know how to do better by all means and that they are right here.

President Walker thanked them and informed them that hopefully the two individuals seated in front of them can help them as well because they are from the newspaper.

Public Works and Cemeteries: On motion of Mr. D. Pfeil, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved authorizing the Borough Manager to advertise the Department of Public Work's F550 T-Tag Truck on Municibid. Prior to Mrs. Meckley seconding and Council approving, Mr. Scheimreif questioned if the truck had to be sold that way or if we were allowed to be sold via private party. It was clarified by Attorney Wiley that it has to be sold that way through bidding. President Walker asked Sam Shaffer if there was a price that we wanted to get. Sam stated that based off what he's seeing on the current auction sites right now, a truck of that nature, same set-up and everything else, they're selling between \$25-\$30,000 so we should expect to see at least that. Mr. Scheimreif questioned what year it was, and Sam informed him it's a 2013. President Walker did inform Mr. Scheimreif that anyone can bid on Municibid.

Public Safety: No report.

General Government and Finance: Mr. Morales asked Ms. Fawess to move agenda items A & B to the end and begin with item C.

Consideration to adopt Resolution 24-03 authorizing the Borough to hire CBIZ INR to provide fiduciary advisory services for the investment management of the 457(b) plan for eligible employees was tabled until the next meeting by Ms. Fawess.

On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Morales and carried, Council approved moving \$1,670.00 in FFY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the Milton Slum/Blight into Milton Removal of Architectural Barriers.

On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Derr and carried, Council approved moving \$30,500.00 in FFY 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the Milton Slum/Blight into Milton Removal of Architectural Barriers.

On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved the request for a one-year DCED contract extension for the HOME grant administered through SEDA-COG.

On motion of Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley and carried, Council approved paying the bills from General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Liquid Fuels, and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$239,011.95.

At this time, 7:23 p.m., Council adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss legal matters and did not reconvene.

Submitted By:

**Amy Day**  
Borough Clerk