

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
(Hybrid Meeting)

March 12, 2025
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Walker. The following Councilpersons were in attendance: Mrs. Mabus, Ms. Fawess, Mr. Swartz, Mrs. Meckley, Mr. Scheimreif, Mr. Robol, Mr. Moralez, Mr. Pfeil, and Mr. Derr. Also in attendance were: Mrs. Novinger, Sam Shaffer, Mrs. Foust, Atty. Wiley, Mayor Aber, and Chief Zettlemoyer.

Minutes: On motion from Mr. Moralez, seconded by Mr. Pfeil, and carried, Council approved the minutes from the February 26, 2025 Council Meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mrs. Novinger reported that the Borough's three (3) new gateway Welcome to Milton signs along the Front St (Susquehanna River) corridor, funded by the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership are almost completed and ready to be installed close to the end of the month.

She then informed Council that the Borough has been working with PennDOT to seek a traffic signal engineer for the modernization of the intersection at Broadway and Turbot Ave. After additional correspondence, the Borough can simply send out Statements of Interest (SOI) to six (6) different agencies and allow them to respond and then work with PennDOT to rank the responses. This process will be less cumbersome than a RFP.

Mrs. Novinger advised that she and Mrs. Foust attended the Northumberland County Conservation District's Winter Forum at Meadowbrook Christian School on March 11th. They were able to network with individuals from DEP and the Conservation District about ongoing and upcoming projects within the Borough. She will schedule an on-site visit to discuss alley and stormwater reconstruction efforts to improve water quality. Mrs. Novinger asked Council's consideration to allow Sam Shaffer to attend a two-day mandatory training to be considered for the funding - environmentally sensitive maintenance training (ESM). The training is free and will be held at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club next week (March 19 & 20). This certification is good for five (5) years.

- On motion from Mr. Pfeil, seconded by Ms. Fawess, and carried, Council approved this request.

Mrs. Novinger then informed Council that the Brown Ave Park Complex Master Site Plan RFP/Rfq for a consultant services (landscape architect/community planner) is awaiting approval by DCNR before being advertised and sent to a short list of known consultants. She also stated that since early February, she and Mrs. Foust have completed seven (7) interviews for the Code Enforcement position. There are two (2) candidates that we would recommend inviting back to meet the personnel committee.

She asked the President of Council if she may meet with the Public Works committee to review fee schedules from other neighboring municipalities for services provided by DPW and other rentals.

Mrs. Novinger announced that she and Mrs. Foust attended the PELRAS (Public Employer Labor Relations Advisory Service) conference February 26 – 28. Both found this conference to be very informative on upcoming trends, collective bargaining, meeting with arbitrators, and hearing things from a law firm that strictly focuses on public employers' labor issues and concerns.

Lastly, the auditors (Klacic & Assoc) were on-site this week to finish data collections, and the Borough will be holding Spring Cleanup the week of April 28th through May 2nd by ward.

Report of the Mayor: No report.

Report of the President of Council: No report

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer informed Council that Christian Wachter is coming up on his one-year anniversary. Relating specifically to his probationary period, he must serve before becoming a permanent member of the police department. Chief had a conversation with all the supervisors, all the supervisors say he's doing an excellent job; from his stance, he's also doing an excellent job. So, at the next council meeting, March 26, 2025, Chief Zettlemoyer will have the official letter of recommendation from the Sergeant. Once he's completed the FTO packet, we'll be bringing that back in for the next meeting, with the understanding that it doesn't take effect until April 8th because the 8th is on Tuesday, the following Council meeting is on April 9th, so he'll have that available for Council at the next meeting at the end of March. Many of you heard about the homicide suspect that was arrested on Shakespeare, just a clear example where we work with the Marshal Service and our federal partners. We come together, and good things happen, and we get bad people off the street. Chief Zettlemoyer has the utmost respect for the United States Marshall Service, and how they work, and they work with the police department a lot, and that cooperation between the 2 agencies parallel with a lot of municipal police departments, and we're very thankful.

Report of Public Works Director: Mr. Shaffer informed Council that the Crew has been out working on potholes, and they have most of the Borough done. There are a few alleys they are still working on. If anybody sees anything that the crew missed, let Sam know, and he will see that it gets taken care of unless it's on a state route, the Borough does not handle them. Crews have also been out to Brown Avenue Park with the nicer weather. We've been able to start getting some of the cleanup done out there. We removed some of the posts from the walking area and put them up towards the parking lots to try to stop people from driving on grass. We also have crews in the cemetery working on getting those cleaned up from the winter burials and things, and where we tore them up. They're all getting that taken care of. Mr. Shaffer advised that he had a resident call today, and that he was still obtaining information, but wanted to provide forewarning. The resident has a concern over Reid Alley and the blind spots on it, so Sam wants to talk with Mrs. Novinger about it, and possibly consider changing it to a one way.

Report of the Fire Chief: President Walker read the fire report as follows: For the month of March the Fire Department has responded to 13 calls for service so far including multiple brush fires in the last few days. The volunteer QRS has handled 10 calls for service, while MICU 15 has handled 85 calls for service. On another note, the Fire Department has now officially become a became a "Stop the Bleed" training facility.

Public Comments: John Cooper, 106 N Front St, Milton, spoke about Fay Kellogg, a Milton resident in 1871, who became "America's Foremost Woman Architect" in the early 1900's. He advised that the Milton Garden Club is honoring Ms. Kellogg with their new initiative called "Blooming Legacy" which will focus on planting native plants along the Milton Trail of History.

Public Works and Cemeteries: No report

Public Safety:

- Consideration to approve the Recreational Usage Agreement between Milton Borough and Milton Little League for use of Majors/Softball Fields at Brown Ave Park beginning March 1, 2025 – November 1, 2025.
 - On motion from Mr. Derr, seconded by Mr. Moralez, and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to approve the Recreational Usage Agreement between Milton Borough and Milton Panther Cubs for use of cheerleading and football fields at Brown Ave Park beginning July 28, 2025 – November 30, 2025.
 - On motion from Mr. Derr, seconded by Mr. Moralez, and carried, Council approved this request. Mr. Pfeil abstained.
- Consideration to approve the Recreational Usage Agreement between Milton Borough and SV Legends Baseball for use of Majors/Softball Fields at Brown Ave Park on the following dates:
 - April 26, 2025 - April 27, 2025
 - May 31, 2025 – June 1, 2025
 - July 26, 2025 – July 27, 2025
 - On motion from Mr. Derr, seconded by Mr. Moralez, and carried, Council approved this request.

General Government and Finance:

- Consideration to approve a new franchise agreement with Comcast with finalization by the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor. Mrs. Novinger advised that our current agreement with Service Electric is for 3.5%, the maximum agreement is 5%, but to remember that those fees get passed back to the customers.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mr. Derr, and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to pay bills from the General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Liquid Fuels, and Cemetery account in the amount of \$125,947.09.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley, and carried, Council approved this request.

President Walker asked if there was any more business to come to Council from Council, Ms. Fawess advised there was an issue with the minutes from last meeting, the minutes did not show Mr. Moralez as attending or absent. Mr. Moralez made a motion to amend the minutes to correct his attendance, seconded by Mr. Pfeil.

At this time, 7:20 pm, on motion from Mr. Pfeil, seconded by Mr. Derr, Council adjourned.

(Seal)

Submitted By:

 Jennifer Foust
 Borough Secretary/Treasurer