

April 6, 2020

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening April 6, 2020, 7:00 PM, via Teleconference due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Josephine Laird, Council President, called the meeting to order.

#### ROLL CALL

Present were Councillors William Cox, Cheryl Evernham, Joseph Flynn, Josephine Laird, and Michael Manerchia. Also present were Mayor Gene Taylor and Borough Manager Andrew Weldon.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and that they stand as written. All in favor.

#### APPROVAL OF RECEIPT VOUCHER

Manager advised that the receipt voucher for the month of March totaled \$1,981,386.27. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to receive and deposit. All in favor.

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager presented for ratification, an extension of the discount period for municipal property taxes. This extension would allow for property owners in the Borough to take advantage of the 2% discount until April 30, 2020, all other municipal tax deadlines would remain unchanged. Motion by C. Evernham second by M. Manerchia to ratify the extension of the discount period for municipal property taxes until April 30, 2020. All in favor.

Manager reported that the Borough's Annual Audit and Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2019 has been completed and received. The Condensed Audit and Financial Report will be published in the Daily Times on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and the audit is available for public inspection at the Borough's administrative office. Motion by C. Evernham second by J. Flynn to receive and file. All in favor.

Manager presented for ratification, Resolution No. R-20-4, which is a Resolution adopted by Borough Council on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This Resolution is an extension and ratification of a Local Disaster Emergency originally declared by the Council President on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to ratify Resolution No. R-20-4. All in favor.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Taylor presented the Police Report and related statistics for the month of March, 2020. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to receive and file the Mayor's Public Safety Report. All in favor.

Manager noted a letter of resignation was received from part-time police officer, Doug Staffelbach, effective March 19, 2020, and accepted by Borough Council on March 20, 2020. Motion by J. Flynn second by M. Manerchia to ratify the acceptance of Doug Staffelbach's letter of resignation as a part-time police officer. All in favor.

## PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Manager reported Council's Highway Committee has recommended the following locations for the 2020 Street Improvement Project pending the receipt of bid proposals: milling and paving of Pine Street. Motion by M. Manerchia second by J. Flynn to authorize the preparation of plans and specifications and advertisement for bids for the 2020 Street Improvement Project. All in favor.

Manager mentioned that Marcus Hook Borough has scheduled a Bulk Trash/e-Waste/shredding event at the Marcus Hook Highway Garage, located at 1111 Market Street: Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The event will take place rain or shine from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The Borough is offering one free television disposal, per Borough of Marcus Hook household, additional televisions will be \$25 for normal televisions and \$50 for rear projection/console-type televisions. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to receive and file. All in favor.

Manager announced that the Borough is accepting applications for employment for a part-time laborer with the Highway Department. Applications will be accepted through the close of business on April 24, 2020. Motion by C. Evernham second by J. Flynn to record and file. All in favor.

## PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

In keeping with the Borough's annual Arbor Day observance, the Shade Tree Commission has recommended the passage of a municipal Resolution proclaiming April 24, 2020 as Arbor Day in Marcus Hook. In acknowledgement of Arbor Day, the Borough will be planting a tree at Robert F. Haebel Plaza this year. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to adopt Borough Resolution No. R-20-5 proclaiming April 24, 2020 as Arbor Day in Marcus Hook. All in favor.

Manager reported that for the thirty-fourth straight year Marcus Hook has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The presentation of the Tree City USA flag and other recognition materials will be coordinated with the Borough. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to receive and file. All in favor.

PECO recently announced that Marcus Hook Borough was selected to receive a max grant of \$10,000 from their Green Region Open Space Program for the Market Square Memorial Park Landscape Restoration project. The \$10,000 was received on March 16, 2020 with a forwarding letter noting the program continues to be extremely competitive and commended the Borough for a very well-crafted and interesting submission. Motion by M. Manerchia second by C. Evernham to receive and file. All in favor.

Delaware County Council announced in November that Marcus Hook Borough was approved for a grant in the amount of \$7,150 from the first year of Delaware County's Open Space and Recreation Municipal Grant Program for the Market Square Memorial Park Landscape Restoration project. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to authorize the execution of the Grant Agreement with Delaware County. All in favor.

Manager noted that funding is now in place for the Market Square Memorial Park Landscape Restoration project. Motion by J. Flynn second by W. Cox to authorize Engineer Catania to prepare final plans, contract and bidding documents for the project and proceed with the advertisement for bids upon their completion. All in favor.

## COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Manager announced that Spruce Street property owners will be notified that work is expected to start shortly on the Viscose Village Streetscape Project, Phase III - Spruce Street. This work will include new sidewalks and curbs, street resurfacing and historically accurate street lamp posts and fixtures. To enhance this public improvement project the MHCDC has agreed to cover the cost of front yard fence

removal and pay each property owner \$100 for their voluntary participation. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to record and file. All in favor.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor J. Flynn noted that this coming week was going to be a big week with respect to new cases and potential deaths as a result of COVID-19, therefore he urged everyone to stay home and stay out of Delaware as the police will be ticketing drivers who are there for non-essential reasons. Councilor J. Flynn also noted that less than 2% of the County population is testing positive.

Councilor W. Cox asked Mayor Taylor if the banquet for Fire Chief Brooks was canceled. Mayor Taylor informed Councilor W. Cox that the banquet was rescheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>, and he should use the same RSVP card he received with the original invitation. Councilor W. Cox also asked where the applications for the highway laborer position will be posted and how an applicant can obtain one. Manager Weldon noted that these will be posted on our website and social media page, and if an applicant doesn't have access or a printer, they can leave a message with the Borough at 610-485-1341 and we will arrange getting an interested applicant an application.

Councilor C. Evernham wished for everyone to be safe with COVID-19.

Councilor M. Manerchia questioned if the highway laborer job opening was separate from the summer help that the Borough has each year. Manager Weldon noted that the opening was strictly for a replacement for one of our current laborers who is retiring shortly. He would speak to Foreman Burgess and get back to Council if it was determined that summer help would be something worth pursuing this year.

Mayor G. Taylor noted that Arbor Day in Marcus Hook Borough was announced in this month's PSAB magazine. Mayor G. Taylor had three questions, as follows; what was the response from Terry Smith regarding the Memorial Day Parade, when would the Highway Department be putting the American Flags up on the telephone poles, and did the Manager speak to Catania regarding trying to save money when paving Pine Street.

Manager Weldon noted that he had spoken to Terry Smith and she was going to speak to the string bands to find out when they needed to be notified of a cancellation, then the Borough can determine a deadline for which they can make a decision on whether to have the parade or to cancel it. He also noted that he had spoken to her about the possibility of having a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and that wasn't something she thought would be possible due to many of the bands and acts already being booked in other towns. Manager Weldon would speak to Foreman Burgess about getting the flags up, but it wouldn't likely be until sometime in May due to COVID-19. Finally, Manager Weldon has spoken to Catania about paving Pine Street and possibly having Ernel take that job on to save the Borough money, since they will already be paving Spruce Street.

Councilor J. Laird thanked all of the Borough employees for helping get the Borough through the COVID-19 situation in the best possible shape. Councilor J. Laird also noted that the signs at Mickey Vernon Park informing residents that the park was temporarily closed, many of them had been torn down. Finally, Councilor J. Laird asked Chief Ireland if the Marcus Hook Police Department had enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the officers.

Mayor G. Taylor followed up Councilor J. Laird to thank the Police Department for their efforts during this health crisis.

Chief J. Ireland noted that Marcus Hook Police department does have enough PPE for our officers.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lorraine Daliessio, 1050 Yates Avenue, submitted a public comment via email, it reads, "At the Agenda meeting it was decided to discuss further how the Boro's share if the fines against ETP would be used. I got the impression, by listening to the recorded meeting, that it wasn't clear to all members how much the Boro would receive. The figures discussed were between \$70,000 and \$85,000. Can some of this money go to the EAC to get the funding started for the project of cleaning up Marcus Hook Creek? I would have responded with this request in an actual Agenda meeting and at least have started the discussion on this request.

Sincerely,  
Lorraine Daliessio  
Resident  
EAC Appointed Member"

Manager Weldon noted that the amount the Borough could potentially receive if the DEP approved the project submission was \$71,250, which is 25% of \$285,000 in fines levied against Sunoco Partners & Marketing Terminals, LP. Manager Weldon also noted that he wasn't sure if the Borough could submit multiple projects at smaller amounts to the DEP so he would have to check on that. Finally, it was noted that Council hasn't decided on a project so it was something that they would discuss in the near future.

Councilor J. Laird noted that if Council decided on a project to use the full amount of the fine then there wouldn't be money left to go to the EAC.

Mayor G. Taylor noted that he remembered Lorraine mentioning going to a class or obtaining assistance for a grant.

Councilor M. Manerchia noted that no grants have been mentioned at recent EAC meetings.

#### APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from March 3, 2020 through April 6, 2020 totaled \$328,202.38. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Everngham to approve payment of Borough bills. All in favor.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Andrew Weldon  
Borough Secretary