

April 2, 2024

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Tuesday evening, April 2, 2024, 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors Cheryl Evernham, Joseph Flynn, John Johnson, Josephine Laird, Michael Manerchia, and Janette Weigand. Also present was Mayor Gene Taylor and Borough Manager Deborah Hurst.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by M. Manerchia, seconded by C. Evernham to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and that they stand as written. All in favor.

Manager requested a motion to appoint Morgan Greene Part-Time Police Officer. Motion by C. Evernham, seconded by M. Manerchia. All in favor.

President Laird introduced Magisterial District Judge Garner who sworn in Part-Time Police Officer, Morgan Greene. Officer Greene thanked everyone for this opportunity. Mayor Taylor and Borough Council congratulated Officer Greene. President Laird thanked Judge Griffin for coming tonight.

APPROVAL OF RECEIPT VOUCHER

Manager advised that the receipt voucher for the month of March 2024 totaled \$97,468.25. Motion by J. Flynn, seconded by M. Manerchia to receive and deposit. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from March 5, 2024 through April 2, 2024 totaled \$228,423.43. Motion by M. Manerchia, seconded by J. Weigand to approve payment of Borough bills. All in favor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager presented the Monthly Code Enforcement Reports for the month of March 2024. Motion by J. Flynn, seconded by M. Manerchia to receive and file the Monthly Code Enforcement Reports. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Taylor presented the Police Report and related statistics for the month of March 2024. Motion by C. Evernham, seconded by M. Manerchia to receive and file the Mayor's Public Safety Report. All in favor.

Manager requested a motion to authorize Chief Ireland to apply for a grant for new Tasers, (conducted energy weapons-CEW). Motion by M. Manerchia, seconded by J. Weigand, to authorize Chief Ireland to apply for a grant for new Tasers. All in favor.

Manager requested a motion to authorize Chief Ireland to pursue a private Vest-a-Cop grant. It is a 90%/10% match. Ninety percent is privately funded and it is only a 10% match for the Borough. These funds would be used to purchase body armor for new hire Morgan Greene this month and the next full time officer. Motion by C. Evernham, seconded by M. Manerchia. 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 26, 2024 as Arbor Day in Marcus Hook. The Arbor Day program is scheduled for April 26, 2024, 10:00 AM, at Haebel Plaza. Motion by J. Flynn, seconded by M. Manerchia to adopt Borough Resolution No. R-24-5 proclaiming April 26, 2024 as Arbor Day in Marcus Hook. All in favor.

Manager reported that for the thirty-ninth 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's Arbor Day ceremony on April 26, 2024. Motion by J. Flynn second by C. Evernham to receive and file. All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Bids were opened on March 21, 2024 for the Viscose Village Streetscape Project, Cedar Street - Pine Street to Chestnut Street, and tabulated as follows:

Bidder	Bid Amount	Bidder	Bid Amount
DIS Associates, LLC	\$ 326,988.77	Ernel Co., Inc.	\$ 369,840.00
Albert G. Cipolloni Jr. & Sons	\$ 339,380.00	MOR Construction	\$ 375,670.00
Premier Concrete, Inc.	\$ 340,310.00	Depaul & Company, Inc.	\$ 475,750.00
G&B Construction	\$ 363,814.70		

Motion to accept the bid from the lowest responsible bidder, Albert G. Cipolloni Jr. & Sons in the amount of \$339,380.00 as recommended by Borough Engineer, Charles Catania, Jr. for the Viscose Village Streetscape Project, Cedar Street – Pine Street to Chestnut Street, subject to the County OHCD concurrence. Motion by J. Flynn, seconded by C. Evernham. W. Cox – Yes, C. Evernham – Yes, J. Laird – Yes, J. Flynn – Yes, M. Manerchia – No, J. Weigand - Yes. Motion approved 5-1.

## LIBRARY

Manager requested a motion to appoint Cora Anderson to the Library Board. Motion by C. Evernham, seconded by M. Manerchia to appoint Cora Anderson to the Library Board. All in favor.

1. The Solar Eclipse & Easter Egg Hunt events on Saturday, March 16th was very successful. Nearly 80 people attended the events. Thank you Councilwoman Janette Weigand for arranging the Easter Bunny to visit the library.
2. The circulation and computer usage numbers have been continuing to go up.
3. The library would like to apply for the MaturityWorks program. It's a training program that helps people, age 55 and older, increase their job skills through paid community service in local organizations. It will be no cost for the Borough.
4. Wednesday, April 10th, the library will host an Emergency Preparedness Workshop at Cokesbury United Methodist Church with our seniors.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

M. Manerchia reported that there are potholes all over town that are in need of repair. He also stated that the manhole cover at Braskem needs to be repaired ASAP. For those interested in seeing the ship traffic on the river, next week will be a good week to go to the park and watch the ship traffic. M. Manerchia asked Bruce Dorian if we can get Federal Funds for the Pier Project. There is a lot more ship traffic. There is a lot of available federal funds from the Baltimore bridge collapse. Also, the geese are back at the park. M. Manerchia asked for an update on the damage bench down at the park. Manager Hurst informed M. Manerchia that we are working on getting bids for the work to repair the damage that was done. Manager Hurst submitted all the current paperwork and bids for the electrical work and when the quotes come in for the table, she will send that to the insurance adjuster.

J. Weigand thanked J. Flynn for the donation of the bunny bench. It was very generous. It was mentioned at the school board meeting.

C. Evernham thanked the two police officers who showed up at Cokesbury Church on Sunday. A parishioner had fallen off the chair lift and the police followed up on her location through her Apple watch to make sure she was okay.

J. Johnson stated it is good to be back!

Chief Ireland read a letter that Mayor Taylor received from the Elementary Principal Susan Gavigan thanking the Chief Ireland and the Marcus Hook Police Officers for all their involvement with the school. Each day there is a police present at the beginning and end of the school day. The Police are very involved in the programs at the Elementary School. The students sent thank you cards to the police department.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Sponheimer from Forgotten Cats/Providence Vet held an initiative in Marcus Hook on March 26<sup>th</sup>. This initiative has to do with community cats in the Borough. Ms. Sponheimer gave out information to the Mayor, Council and the Borough Manager. They received an initial call about an injured cat in Marcus Hook that needed attention. Upon arrival, we noticed there were many outdoor, stray, alley, feral, street, barn and tomcats in Marcus Hook. We made arrangements to come to the Borough with traps. There were 30 cats found in the village in two days times by the volunteers. We returned on March 26<sup>th</sup> and the following is a brief synopsis of what occurred. There were 28

community cats vetted at Forgotten Cats; 2 community cats previously vetted and vaccines updated; 25 pets vetted on the mobile van; 66 cats were spayed, neutered and given vaccines. Twenty-two cats returned vetted and ear tipped. Since it was a great success, we are hoping to schedule another event. We believe this is a very important program. Councilor Everngham stated that no one from the Borough Office was aware that this event was being held until the week before. Councilor Everngham asked if she could reach out to Borough Hall to schedule an event. This way, the event can be placed on our Facebook Page and our Newsletter. Forgotten Cats receives grants to perform this work. The Borough Office will then notify Chief Ireland of the scheduled event. Ms. Sponheimer thanked Council for their time and stated she will be in touch with The Borough Clerk and Borough Manager to schedule the next event. Councilor Everngham and Council President thanked her for coming and updating us on this initiative.

Darren Laws, 719 Urban Place, Chester, PA updated Council on events happening in the surrounding communities. Last Thursday Upper Chichester had a flower show. The football team participated in the event and Mr. Laws attended. On April 15<sup>th</sup> the students will be participating in a student forum. This includes Marcus Hook students, as well at Chichester Schools. Mr. Law recently purchase 200 pretzels and gave them to the Parkside Fire Company to hand out to the kids. This shows the kids that the communities are giving back.

Councilor Manerchia suggested Mr. Laws stop by and visit the Library Director Tianjia Wang. She is quite the go getter. The library has started a math club that Councilor Manerchia's granddaughter is involved in. Councilor Weigand stated that the library is starting a stem project as well.

Mr. Laws stated that there are a lot of Chester and Chichester students working at Maris Grove and come home later after their shift. They generally take an Uber or the bus. Mr. Laws is looking into getting a community bus to take these students to a landmark in town where they will be safe. Councilor Weigand suggested a drop off at the high school. Mr. Laws will keep Council updated on his progress.

Mr. Laws asked about holding a tag day. Mayor Taylor explained that tag days were done away with due to the fact that it is a safety issue with the kids crossing the streets.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion by M. Manerchia, seconded by J. Flynn to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Deborah Hurst  
Borough Secretary