

August 6, 2018

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening August 6, 2018, 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

Josephine Laird, Council President, called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was requested for Martin Evernham, husband of Councillor Cheryl Evernham, who passed away on July 21, 2018.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by M. Manerchia second by W. Cox 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 July totaled \$180,772.78. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and deposit. All in favor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager recommend Council approval to forgive delinquent and current Marcus Hook Borough real estate taxes, including interest, penalties and costs, for fiscal years 2013-2014, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019 for a property owned by the Borough of Marcus Hook and located at 7 West Delaware Avenue, Marcus Hook and used as the Marcus Hook Community Center and have the Tax Claim Bureau strike the taxes, penalties, interests and costs for the years mentioned. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to authorize the Tax Claim Bureau strike all outstanding Borough Taxes on the property located at 7 West Delaware Avenue Marcus Hook, PA 19061. All in favor.

Manager reported that the Borough has renewed its property/casualty insurance coverage for the period of August 1, 2018 - August 1, 2019. The combined premium cost is \$74,163, a decrease of \$12,202 from the expired program at inception, along with initiating a Cyber Liability and Privacy Coverage insurance policy to protect against Cyber-crimes in the amount of \$1,991 per annum. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to ratify the renewal of the Borough's insurance package for the 2018/2019 coverage period. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Taylor presented the Police Report and related statistics for the month of July, 2018. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to receive and file the Mayor's Public Safety Report. All in favor.

Mayor Taylor announced that the position of police officer within the Marcus Hook Police Department was advertised on June 20th and 22nd, 2018, pursuant to the general qualifications submitted by the Civil Service Commission, and the application period closed on July 6th, 2018. Testing has recently completed, with a certified list of three candidates expected to be presented to Council before the September 4, 2018 Council Meeting. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Manager reported that the Borough advertised a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria as surplus property for sale in July, 2018 on the online municipal auction website municibid.com. The winning bid for the 2002 Ford Crown Victoria was in the amount of \$1,100 from Sam Pegler. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to approve the execution of a sales agreement with Sam Pegler in the amount of \$1,100 for the sale of the 2002 Ford Crown Victoria. All in favor.

Manager requested authorization for rebidding of the Cedar Street Stormwater Improvement Project utilizing CDBG funding. All bids were rejected at the July 2, 2018 Council Meeting due to the fact that all bids received were significantly higher than the allocated budget for this job. Catania Engineering has revised the bidding specifications to help control costs and will be using an electronic bidding portal on PennBid to reach a larger target audience. Motion by M. Manerchia second by J. Flynn to authorize the Borough of Marcus Hook to place the Cedar Street Stormwater Improvement Project out for bid a second time. All in favor.

PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

It was announced that the Marcus Hook Preservation Society's Pirate Festival is scheduled for September 14th and 15th, 2018 at Market Square Memorial Park, 5 PM – 10 PM on Friday the 14th and 11 AM – 6 PM on Saturday the 15th, and the event planners have requested Borough logistical support of the festival, including police, highway, and port-o-potties, as provided in previous years. Motion by A. Kersey second by J. Flynn to reaffirm the use of Market Square Memorial Park for the Pirate Festival and to provide the same level of logistical support as provided in previous years. All in favor.

Councillor C. Evernham arrived late for the meeting

PLANNING AND ZONING

Zoning application received from RDI Property Group LLC requesting approval to change the use of the building located at 326 Market Street from its previous use as a bar/6 rental rooms/1 apartment to 4 apartments. The property status is legal pre-existing nonconforming. The plans for the building were presented to Borough Council at a public meeting held on July 23, 2018. Motion by J. Flynn second by W. Cox to establish that the proposed change will be no more objectionable in its external effects than the previous nonconforming use, and as such authorize the issuance of a zoning permit to RDI Property Group LLC to renovate the building at 326 Market Street to consist of four (4) apartment units. J. Flynn, W. Cox, M. Manerchia, C. Evernham – YES; A. Kersey, J. Laird – NO. Motion carried 4 - 2.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councillor J. Laird presented the Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department Fire Report.

Councillor A. Kersey thanked District Attorney Katayoun Copeland for her work on the case involving a Marcus Hook Resident who previously lived in the Village and was recently sentenced to prison for a heinous crime involving a juvenile.

Manager A. Weldon introduced Dana Rachko, a Drug & Alcohol Prevention Program Specialist at the Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health Division of Drug and Alcohol. Dana and the STOP (Substance Abuse Treatment Overdose Prevention) Coalition are collecting data on stigma regarding those with a Substance Use Disorder and those in recovery. Dana passed out anonymous surveys to Mayor, members of Council, and residents in attendance, and collected their responses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Skip Morello, 1023 Market St. expressed his sympathy for Councillor C. Everngham's loss. Skip also commented on the foxes that have been seen recently in the Borough, mentioning that they have been seen in the general area of the old Viscose Building and that they have been seen in the daytime, which according to Skip indicates they could be rabid. Skip wants to know what the Borough is doing/going to do about this problem.

Manager A. Weldon noted that part of the problem with the foxes is the abundance of food sources in the Borough, mice, rats, etc. which are exacerbated by residents not having their trash in containers with lids. Manager also noted that just because foxes are seen in the daytime, doesn't mean they're rabid, however if a rabid fox was sighted then the appropriate animal control measures would be taken. Otherwise fox sightings are considered wildlife and the Borough will not take action.

Chief J. Ireland commented that Marcus Hook is a good food and water source for these foxes. Chief recommended that residents respect their space and not attempt to feed or domesticate these animals. They aren't confrontational and should find their way back to where they came from on their own.

Councillor J. Flynn noted that seemingly with the increase in fox sightings, rat complaints have gone down.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from July 3, 2018 through August 6, 2018 totaled \$571,285.61. 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 7:28 PM.

Andrew Weldon
Borough Secretary