

December 2, 2019

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening December 2, 2019, 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors William Cox, Cheryl Evernham, Joseph Flynn, John Kennard, 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 C. Evernham 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 November totaled \$266,550.69. Motion by C. Evernham second by M. Manerchia to receive and deposit. All in favor.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

President - Robert Kersey of the Marcus Hook Community Development Corporation made a presentation to the Borough: an AED (automated external defibrillator) for the Municipal Building.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Delaware County Board of Assessment Appeals has certified that the aggregate Real Estate Assessment for Marcus Hook Borough for the year 2020 is \$181,202,158. Motion by J. Kennard second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

Manager presented final reading of the 2020 Marcus Hook Borough budget, stating that the availability of the budget for public inspection was duly advertised and was the subject of a public hearing on November 26, 2019. Total expenditures were noted at \$5,815,852 with \$3,684,040 of this amount allocated to the General Fund. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to adopt the 2020 Borough budget as proposed. All in favor.

Manager presented Borough Resolution No. R-19-12, the Tax Levy Resolution, fixing the tax rate for 2020 at 12.35 mills. This Resolution is in place of the previously approved authorization to advertise Ordinance O-19-6. Act 51 of 2019 amended the Borough Code to establish a new process of adopting an annual property tax rate. Act 51 of 2019 now permits boroughs to enact the tax rate by resolution if the property tax rate stays the same or is decreased. There is no millage rate change from 2019. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to adopt Resolution No. R-19-12. All in favor.

Manager introduced Borough Resolution No. R-19-13 to support and endorse the application of the Borough of Marcus Hook for FY 2020 Community Development Block Grant funds from the forty-sixth program year for the Cedar Street Streetscape Project. Motion by J. Kennard second by M. Manerchia to adopt Resolution No. R-19-13. All in favor.

Manager mentioned the customary practice of free parking within the central business district during the Christmas/New Year holiday season. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to authorize free on-street meter parking within the central business district, two hour time limit, which began on November 28, 2019 and will end on January 2, 2020. All in favor.

Manager noted the need to update and upgrade the Boroughwide camera system and access control system with a new and high-tech system that will help protect residents and property in the Borough. Manager requested quotes from three Costars approved vendors to perform this work; CSi Integrated Security & Communications, Johnson Controls Security Solutions, and NextGen Security for labor and materials to install a comprehensive camera and access control system in the Borough, and all related equipment. Two of the three Costars approved vendors provided a quote to the Borough and are as follows:

<u>Project</u>	Johnson Controls Security Solutions	NextGen Security
Base Bid: Boroughwide Camera and Access Control System – Ref. Scope of Work Available in the Municipal Building	\$576,394.78 Total	\$320,286.00 Total

Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to accept the Bid for Boroughwide Camera and Access Control System from NextGen Security - Costars approved vendor number 040-038 in the amount of \$320,286.00. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Taylor presented the Police Report and related statistics for the month of November, 2019. Motion by M. Manerchia second by C. Everngham to receive and file the Mayor's Public Safety Report. All in favor.

Mayor Taylor recommended the appointment of Justin Fornwalt as part-time police officer conditional upon the execution of an outside employment agreement. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to appoint Justin Fornwalt to the position of part-time police officer conditional upon the execution of an outside employment agreement. All in favor.

Manager announced that an Agreement has been reached between the Borough of Marcus Hook and Fraternal Order of Police/Lodge #27 (on behalf of the members of the Marcus Hook Police Department) on a five year (2020-2021-2022-2023-2024) collective bargaining agreement which includes wage adjustments of 3.00% in 2020, 3.25% in 2021 & 2022, and 3.5% in 2023 & 2024, as well as the implementation an Act 44 Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for a maximum period of 5 years, changing the language of the service connected disability benefit for current and future officers, and finally reducing the service connected disability benefit from 75% to 65% for officers hired after 1/1/2020. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Delaware County Lodge #27, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. All in favor.

Manager requested authorization to advertise Ordinance No. O-19-6, amending the Police Pension Plan to include a five (5) year Act 44 Retirement Program for eligible full-time police officers. As per the police contract effective 1/1/2020, an eligible officer must be at least 53 years of age and have completed 25 years of service. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to advertise Ordinance No. O-19-6. All in favor.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Delaware County has scheduled its 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events for May 2nd - Emergency Services Training Center, June 20th - Delaware County Community College, September 12th - Penn State University - Brandywine Campus, and October 17th - Upper Chichester Twp. Municipal Building.

These events are only for Household Hazardous Waste, no electronics or latex paint will be accepted. Marcus Hook Borough is planning a bulk trash/electronic waste recycling/shredding event for May 16th, 2020. Motion by J. Kennard second by J. Flynn to receive and file. All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Manager introduced Resolution No. R-19-14 authorizing the execution of the Winter Traffic Services Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for snow and ice clearance on 10th Street (7.0 snow lane miles) and Market Street (0.5 snow lane miles) for the next five winter seasons beginning in 2019-2020 and concluding in 2023-2024, with the first year rate of \$10,635.88. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to adopt Resolution No. R-19-14. All in favor.

PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

The Recreation and Park Board will present Lunch with Santa - Saturday, December 14th - Community Center - 12:00 PM. Motion by C. Everngham second by J. Flynn to receive and file. All in favor.

Marcus Hook Borough Police, Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department, and Angel Food Pantry were positively acknowledged for their commendable service to the Borough of Marcus Hook by voluntarily contributing their time and energy to coordinate and oversee their annual Thanksgiving Food Drives. These food drives are imperative and allow for the less fortunate to enjoy a delicious holiday meal. Motion by C. Everngham second by M. Manerchia to receive and file. All in favor.

PLANNING AND ZONING

The Zoning Hearing Board at a public hearing held on November 7, 2019, issued a Decision approving the Application for Variance and relief submitted by Elliott Harrison from Section 197-117(A) of the Marcus Hook Zoning Ordinance to permit a front yard fence at 23 E. 9th Street. At the outset of the hearing officers selected were Dan Smith - Chairman, Robert Kersey - Vice Chairman, and Lorraine Daliesso - Secretary. Motion by M. Manerchia second by C. Everngham to receive and file. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor J. Flynn offered his congratulations to fellow Councilors Gigi, Bill, Michael, and Paula for their recent election victories. Councilor J. Flynn also wanted to let Tameka Gibson know that she ran a good campaign and worked very hard despite losing in the election. Councilor J. Flynn wanted to provide an update to everyone on Pennsylvania State trapping laws. Per the State Game Commission, in order to trap animals such as foxes, opossums, or raccoons you would need to first obtain a fur taker's license and these types of animals must either be immediately released or put down due to the possibility of them carrying rabies or other diseases. Finally, Councilor J. Flynn noted that there has been another fox sighted in Marcus Hook with mange, to which he put chemicals out to hopefully help clear this up.

Councilor W. Cox thanked the Marcus Hook Highway Department for all of their hard work in making the town beautiful and decorating for the holiday season. Councilor W. Cox wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year and to remember the reason for the season, Jesus Christ.

Councilor J. Kennard wished everyone a Merry Christmas and for everyone to be safe.

Councilor C. Evernham wanted to take a moment to recognize Random Productions, the film crew recently in town filming “Mare of Easttown”. A gentleman was out back of Councilor C. Evernham’s home on Saturday, November 23rd picking up trash in the parking lot of Mike Rittenhouse’s property. Councilor C. Evernham thanked him and asked him why he was doing it and he responded that the film company wanted to leave the property in better shape when they left than when they arrived. Councilor C. Evernham also wished everyone a Happy Holiday season.

Councilor M. Manerchia wished everyone a Merry Christmas, to be safe and a Happy New Year.

Mayor G. Taylor reminded residents that the current parking stickers expire at the end of the month (12/31/2019) and the new stickers are available in the Municipal Building. Mayor G. Taylor reminded residents that the Borough would be closed December 24 – 26th. Mayor G. Taylor thanked Chief Ireland, Sgt. Liberatore, and Officers Barnett, Reynolds, and Tierney for their hard work and dedication in making the food drive a success. Mayor G. Taylor also thanked all of the donors who enabled them to purchase the food for the drive. Mayor G. Taylor reminded residents to get their dog licenses and make sure they’re valid. Finally, Mayor G. Taylor thanked Manager A. Weldon for his work on the 2020 budget.

Councilor J. Laird thanked the Marcus Hook Police Department and Annie Kersey for their food drives this Thanksgiving. Councilor J. Laird also thanked the Marcus Hook Community Development Corporation and Bobby Kersey for donating the AED machine to the Borough. Councilor J. Laird finally thanked Manager A. Weldon for his work on the 2020 budget and other projects throughout the year.

Manager A. Weldon wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked the Marcus Hook Community Development Corporation for their donation of an AED machine to the Borough.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lorraine Daliessio, 1050 Yates Avenue, wanted to go on record that she, and unnamed other residents were not in support of the possible construction of a cracker plant at the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex. Lorraine also notified Council that she had been in contact with Susan Miller, DCVA in regards to a grant for the EAC to purchase monitoring equipment, pay for workshops, and expand community outreach. Lorraine finally mentioned that she had spoken to a few concerned residents who were displeased that the Borough was not hosting a holiday parade this year. Lorraine wanted to know what the plan was for next year, as residents want to see a parade. Manager A. Weldon reminded Lorraine that this was discussed at last week’s agenda meeting and Council had decided to table discussions until next month at which point they will provide some direction on what they want to do for 2020.

Marie Swanson, 22 Chestnut Street, thanked Mayor and Council for all of their hard work and volunteered to coordinate next year’s holiday parade.

Skip Morello, 1021 Market Street, thanked Mayor and Council for all they do for the Borough. Skip also wished a Happy and Healthy 2020 to all and said God Bless.

Abdullah Islam, 1016 McClenachan Terrace, had two questions for Council. The first was who was responsible for weeds along the railroad tracks behind her home. Mayor G. Taylor informed Abdullah that Conrail was responsible for these as they were along their right-of-way. Manager A. Weldon informed Abdullah he will contact Conrail to have them cut down and maintained. Abdullah’s second question was in regards to things to do for older children in the Borough. Abdullah noted that there is very little for kids over 13 or 14 years of age to do in town. Abdullah noted that the basketball courts at the end of Yates Avenue should be utilized again. This topic has been discussed at length and the following were comments from elected officials in response to Abdullah’s question:

Councilor J. Laird commented that neighboring kids ended up taking over the courts and starting fights. Councilor J. Laird also noted that at one point the Community Center was opened for children to come and play games and activities and overseen by volunteers. However, the equipment became broken and the same volunteers became tired of “babysitting”.

Councilor C. Evernham noted that the Recreation and Park Board had discussed having dances at the Community Center.

Marie Swanson noted that the Rec Board was going to host a Valentine’s Day dance to try this out and see how it went. Marie also noted that they invite ideas at their public Rec Board Meetings which are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Community Center at 6:00 PM.

Councilor M. Manerchia noted that in Marcus Hook we rely on volunteers to help with these types of children’s activities and it usually ends up being the same volunteers who grow tired of being the only volunteers. Councilor M. Manerchia also noted that the basketball courts were opened on three separate occasions and each time they were closed due to problems. The most recent resulted in police cars from three towns having to respond to an incident.

Chief J. Ireland noted that in addition to the kids from other towns fighting on the courts being a concern, some other things that are concerning are noise complaints, drugs, and trash to name a few.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from November 5, 2019 through December 2, 2019 totaled \$207,183.11. Motion by C. Evernham second by M. Manerchia 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 7:44 PM.

Andrew Weldon
Borough Secretary