

December 4, 2023

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening December 4, 2023, 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, Joseph Flynn, Larry Killinen, Josephine Laird and Michael Manerchia. Also present were Mayor Gene Taylor and Borough Manager Deborah Hurst.

President Laird introduced Magisterial District Judge David Griffin who sworn in Full-Time Police Officer, Claire Burkert. Officer Burkert thanked everyone for this opportunity. Thank you to the Chief and the Marcus Hook Department. She is really looking forward to continuing working with the Marcus Hook Police Department. Mayor Taylor and Borough Council congratulated Officer Burkert. President Laird thanked Judge Griffin for coming tonight.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by W. Cox, seconded by L. Killinen 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 \$281,166.29. Motion by W. Cox, seconded by J. Flynn to receive and deposit. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from November 6, 2023 through December 4, 2023 totaled \$131,026.69. Motion by L. Killinen, seconded by W. Cox to approve payment of Borough bills. All in favor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Delaware County Board of Assessment Appeals has certified that the aggregate Real Estate Assessment for Marcus Hook Borough for the year 2024 is \$306,224,516. Motion by W. Cox, seconded by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

Manager presented the final reading of the proposed 2024 budget, showing total stating that the availability of the budget for public inspection was duly advertised on November 15, 2023 and was the subject of a public hearing on November 28, 2023. Total expenditures were noted at \$5,819,761 with \$5,103,303 of this amount allocated to the General Fund. Motion by L. Killinen, seconded by M. Manerchia to adopt the 2024 Borough budget as proposed. All in favor.

Manager presented the second reading and adoption approve Ordinance No. O-23-05, the Tax Levy Ordinance, fixing the tax rate for the year 2024 at 10.84 mills. This Ordinance was duly advertised on November 15, 2023. Motion by W. Cox, seconded by M. Manerchia to adopt Ordinance No. O-23-05. All in favor.

Manager introduced Resolution No. R-23-11 to support and endorse the application of the Borough of Marcus Hook for PY 2024 Community Development Block Grant funds from the fifty program year for the Streetscape Improvements in Viscose

Village, Phase 5 - Walnut Street, 10th Street to Pine Street. Motion by L. Killinen, seconded by M. Manerchia to adopt Resolution R-23-11. All in favor.

Manager recommended approval of Resolution No. R-23-12 Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulation Revisions. Motion by W. Cox, seconded by L. Killinen to adopt Resolution No. R-23-12. All in favor.

Manager received a copy of a resignation letter addressed to Mayor Taylor and Borough Council from Lawrence E. Weigand, III, Constable of the 2nd Precinct, effective December 1, 2023. Motion by J. Flynn, seconded by L. Killinen to accept the resignation of Lawrence E. Weigand, III, Constable in the 2nd Precinct, effective December 1, 2023. 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 M. Manerchia, seconded by L. Killinen to authorize free on-street meter parking within the central business district, two hour time limit, which began November 23, 2023 and will end on January 2, 2024.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Taylor presented the Police Report and related statistics for the month of November. Motion by W. Cox, seconded by M. Manerchia. All in favor.

RECREATION

Manager reported that an application was received from Michael Colgan noting interest in serving on the Recreation Board to fill a vacancy. Motion by L. Killinen, seconded by J. Flynn to appoint Michael Colgan to the Recreation Board, pending receipt of the required clearances. Term to expire December 31, 2025. All in favor.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Borough Council at their September 5, 2023 meeting announced its intention to sell the Borough remnant 0.331 acre land parcel (Tax Folio No. 24-00-00638-50) located in the rear corner of the distribution center development site at 601 E. 10th Street to Prologis who has agreed to clear, grade and landscape the parcel to advance the perimeter site landscape buffering as part of the redevelopment of the 33 acre property. Solicitor Much advised that real estate owned by the Borough may be sold at a consideration of \$6,000 or less without advertisement or competitive bidding only after an appraisal is conducted. The property has been appraised by Coyle, Lynch and Company, dated November 7, 2023, listing an estimated market value of \$6,000. Motion by J. Flynn, seconded by M. Manerchia to convey subject parcel to Prologis for \$1.00 on the condition that the property be cleared, graded and landscaped so that it complements the land development of the adjoining Prologis land parcels. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Flynn commented to Councilor Cox that it has been a pleasure working with him over the years and thank him for his service to Marcus Hook.

Councilor Manerchia thanked Councilor Cox for his service to Marcus Hook and wished him the best in retirement. He also asked if we are able to begin fining Prologis for the Penn Street closure. President Laird stated that Solicitor Much would need to be involved.

Councilor Cox thanked President Laird for her many years of service to Marcus Hook. He will miss working with her tremendously. Councilor Cox thanked Mayor Taylor and Council for their support over the last 13 years and wished them all the best. He encouraged them to be patient with each other. Councilor Cox thanked the Highway and

Police Departments for all they do for the Borough. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilor Killinen told Councilor Cox that it has been a pleasure working with him.

Mayor Taylor wished Councilor Cox a happy retirement. Mayor Taylor wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chief Ireland wished Councilor Cox a happy retirement. Chief Ireland wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

President Laird thanked Councilor Cox for his years of service and wished him her very best. She is very sad to see him go and is going to miss him terribly. President Laird wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lorraine Daliessio, 1050 Yates Avenue, sent an email to Solicitor Much indicating that she is concerned with the fact that he represents March Hook Borough and Trainer Borough. She believes this is a conflict of interest. Solicitor Much responded to Ms. Daliessio and told her that to date there has not been a conflict and if a matter was to come up between both towns, outside Council would be chosen to represent them. Ms. Daliessio brought up the issue about trash cans and that not everyone can afford one, so they put it out in bags. President Laird stated they have to be in trash cans. Mayor Taylor commented trash cans can be put out after 6:00 PM the night before pickup.

Darren Law, Community Activist, spoke to Council at a previous meeting and informed Mayor Taylor and the Councilors that he held an event on November 22nd and was able to feed 155 people Thanksgiving dinner. He would like to get involved helping Marcus Hook Borough as he does in Chester.

Mr. Law introduced John Robinson, owner of War Boxing Club. Mr. Robinson offered his community services to anyone in the Borough, youth as well as adults. His club is an outlet for the kids in the neighborhood. Mayor Taylor suggested he reach out to the Youth Panel and President Laird recommended he reach out to the Recreation Board President, Lauren Ottinger. Mayor Taylor commended Mr. Law on the great programs that he is running at his club. President Laird thanked Mr. Law for coming this evening and also for his service to the community. Mr. Law noted that there will be a toy giveaway on December 23rd.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by W. Cox, seconded by L. Killinen to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Deborah A. Hurst
Borough Secretary