

February 7, 2022

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening February 7, 2022, 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

William Cox, Council Vice-President, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present were Councillors William Cox, Cheryl Evernham, Paula Ewing, Joseph Flynn, Josephine Laird, Michael Manerchia, and Brian Mercadante (arrived during the Council Reports portion of the meeting). Also present were Mayor Gene Taylor and Borough Manager Andrew Weldon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by M. Manerchia 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 January totaled \$46,942.59. Motion by C. Evernham second by M. Manerchia to receive and deposit. All in favor.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Taylor and Borough Council would like to take a moment to express their sincerest thank you to Keith Lockhart who is a Delaware County Historian, President of the DELCO Historic Preservation Network, and board member of the Colonial Plantation, Delaware County Historical Society, and Ridley Park Historic Society. Keith delivered to the Borough of Marcus Hook the first ever meeting minute book for the Borough of Marcus Hook from the time period May 11, 1892 to March 7, 1904. This meeting minute book and important piece of Borough history has been missing for a number of years, and now that the Borough is in possession of this book, we now have the complete set of meeting minute records since the incorporation of the Borough in 1892.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager presented for adoption Borough Resolution No. R-22-4 authorizing the destruction of public records as specifically described in subject Resolution and in compliance with the most recent Pennsylvania Municipal Records Manual adopted by Council on August 3, 2009. Motion by J. Laird second by J. Flynn to adopt Resolution No. R-22-4. All in favor.

Manager presented for ratification a Consent for Access and Right of Entry by the Borough of Marcus Hook, to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, at the Marcus Hook Police Station and Mary M. Campbell Library parking lot. The purpose of this consent is for the Pennsylvania DEP and its employees, agents, and others to enter upon and have access to the property for the purpose of conducting remedial work associated with the release of petroleum products at the Former Jock's Service Station (now the Marcus Hook Police Station and Mary M. Campbell Library parking lot). Motion by C. Evernham second by P. Ewing to ratify the Consent for Access and Right of Way document by the Borough of Marcus Hook to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. J. Flynn, C. Evernham, W. Cox, J. Laird, P. Ewing – YES; M. Manerchia – NO. Motion carried 5-1.

Manager presented the first reading of Borough Ordinance No. O-22-1, which seeks to amend Borough Code section 191-83, entitled Vehicles and Traffic, schedule XVIII: special purpose parking zones/residential parking zones, to remove the language applying to Market Street, between 4th Street and Delaware Avenue. Motion by M. Manerchia second by C. Evernham to authorize advertisement of Borough Ordinance No. O-22-1. All in favor.

Manager presented the Monthly Code Enforcement Report for the month of January, 2022. Motion by P. Ewing second by J. Laird to receive and file the Monthly Code Enforcement Report. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor G. Taylor presented the Police Report and related statistics for the month of January, 2022. Motion by M. Manerchia second by J. Laird to receive and file the Mayor's Public Safety Report. All in favor.

Mayor Taylor recommended the conditional appointment of Spencer Ellers and Claire Burkert as part-time police officers, upon completion of all required clearances. Motion by P. Ewing second by M. Manerchia to conditionally appoint Spencer Ellers and Claire Burkert to the position of part-time police officer, upon completion of all required clearances. All in favor.

Manager noted a letter of resignation was received from part-time police officer, Matt Elliott, effective January 10, 2022. Motion by J. Flynn second by P. Ewing to accept Matt Elliott's letter of resignation as a part-time police officer. All in favor.

Manager noted a letter of resignation was received from part-time police officer, John Kuryan, effective January 31, 2022. Motion by J. Laird second by J. Flynn to accept John Kuryan's letter of resignation as a part-time police officer. All in favor.

Manager received a letter from the Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department requesting that the Borough of Marcus Hook recognize the Chief Officers of the Department for 2022 – 2023, Chief Ken Smith Jr. and Deputy Chief Dan Smith. Additionally Robert Kersey Jr. is recognized as the Fire Marshal for a three year term to expire on 12/31/2024. Motion by M. Manerchia second by P. Ewing to record and file. All in favor.

Manager received a letter from the Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department requesting that Larry Weigand III be recognized as Assistant Borough Fire Marshal for a three year term to expire on 12/31/2024. Motion by C. Evernham second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Manager noted that Robert Hughes has been appointed by Borough Council to oversee the Marcus Hook Highway Department effective January 28, 2022. Motion by J. Flynn second by M. Manerchia to ratify the appointment of Robert Hughes to oversee the Marcus Hook Highway Department effective January 28, 2022. All in favor.

Manager presented Borough Resolution No. R-22-5 authorizing an application to the Delaware County Council for an allocation of \$3,105 from the County Liquid Fuel Tax Funds in 2022 to be used toward the Borough's 2022 Street Improvement Program. Motion by C. Evernham second by P. Ewing to adopt Resolution No. R-22-5. All in favor.

PARKS, RECREATION AND SHADE TREES

Manager presented the first reading of Borough Ordinance No. O-22-2, which seeks to increase the number of members on the Marcus Hook Recreation and Park Board from seven members to nine members. Motion by J. Flynn second by P. Ewing to authorize advertisement of Borough Ordinance No. O-22-2. J. Flynn, C. Evernham, W. Cox, J. Laird, P. Ewing – YES; M. Manerchia – NO. Motion carried 5-1.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Borough Council has requested the issuance of a Zoning Permit to enlarge its municipal building complex by constructing a 40' x 60' public works storage and municipal records storage building at 1111 Market Street, subject property recognized as a pre-existing non-conforming property due to its previous use as a municipal recreation area. Motion by J. Flynn second by M. Manerchia to approve the issuance of a conditional use permit as the proposed enlargement is not materially detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the surrounding area and in consideration of the standards for review of conditional uses as listed in §196-129 of the Marcus Hook Zoning Ordinance. All in favor.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Manager presented the first reading of Borough Ordinance No. O-22-3 entitled Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) Designation providing for tax exemption for new construction to aging and deteriorated industrial property pursuant to Act. No. 76 of 1977. LERTA requires a public hearing to determine the boundaries of the deteriorated area that would be eligible for tax exemption under the law. Motion by J. Flynn second by M. Manerchia to advertise Ordinance O-22-3 and schedule a public hearing for March 1, 2022, at 5:30 PM at the Marcus Hook Borough Municipal Building to determine the boundaries of the deteriorated area. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor P. Ewing reported that the MHTFD in January, 2022 responded to 47 fire alarms.

Council President J. Laird presented the following Borough Council Committee appointments: General Government - C. Evernham, P. Ewing; Tax Collection – B. Mercadante, J. Laird; Highway - W. Cox, M. Manerchia; Police – W. Cox, C. Evernham; Finance - J. Laird, C. Evernham; Recreation - C. Evernham, J. Laird; Municipal Building – P. Ewing, W. Cox; Fire and Water – P. Ewing, M. Manerchia; Environment and Health - J. Flynn, J. Laird; Planning and Zoning - W. Cox, J. Flynn; Trash and Recycling - M. Manerchia, B. Mercadante; Library – B. Mercadante, M. Manerchia; Economic and Community Development - J. Flynn, P. Ewing; Telecommunications - J. Flynn, W. Cox; History - M. Manerchia, C. Evernham.

Councilor M. Manerchia expressed his desire for the Borough to curate and possibly digitize the meeting minute books and post on our website so anyone who is interested can read through these Borough records. Councilor M. Manerchia also urged residents to be aware of potholes and to report any potholes to the Borough ASAP.

Councilor W. Cox expressed his thanks to Bobby Hughes for stepping up and agreeing to oversee the Marcus Hook Highway Department. Councilor W. Cox also mentioned that Joshua Quinn, a Borough resident, was struck and killed by an automobile on Chichester Avenue on Thursday, February 3rd and there is a go fund me set up for his family to collect money to offset the cost of his funeral expenses. Councilor W. Cox also noted that Don's Hoagie Shop and Lupi's Pizza have arranged similar collectons for Joshua's family. There was discussion on the Borough collecting money to contribute, and it was decided if any elected officials wanted to donate they could give the money to the Manager and he would drop off on behalf of Borough Officials.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lorraine Daliessio, 1050 Yates Avenue, noted that there was an Environmental Advisory Council teleconference call on Thursday, February 3rd and she was encouraged by the participation. Lorraine continued and informed Council who was present on the EAC call. Lorraine concluded by explaining how the local industry reps were accommodating by answering specific questions on air quality and their operations.

Stacy Yates, 1048 Yates Avenue, noted that she was concerned about her daughter's Girl Scouts Troop. Stacy informed Council that she went to the Marcus Hook Community Center and it was unexpectedly closed, therefore the Girl Scouts were forced to cancel their meeting. Stacy also questioned where the Troop could meet in the Borough while repairs to the Community Center were ongoing. Manager Weldon noted that he made a mistake and that normally the Marcus Hook Fitness Center is open on Monday's for their meetings and the Fitness Center Attendant normally opens the Community Center for the Girl Scouts, however on this day there was not sufficient coverage at the Fitness Center, therefore the Community Center was closed this night. Manager Weldon apologized for the confusion. There was discussion on where the Girl Scouts can meet while repairs are ongoing at the Community Center and Councilor C. Everngham encouraged Stacy Yates to reach out to Pastor Sandy to see if there was a possibility to meet at Cokesbury.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from January 4, 2022 through February 7, 2022 totaled \$101,179.46. Motion by J. Laird second by M. Manerchia to approve payment of Borough bills. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by C. Everngham second by M. Manerchia to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Andrew Weldon
Borough Secretary