

January 3, 2022

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening January 3, 2022, 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers.

OATH OF OFFICE

Magisterial District Judge David Griffin administered the oath of office to Mayor Gene Taylor, Councilors Cheryl Everngham, Joseph Flynn, Brian Mercadante, and Tax Collector Jillian Hudson.

CALL TO ORDER

Gene Taylor, Mayor, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors William Cox, Cheryl Everngham, Paula Ewing, Joseph Flynn, Josephine Laird, Michael Manerchia, and Brian Mercadante. Also present were Mayor Gene Taylor and Borough Manager Andrew Weldon.

COUNCIL AND BOROUGH REORGANIZATION

Mayor Taylor stated that this was a reorganization meeting and requested nominations for President and Vice-President of Council.

Motion by W. Cox to nominate Josephine Laird as President of Borough Council. J. Flynn, C. Everngham, W. Cox, B. Mercadante, P. Ewing - YES; M. Manerchia - NO. Motion carried 5-1.

Motion by J. Laird to nominate William Cox as Vice-President of Borough Council. All in favor.

Motion by W. Cox to nominate Joseph Flynn as President Pro Tem who will preside in the event that both the President and Vice-President are absent from a meeting at which there is still a quorum. All in favor.

Motion by J. Flynn to nominate Robert Kersey as Chairman of the Vacancy Board. J. Flynn, C. Everngham, W. Cox, J. Laird, B. Mercadante, P. Ewing – YES; M. Manerchia – NO. Motion carried 6-1.

Councilor P. Ewing advanced a motion continuing the appointment of Mark P. Much as Borough Solicitor. Motion was seconded by J. Flynn. All in favor.

Councilor M. Manerchia advanced a motion continuing the appointment of Charles J. Catania, Jr. as Borough Engineer. Motion was seconded by W. Cox. All in favor.

Councilor P. Ewing advanced a motion continuing the appointment of Michelle Fanelli as Health Officer until Delaware County's Health Department assumes this role for the Borough of Marcus Hook, at which point Michelle Fanelli will serve in a backup/as-needed capacity. Motion was seconded by M. Manerchia. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia 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 December totaled \$136,310.53. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to receive and deposit. All in favor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager reported that a correction was needed to be made with the 2022 Budget. The total expenditures for 2022 were previously reported at \$6,094,202. The total expenditures for 2022 are updated to total \$6,099,202. With the difference of \$5,000 resulting from higher than budgeted costs associated with outfitting the new patrol vehicle. Motion by P. Ewing second by W. Cox to approve the 2022 Budget correction as presented. All in favor.

Manager advised that the Borough renewed its 2022 Workers' Compensation, Employer's Liability and Heart and Lung/Act 477 coverages effective January 1, 2022, at a premium rate of \$47,457, a \$1,549 decrease from the previous year primarily attributable to an increase to the Scheduled Credit and a decrease in the Borough's Experience Modification Factor. Motion by W. Cox second by B. Mercadante to record and file. All in favor.

Manager presented Borough Resolution No. R-22-1, a Fee Schedule Resolution, authorizing fees and charges pursuant to the codified ordinances of the Borough and/or as allowed under Pennsylvania state law. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to adopt Resolution No. R-22-1. All in favor.

Manager presented Borough Resolution No. R-22-2, a Resolution appointing a voting delegate as well as an alternate and second alternate voting delegates to the Delaware County Tax Collection Committee, which oversees the collection and disbursement of local Earned Income Taxes in accordance with Act 32 of 2008. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to adopt Resolution No. R-22-2. All in favor.

Manager presented Borough Resolution No. R-22-3, a Resolution of the Borough of Marcus Hook updating the Borough's Official Sewage Facilities Plan, an Act 537 Update. Motion by J. Flynn second by W. Cox to adopt Resolution No. R-22-3. J. Flynn, C. Evernham, W. Cox, J. Laird, B. Mercadante, P. Ewing – YES; M. Manerchia – NO. Motion carried 6-1.

Manager presented Amendment No. 1 to the Pipeline Easement Agreement between the Borough of Marcus Hook and Messer North America, Inc. authorizing Messer to continue operation and maintenance of an underground 6" nitrogen gas pipeline within the Borough right-of-way of 4th Street. This amendment runs for five years with an annual fee of \$20,000, beginning on June 5, 2021. Motion by J. Flynn second by P. Ewing to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Pipeline Easement Agreement with Messer North America, Inc. All in favor.

Manager mentioned that the Fall/Winter 2021 edition of the Marcus Hook News was distributed on December 22, 2021. The printing was the 64th edition of this publication since its inception in 1983. Motion W. Cox second by J. Flynn to record and file. All in favor.

Manager presented the Borough of Marcus Hook's COVID-19 Illness Reporting, Quarantine, and Return to Work Procedures Version 2, which provide guidance for employees who may be COVID-19 positive, have been exposed to COVID-19, or are showing symptoms of COVID-19 in the workplace. Motion by M. Manerchia second by P. Ewing to approve and adopt the Borough of Marcus Hook's Updated COVID-19 Illness Reporting, Quarantine, and Return to Work Procedures Version 2. All in favor.

Manager presented the Monthly Code Enforcement Report for the month of December, 2021. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and file the Monthly Code Enforcement Report. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Taylor presented the Police Report and related statistics for the month of December, 2021. Motion by P. Ewing second by W. Cox to receive and file the Mayor's Public Safety Report. All in favor.

Mayor Taylor recommended the reappointment of the following part time police officers for 2022: John Kuryan, Christopher Reynolds, Matthew Elliott, Justin Fornwalt, Justin Major, Jeremy Baker, Jose Rivera, and Chad Grzesnikowski. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to reappoint the above-named part time police officers for 2022.

Letter of resignation received from Robert L. Kersey Sr. as Emergency Management Coordinator in the Borough of Marcus Hook effective December 31, 2021. Motion by J. Flynn second by P. Ewing to accept the resignation of Robert L. Kersey Sr. from the Emergency Management Coordinator position effective December 31, 2021. All in favor.

Manager noted that former Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department Fire Chief and current President of the Department, Alfonse Brooks, has expressed interest in the Emergency Management Coordinator position in the Borough of Marcus Hook. Motion by M. Manerchia second by J. Flynn to forward the nomination of Alfonse Brooks to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for consideration of appointment of a local Emergency Management Coordinator in the Borough of Marcus Hook. All in favor.

PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

Manager reported that the Recreation and Park Board's Brunch with Santa Event, with the Marcus Hook Police Department on hand, was held on December 18, 2021, there were two sessions for children to attend due to the large number of children. 114 Borough children received gifts. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Everngham to record and file. All in favor.

Letter received from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, dated December 1, 2021, advising that the Coastal Zone Grant Application submitted for the Market Square Memorial Park Delaware River Pier Removal and Reconstruction Master Plan, had been approved for funding by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAH), in the amount of \$40,000. Motion by C. Everngham second by M. Manerchia to receive and file. All in favor.

On December 30, 2021 Governor Wolf announced the recipients of grants administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for recreation and park projects across Pennsylvania. Marcus Hook Borough was approved for \$43,800 for the Market Square Memorial Park Delaware River Pier Master Site Development Plan. Motion by C. Everngham second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Manager reported that the Borough's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program application (48th Year / FY 2022) for the Viscose Village Streetscape Project was submitted to the Delaware County Office of Housing and Community Development on December 16, 2021. CDBG funds requested totaled \$218,000 based on the construction cost estimate for streetscape work on Cedar Street from Pine to Chestnut Street. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

Manager reported that a demolition permit application has been received from Alliance Environmental Systems, Inc. for the asbestos remediation and demolition of buildings 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 13 on the East 10th Street/FMC Site. The Land Development/Lot Consolidation plan for this site was conditionally approved by Borough Council at the meeting on November 9, 2021. Motion by J. Flynn second by P. Ewing to record and file. All in favor.

Manager reported that a "Town Hall" Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM at the Marcus Hook Community Center for the purpose of having Alliance Environmental, demolition contractors of the former FMC/East 10th Street site, provide a general overview of the building demolition as well as have a resident question and answer session. Motion by P. Ewing second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

ENVIRONMENT

Letter received from Paula Ewing, advising of her resignation from the Environmental Advisory Council effective December 31, 2021. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to receive and file. All in favor.

LIBRARY

Letter received from Paula Ewing, advising of her resignation from the Library Board effective December 31, 2021. Motion by C. Evernham second by J. Flynn to receive and file. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to reappoint the following individuals to various boards and commissions: Stacy Yates and Tameka Gibson to the Recreation and Park Board - 5 year term expiring December 31, 2026; Debra Johenning to the Library Board - 3 year term expiring December 31, 2024; William Cox to the Planning Commission - 4 year term expiring December 31, 2025; Charles Schiliro to the Zoning Hearing Board – 5 year term expiring December 31, 2026. All in favor.

There are currently vacancies on the following boards/commissions: One vacancy on the Library Board – 3 year term, meet quarterly. Two vacancies on the Shade Tree Commission – 3 year term, meet as needed. One vacancy on the Environmental Advisory Council – 3 year term, meet monthly.

Councilor P. Ewing read the MHTFD Fire Report for the month of December, 2021.

Mayor G. Taylor and Borough Council wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Councilor J. Flynn gave a shout out to the Marcus Hook Police Department for participating in the Brunch with Santa Event on December 18, 2021. Joe thanked Chief Ireland and the rest of the department who were there serving food to kids and their presence was very much appreciated. Joe also mentioned that several parents approached him and stated how the gifts that were given to their children were the only gifts they would receive this year, so he was especially appreciative of the efforts from everyone to pull this together for Borough children.

Councilor M. Manerchia expressed his appreciation for the Brunch with Santa Event, and reminded residents that it's getting colder and a snow storm is in the forecast so be careful not to trip/slip and fall. Michael also expressed his hope for the pandemic to finally end.

Councilor C. Evernham reminded residents to come to the Town Hall Meeting, to discuss the Former FMC/E. 10th Street site demolition, scheduled for Wednesday, January 12 at 5:30 PM at the Marcus Hook Community Center.

Councilor W. Cox thanked all of the Council Committees as well as Departments in the Borough, and noted how they all did a good job this past year.

Councilor P. Ewing congratulated all of the newly re-elected and elected officials.

Mayor G. Taylor said good job to all of the newly re-elected and elected officials.

Councilor B. Mercadante thanked all of the Borough Committees and Departments, and expressed his appreciation for their hard work. Brian also cautioned everyone not to let their guard down while we all try to be vigilant with the COVID-19 virus.

Councilor J. Laird said congratulations and expressed how proud of everyone who ran in the most recent election she was. Josephine also wished her best to the Recreation and Park Board and noted Borough Council's appreciation for their hard work.

Chief J. Ireland wished everyone a Merry Christmas and noted the good job the Marcus Hook Highway Department did in decorating the town and its buildings. John also expressed his appreciation and said good job to the Recreation and Park Board for all they do.

Manager A. Weldon congratulated the newly re-elected and elected officials. Andrew informed the public that all of the parcels included in the land development/lot consolidation plan on the former FMC/E. 10th Street site had officially closed and were conveyed to Duke Realty as the new owners. Councilor M. Manerchia questioned whether these properties would be reassessed based on the sale price. Andrew noted that these properties were currently under appeal and it looked like the sale price would be the basis for the new assessment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lorraine Daliessio, 1050 Yates Avenue, reminded residents that the Environmental Advisory Council has a conference call scheduled at 5:30 PM on Thursday, January 6th in place of their normal in-person meeting. Lorraine reminded all of the members with an email. Lorraine mentioned the fact that the EAC tried to have an in-person meeting last month at the Marcus Hook Community Center, but only 5 people showed up. Lorraine will keep sending meeting invites to the group. Lorraine also mentioned how she has invited residents from our neighboring towns to participate in these meetings, one from Lower Chichester and one from Trainer Borough. Lorraine noted that the last in-person meeting for the EAC was back in March, 2020, there have been phone calls and discussions since, but no official meetings where a quorum has been present, however the local industry has participated and she expects that to continue.

Lorraine also mentioned that a resident organization with the focus on promoting public health and providing education to residents is now official. Lorraine mentioned that there were by-laws and meetings have been scheduled for this organization. This organization hopes to work with local industry as their neighbor. Lorraine concluded that the leadership group for this organization was comprised of five individuals, some of whom live in the 19061 zip code, and others who are more regional.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from December 7, 2021 through January 3, 2022 totaled \$95,914.45. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to approve payment of Borough bills. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by M. Manerchia second by P. Ewing to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Andrew Weldon
Borough Secretary