

June 3, 2019

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening June 3, 2019, 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present were Councillors William Cox, Paula Ewing, 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 May totaled \$282,016.88. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Kennard to receive and deposit. All in favor.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Tom Harmon who served as the Grand Marshal for the 2019 Memorial Day Parade in Marcus Hook Borough. Tom served in Vietnam where he was wounded and subsequently awarded the Purple Heart. Thank you to Tom for his service to the Country and the Borough.

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Borough Resident, Adham Fathy who is graduating from Chichester High School this month with honors and as a member of both the National and Spanish Honor Societies. Adham also graduates as a gifted athlete who played varsity football and was on the varsity swimming and track teams for his entire high school career. Adham is planning on attending Keystone College in the fall to pursue a master's degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology with plans to attend law school.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Positively acknowledged were the girls from Girl Scout Troop 51922 and Troop Leader Jessica DeStefano who cleaned up and planted flowers at the war memorials in Market Square Memorial Park on Saturday, May 18th. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and file. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Manager requested an unbudgeted allocation of Capital Reserve Funds in the amount of \$23,698.01 to enter into a 5 year agreement with Cody Systems for 11 user licenses for the Cody Records Anywhere System, Enhanced Property & Evidence with Barcoding with Data Importing, as well as 5 On-Site Implementation Service Days, and a Subscription License for TraCS Interface for Pennsylvania Citations, Warnings and Crash Reporting. Additionally, requesting an unbudgeted allocation of General Funds in the amount of \$2,350.15 to enter into a 4 year agreement with Cody Systems for Cobra.net. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to enter into a 5 year agreement with Cody Systems for the Cody Records Anywhere System, Enhanced Property & Evidence with Barcoding with Data Importing, as well as 5 On-Site Implementation Service Days, and a Subscription License for TraCS Interface for Pennsylvania Citations, Warnings and Crash Reporting, as well as enter into a 4 year agreement with Cody Systems for Cobra.net. All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Manager mentioned that the Borough's e-waste and shredding event was held on Saturday, May 11th, with 21 televisions being dropped off to be recycled and three totes filled with shredding from Borough Residents. Motion by J. Kennard second by P. Ewing to receive and file. All in favor.

PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

Positively acknowledged were the members of the Marcus Hook Borough and Recreation and Park Board and Marcus Hook Highway Department who helped coordinate and work the annual Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 25th, 2019. Motion by J. Kennard second by C. Evernham to receive and file. All in favor.

Councillor Joe Flynn will be hosting the 10th Annual Fishing Derby on Father's Day, June 16th, 2019 from 10:00 AM – 12:15 PM at the Market Square Memorial Park and Marcus Hook Fishing Pier. Sign-ups will take place at 9:00 AM and awards will be presented at 12:30 PM. Motion by M. Manerchia second by P. Ewing to receive and file. All in favor.

Manager reported that tree work at two Borough parks has commenced by Platt & Company. The services include the removal of two large London Plane Trees at Haebel Plaza and the pruning of two other trees in this park. At Market Square Memorial Park a Silver Maple tree will be pruned of growth toward electric wires and removal of dead and diseased limbs. Lastly, large stumps and roots from three Zelkova trees which were located adjacent to the river promenade will be professionally ground. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and file. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor J. Laird reported that the MHTFD in May responded to 26 fire alarms.

Councilor W. Cox noted how great the Memorial Day Parade was and thanked Councilor C. Evernham, Sara Malascalza, and Pat Koch for their help during the parade. Councilor W. Cox also mentioned that he spoke to the chief editor from the Delco Times and noted how they provided no coverage of the Borough's Memorial Day Parade, despite being notified by the Borough by way of a press release; with reason given that they didn't have enough help to do so, yet provided coverage of Media, PA's Parade.

Councilor J. Kennard thanked Adham Fathey for all of his hard work and congratulated him on his achievements.

Manager A. Weldon reminded residents that the County is hosting a voting machine demonstration at the Aston Community Center on Thursday, June 6th from 4PM – 7PM. All are welcome.

Councilor P. Ewing noted how beautiful the Memorial Day Parade was this year.

Councilor M. Manerchia noted how 85 – 90% of the trees in the Borough are pruned and maintained by the Borough's Highway Department so if residents see a need for pruning or other tree maintenance then to call the Municipal Building to report the issue. Also, if residents notice potholes, please call the Municipal Building to report.

Mayor G. Taylor wished a Happy Father's Day to all of the dad's out there. Mayor G. Taylor also reminded resident that school is out next week so please be aware and careful when driving or traveling in the Borough.

Councilor J. Laird mentioned how great the parade was and thanked everyone involved for their time in setting it up. Councilor J. Laird also informed Manager A. Weldon that there was a pothole in the alley (Rennie Ln) behind Green Street that needs to be filled.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lorraine Daliessio, 1050 Yates Avenue, noted that the last Environmental Advisory Council meeting until September is scheduled for this Thursday, June 6th at the Marcus Hook Community Center at 5:30 PM. Lorraine also mentioned that she drafted and sent a letter to Senator Tom Killion explaining the issues the Borough been having with rail traffic over the 4th Street rail corridor and how that will increase when Braskem's rail yard is fully operational, she forwarded this letter to Councilor M. Manerchia and Manager A. Weldon. Lorraine informed everyone that the Marine Corp League of Upland, PA was looking for additional volunteers, and you don't need to have served in the military to be eligible.

Lorraine also brought up a concern relating to an incident that occurred on Rt 13/10th Street where a motorist observed three cats being ejected from a car in front of them and the negative response they received from both the gate workers at the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex (MHIC) as well as the Marcus Hook Police Department.

Police Chief J. Ireland commented that there is a procedure and ordinance in place when dealing with stray animals; both cats and dogs. However the Borough's animal control officer, Brandywine Valley SPCA will only take calls from the Police Department, not the general public. Police Chief J. Ireland further noted that the MHIC also has procedures to follow and a breach in their fence line is considered a reportable event to the local police department.

James Erickson, 2605 Wilson Ave. Wilmington, DE, Vice-chair of the 7th District in New Castle County, DE noted that he was driving his vehicle on Rt.13/10th Street and witnessed three cats being ejected from a vehicle in front of his in the early afternoon of Sunday, May 26th. James went on to explain the graphic nature of what happened to one of the cats that subsequently was injured and ultimately deceased. James noted that one of the other injured cats ran into the Energy Transfer Partners (ETP) tank area at MHIC and when he was trying to get a gate worker's attention, he came out and screamed at him and told him he could be arrested. James noted that he had a good conversation with Police Chief J. Ireland and determined the vehicle in question to be a white sedan with no additional information. James said his biggest concern, aside from that of the cats, was the way he and his wife were treated by the workers at MHIC. James did note that the Borough's animal control phone number was not provided to him, and Police Chief J. Ireland explained that would only be used if the animal were in need of medical care, as opposed to this case where this animal had died. James continued that he and his wife buried the cat at their home and had offered to pay for the costs to rehabilitate the other injured cat. James also continued that in his opinion, cats should be considered domesticated animals instead of wildlife.

Police Chief J. Ireland noted that he was under the impression cats were considered wildlife by the state. He reached out to the Fish and Game Commission and they explained that they consider cats domesticated animals. When Police Chief J. Ireland asked about feral cats, the Fish and Game Commission explained that they do nothing with cats. Police Chief J. Ireland stressed that the most important point here was trying to figure out who did this horrific act and bringing that party to justice. When Chief J. Ireland was asked by James Erickson if the Borough knew which state the vehicle was registered in, the Chief noted he would have to double check the surveillance video.

Councilor M. Manerchia noted that one of his biggest concerns, aside from the actual crime that was committed, was that someone asked for aid and was shunned by ETP. Police Chief J. Ireland noted that he has spoken to an ETP worker who was on scene when this occurred and they noted they were looking into finding the injured cat that went into the MHIC. Councilor M. Manerchia noted that he will mention this to ETP and that they should provide aid to anyone who needs it. Councilor M. Manerchia also requested Manager A. Weldon communicate these concerns to ETP.

Karyle Alessi, 40 Maple Street noted that in her opinion cats are domesticated animals.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from May 7, 2019 through June 3, 2019 totaled \$171,641.10. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Kennard 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 7:37 PM.

Andrew Weldon
Borough Secretary