

June 1, 2020

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening June 1, 2020, 7:00 PM, via Teleconference due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

#### 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, Borough Manager Andrew Weldon, and Police Chief John Ireland.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by W. Cox 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 May totaled \$253,433.12. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and deposit. All in favor.

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager noted that the Borough of Marcus Hook received a check in the amount of \$10,120.91 from Charles Taylor on behalf of the Mickey Vernon Fund. This fund was established for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining the Mickey Vernon statue that sits at the front of Mickey Vernon Park in the Borough. The Borough will administer the remaining dollars from this fund to be used solely towards the upkeep of the Mickey Vernon Statue. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and deposit a check in the amount of \$10,120.91 from the Mickey Vernon Fund to be used for the upkeep of the Mickey Vernon statue in Mickey Vernon Park. All in favor.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Taylor presented the Police Report and related statistics for the month of May, 2020. Motion by W. Cox second by P. Ewing to receive and file the Mayor's Public Safety Report. All in favor.

Mayor Taylor recommended the appointment of Justin Major as part-time police officer, upon completion of all required clearances. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to appoint Justin Major to the position of part-time police officer, upon completion of all required clearances. All in favor.

#### PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Manager reported that a Position Vacancy Announcement was posted for the position of one part-time Laborer for the Highway Department, applications received, and interviews conducted. Slayde Turner was offered and accepted the position of part-time laborer; first work day was May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Kennard to approve and ratify the appointment of Slayde Turner to a part-time position with the Highway Department. All in favor.

## PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

In acknowledgment of Arbor Day celebrated in Pennsylvania on April 24, 2020 Marcus Hook Borough planted a Yellowwood tree (*Cladratis Kentukea*) at Haebel Plaza. There was no ceremony this year due to the Covid-19 Virus. Marcus Hook Borough was recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 35th straight year. Motion by P. Ewing second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

Manager reported that the proposal of All Seasons Landscaping Company for the Market Square Memorial Park Landscape Restoration Project was accepted and signed on May 15, 2020 in the amount of \$20,735.00. Motion by J. Kennard second by P. Ewing to record and file. All in favor.

The Marcus Hook Fishing Pier was re-inspected by Urban Engineers on May 12, 2020. This annual inspection takes place to ensure the pier is in safe condition to open for the Spring, Summer, and Fall months. Urban Engineers noted 10 pilings that are now categorized as "Critical", due to the state of deterioration. Urban Engineers noted that 38 pilings are rated at medium priority, 31 pilings are rated at high priority, and 10 pilings are rated at critical priority. As such, it is their recommendation that the pier be closed to the public until repairs to the critical elements can be made. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to receive and file. All in favor.

## ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ernel Co., Inc. is planning to mobilize and begin work on the Spruce Street Streetscape Project the week of June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This project is expected to last approximately eight to ten weeks, and will include new curbs/sidewalks, street repaving, as well as historically accurate streetlamps to beautify Spruce Street. The portion of the project from Plaza Street to Pine Street, in the amount of \$158,470 is being paid for by way of Community Development Block Grant funding and the portion of the project from Pine Street to Chestnut Street, in the amount of \$142,900 is being paid for by way of Borough Capital Expenditure funds. Motion by P. Ewing second by M. Manerchia to record and file.

Manager advised that the Delaware County Consolidated Plan for Community Planning and Development Programs and the FY2020 Action Plan, a requirement for the Community Development Block Program, was approved by Delaware County Council on May 20, 2020 and did not include in the proposed use of funds the project submitted by Marcus Hook Borough, \$391,250 for the Viscose Village Streetscape Improvement Project – Cedar Street. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Kennard to record and file. All in favor.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

Manager read a statement from Mayor and Borough Council regarding the death of George Floyd and public reaction to his death that has unfolded in the last week. "Our hearts are with the family of George Floyd, and the unspeakable events that took place while he was in police custody on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, that ultimately lead to his death. We respect the right to assemble, and recognize this as a fundamental pillar to our society and freedoms as Americans. The judicial system is now tasked with looking at the events that transpired last week, and will ultimately come to a conclusion how the individuals involved in this event will be held accountable. Our hope is that while the legal proceedings play out, any assemblages of people take place in a peaceful manner."

Manager noted that the summer concert schedule for 2020 has been postponed to the following dates and times:

- Boy in Black – July 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM
- Wallstreet – August 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM
- Big Band of the Valley – August 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM

- Reunion – August 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM
- South Philly String Band – August 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM

Manager noted that for this year's concerts and due to COVID-19 we would not be serving food.

Manager read two public comments that were received, both relating to residential trash pick-up in the Borough. Shannon Tucker of 42 Maple Street and Kenny Smith of 17 Maple Street both noted that trash has been left in their cans and that the cans are getting damaged when the trash collector's throw their cans, as well as lids going missing. Manager noted that these concerns have been addressed with B&L Trash Disposal, but informed the residents that if it continues to ensure they notify the Borough.

Councilor W. Cox asked Chief Ireland what the policy was for subduing a person if the need arose. Chief Ireland noted that the Marcus Hook Police Department has both an arrest and a use of force policy that all of our officers have been trained on, however Chief Ireland noted that kneeling on the back of a suspect's neck is not part of our policy.

Councilor M. Manerchia noted that it's hard to keep trash can lids with the trash cans due to the fact that on windy days these can get blown away. Councilor M. Manerchia noted that his lids have ended up across the street in the park due to the wind. Councilor M. Manerchia finally noted that residents should be taking care of their trash cans by cleaning them, because this can cause bags to get stuck in the bottom.

Mayor G. Taylor wished all of the fathers out there a Happy Father's Day. Mayor G. Taylor brought up the idea of putting a dog park at the lot on Yates Avenue, instead of at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Lot. Finally, Mayor G. Taylor asked about the benches at Mickey Vernon Park, the old black benches were removed so he was asking what would be going back in. Manager noted that he wanted to ensure something nice went back in as the playground had just been completed so he would get with our Highway Foreman to figure out what we needed down there in the way of benches and trash cans and get these in ASAP.

#### APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from May 5, 2020 through June 1, 2020 totaled \$116,918.06. Motion by W. Cox 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 7:25 PM.

Andrew Weldon  
Borough Secretary