

March 2, 2020

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening March 2, 2020, 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, Cheryl Evernham, Paula Ewing, Joseph Flynn, 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 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 February totaled \$323,772.43. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and deposit. All in favor.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Energy Transfer presented the Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department with a check in the amount of \$51,901 to be used to purchase equipment for the fire house. These funds were obtained through Energy Transfer's First Responder Fund, which is a grant program with the goal of supporting first responder organizations to ensure safe operations and emergency preparedness throughout our operational area.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager noted that unpaid 2019 Borough real estate taxes in the amount of \$67,127.68 was submitted to the Delaware County Tax Claim Bureau by the Borough Tax Collector for collection as delinquent. The percent of Borough real estate taxes collected for 2019 was 97.01%. In addition, delinquent 2019 interim tax bills in the amount of \$865.88 were submitted to the Delaware County Tax Claim Bureau by the Borough Tax Collector for collection as delinquent. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to receive and file. All in favor.

Manager presented an amendment to the Boroughwide camera system in the amount of \$10,539. This is for an additional camera and associated equipment to be installed in the Borough. Motion by P. Ewing second by M. Manerchia to approve this amendment in the amount of \$10,539 for the camera system. All in favor.

Manager requested an unbudgeted allocation of \$22,995 to be used to purchase a replacement sign to be installed in front of the Marcus Hook Police Station and Mary M. Campbell Library at 1015 Green Street from KC Sign & Awnings. The new sign will be illuminated and able to be programmed to display messages and other important information/messages the Borough wishes to convey to residents. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to approve an unbudgeted allocation in the amount of \$22,995 to be used to purchase a replacement LED sign for 1015 Green Street from KC Sign & Awnings. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

The Borough of Marcus Hook has extended the CodeRED Services Agreement with OnSolve, LLC for the period March 12, 2020 – March 11, 2021 at an annual cost of \$2,500. As part of the proposal from Honeywell International, as agreed upon by Borough Council at the March 3, 2014 Council Meeting, the costs of the notification system will be reimbursed by Honeywell International for a period of 15 years. Motion by J. Flynn second by W. Cox to receive and file. All in favor.

Marcus Hook Borough submitted an application for Energy Transfer's First Responder Fund in the amount of \$330,825. This is to cover the cost of equipment and installation of the state of the art camera system and access control system the Borough will be installing in 2020. This system will have an immediate and direct positive impact on the Marcus Hook Police Department and their ability to solve and prevent crimes taking place in the Borough. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to record and file. All in favor.

Mayor Taylor noted the need for an additional alternate crossing guard and requested the appointment of Megan Mann. Motion by J. Flynn second by W. Cox to appoint Megan Mann, 800 Block of Green Street, as an alternate crossing guard. All in favor.

PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

Acknowledged and summarized was the 2019 Annual Report of the Marcus Hook Shade Tree Commission which included the planned 2020 program submitted to Borough Council on February 18, 2020. This year's Arbor Day program is scheduled for Friday, April 24th at 2:30 PM, at Robert Haebel Plaza park. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to receive and file the 2019 Annual Report of the Shade Tree Commission. All in favor.

Marcus Hook Recreation and Park Board are hosting Brunch with the Easter Bunny, Saturday, March 28th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM for ages infant to 10 years. Signups for Brunch with the Easter Bunny are required and will take place on March 10th and 11th, 2020 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, or by emailing the rec board at rec@marcushookboro.org. Motion by W. Cox second by P. Ewing to record and file. All in favor.

Council Recreation Committee Chair C. Evernham announced the entertainment line-up for the Marcus Hook Summer Music Festival - 2020, the thirty-fourth consecutive year, as follows: June 30 – Diamond State Concert Band, July 7 – Boy in Black, July 14 – Wall Street, July 21 – Big Band of the Valley, July 28 – Reunion, and Aug 4 – South Philly String Band. Motion by M. Manerchia second by P. Ewing to approve the Entertainment Contracts totaling in the amount of \$9,800 for the summer concerts on June 30th, July 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, & August 4th at Market Square Memorial Park. All in favor.

Manager reminded residents that the Annual Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Saturday, May 23rd, 2020 starting at 12 Noon. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to approve the Entertainment Contracts totaling in the amount of \$15,900 for the Memorial Day Parade. All in favor.

Letter was received from James Burgess, 200 Market Street, noting his interest to serve on the Shade Tree Commission. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to appoint James Burgess, 200 Market Street, to the Shade Tree Commission, term to expire on December 31, 2021. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor P. Ewing reported that the MHTFD in February responded to 28 fire alarms.

Councilor J. Flynn reminded residents that the new voting machines will be available and on display here at the Mary M. Campbell Library on Monday, March 23rd from 2 – 5PM.

Councilor J. Laird mentioned that the League of Women Voters will be reaching out to the judges to help familiarize them with the new machines.

Councilor W. Cox asked if anyone knew of any Veterans to honor at our Memorial Day Parade on May 23rd. Councilor W. Cox even offered to provide transportation for the Veteran to the parade, if needed.

Councilor M. Manerchia asked if the flags had been ordered for the new Council Chambers. Manager Weldon noted that they hadn't yet been ordered but would be in place before the first Council Meeting on April 6th, 2020. Councilor M. Manerchia also questioned why the Borough's insurance company would use the phrase, "Act of God" when referring to a wind storm and the resultant damage from the storm. Finally, Councilor M. Manerchia let residents know that if they were curious about river dredging, they could come down to Market Square Memorial Park as dredging is currently underway in the Delaware River.

Manager A. Weldon noted that reassessment letters have been mailed out to each and every property owner in the Borough; these are handled through the Delaware County Board of Assessment. If there are questions regarding the proposed new value of your property, you should call 888-773-7056 between 8:30AM – 4:30PM, Monday through Friday to schedule an informal hearing. Informal hearings requests MUST be made within 10 business days of the date on your letter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Baker, 30 Spruce Street, noted that he has been a resident of the Borough for 76 years and he received a reassessment letter from the County this afternoon and was concerned his taxes were going to be increased because of this. Richard Baker also requested if the Borough could provide a tax break to senior citizens over the age of 65.

Manager Weldon noted that the letter received today was showing a figure that was the estimated Fair Market Value of the property, and this shouldn't be compared to the prior assessed value, as these were different numbers. Manager Weldon explained to residents that if they felt the number on their notice was wrong, and was not representative of the Fair Market Value of their home then they needed to contact the County to schedule an informal hearing to discuss it with someone from Tyler Technologies.

Larry Killinen, 35 Maple Street, noted that large tractor trailers and trucks coming from Energy Transfer are illegally turning north on Market Street/452 and he is concerned that these will soon cause a major accident at this intersection. Larry noted that he is positioned at this intersection as a crossing guard and has seen trucks from C3 Logistics, Dana, and Petridge all make these illegal turns.

Phil Liberatore, Marcus Hook Police Department, noted that Chief Ireland has positioned officers at the intersection of 10th and Market Streets from 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM to ticket these tractor trailers.

Mayor Taylor noted that the stop blocks need to be painted by Road-Con or PennDOT at this intersection to indicate to drivers where they need to stop.

Councilor M. Manerchia noted that once the new camera system is installed, it will give the Borough a better view of trucks making illegal turns onto the Market Street Bridge/452.

Richard Baker, 30 Spruce Street, also noted that dump trucks have been speeding up 10th Street, just past the American Viscose buildings and going into Trainer Borough. Richard questioned why we don't have speed limit signs positioned at the start of each street, specifically Plaza and Spruce Streets, but instead in the middle of those streets.

Tamika Gibson, 1012 Yates Avenue, indicated that she had three things she wanted to ask questions on, the first was what the presentation at the beginning of the meeting was about as she didn't arrive in time for it, Manager Weldon noted it was a check presentation from Energy Transfer for the First Responders' Grant fund to the MHTFD. Next, Tamika commended the Borough for installing speed bumps around town and specifically on Yates Avenue, to make the town a bit safer for children and pedestrians. Finally, Tamika noted that her daughter has been getting tickets because she doesn't have a parking sticker and thought this was ridiculous because she lives with her. It was explained to Tamika that parking stickers are disbursed at a rate of one per licensed driver, per Marcus Hook address, therefore her daughter should come to the Municipal Building and apply for a sticker and attach it to her car to prevent getting tickets going forward.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from February 4, 2020 through March 2, 2020 totaled \$258,895.31. Motion by C. Evernham second by P. Ewing 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