

March 4, 2024

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Tuesday evening, March 4, 2024, 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors Cheryl Evernham, Joseph Flynn, John Johnson, Larry Killinen, Josephine Laird, Michael Manerchia, and Janette Weigand. Also present was Mayor Gene Taylor and Borough Manager Deborah Hurst.

Manager requested a motion to promote Detective Daniel Barnett to Police Sergeant. Motion by M. Manerchia, seconded by J. Flynn. All in favor.

President Laird introduced the Honorable Dave Griffin who swore in Sergeant Barnett.

Chief Ireland who read Sergeant Barnett's biography and congratulated him on his promotion.

Sergeant Barnett thanked Chief Ireland, Mayor Taylor and Council for their continued support and his promotion to Sergeant.

Solicitor Mark Much read a letter from Bethel Township thanking Chief Ireland with his help with the hiring of a Bethel Township Chief. His knowledge was invaluable and they thanked him sincerely with all his help!

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by L. Killinen, seconded 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 2024 totaled \$278,543.50. Motion by C. Evernham, seconded by L. Killinen to receive and deposit. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from February 6, 2024 through March 4, 2024 totaled \$227,552.34. Motion by J. Flynn, seconded by L. Killinen to approve payment of Borough bills. All in favor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager presented the Monthly Code Enforcement Reports for the month of February 2024. Motion by L. Killinen, seconded by M. Manerchia to receive and file the Monthly Code Enforcement Report.

Manager requested authorization to secure funds for the purchase of a new fire truck up to \$1,000,000. Motion by L. Killinen, seconded by J. Flynn. All in favor.

Manager announced that the Mayor, Council and Chief Ireland met with representative from Random Productions LLC on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss filming an HBO series at a property at 4 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and the Community Center, 7

Delaware Avenue, and the use of Borough Lot at 13 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street for the placement of a generator on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Fee to be paid for the use of the lot for the generator totals \$250.00. Manager requested a motion to approve the Agreement between Random Productions LLC to film at these locations in March and April and the rental of the lot at 13 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street for the placement of a generator and the costs of all police coverage. Motion by J. Flynn, seconded by M. Manerchia. All in favor.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Taylor presented the Police Report and related statistics for the month of February 2024. Motion by M. Manerchia, seconded by C. Evernham to receive and file the Mayor's Public Safety Report. All in favor.

Manager recommended a motion to accept the low bid from P.J.G. Property Maintenance in the amount of \$51,125.00 to demolish the building at 29 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Motion by M. Manerchia, seconded by L. Killinen. All in favor.

### PARKS, RECREATION AND SHADE TREES

Manager requested a motion to appoint Janette Weigand to the Shade Tree Commission. Motion by M. Manerchia, seconded by L. Killinen. All in favor.

Manager announced that a Borough wide clean-up day will be held on May 18, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. organized by Councilor's Weigand and Killinen. Volunteers are encouraged. Councilor Weigand requested that two highway workers be available that day to pick up the trash collected and to provide them with bags, gloves and grabbers.

Manager requested a motion to approve the low bids, recommended by the engineer, from R. Titter Roofing, LLC in the base amount of \$112,871.00 for the roof replacement at the Community Center; Alternate #1 for replacement of any wood decking that is found to be rotted in the amount of \$16.00; and Alternate #3 for the lower roof on the elevator/stair addition in the amount of \$15,611.00. The roof has a 20 year warranty. Motion by L. Killinen, seconded by J. Johnson. All in favor.

Acknowledged and summarized was the 2023 Annual Report of the Marcus Hook Shade Tree Commission which included the planned 2024 program submitted to Borough Council on February 26, 2024. This year's Arbor Day program is scheduled for Friday, April 26, at Haebel Plaza. In 2023 there was 1 tree planted, 6 trees removed, and 59 trees trimmed/pruned by the Highway Department, and 21 trees pruned by a contracted tree company. Motion by M. Manerchia, seconded by J. Johnson to receive and file the 2023 Annual Report of the Shade Tree Commission. All in favor.

### PLANNING AND ZONING

Manager requested approval of Ordinance O-24-1. This Ordinance was duly advertised in the Delaware County Times on February 12, 2024. This Ordinance amends the code of the Borough of Marcus Hook Chapter 178, entitled subdivision and land development to include both residential and non-residential development under the Recreational Fee-In-Lieu Program. Motion by J. Flynn, seconded by L. Killinen, to approve Ordinance O-24-1.

Manager requested Council approval of Resolution No. R-24-4 amending the "Marcus Hook Borough Fee Schedule" to address a Recreational Fee-In-Lieu Program. Motion by J. Flynn, seconded by L. Killinen, to approve Resolution No. R-24-4. All in favor.

### LIBRARY

1. Braskem's recognition event will be at the library on Thursday, March 7th at 1:00 pm.

2. The library would like to hire Connor Hoffman as Library Assistant, 20 hours per week, \$15.00 per hour. Motion by J. Weigand, seconded by L. Killinen to hire Connor Hoffman as a library assistant to work 20 hours a week at a rate of \$15.00.
3. The library hosted "Teaching kids about handling home emergencies" program. It was very successful.
4. The circulation and computer usage numbers have been continuing to go up.
5. The library is offering various programs for all ages. The library also offers Hotspot (Wi-Fi device), Museum Passes and Library of Things.
6. The library will have Easter Egg Hunts on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am & Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

M. Manerchia asked if Council would consider having a committee for all work and project being done in town with Borough property. President Laird explained that there is a committee already set up.

M. Manerchia's understanding is that Penn Avenue will not be open for another 6 weeks. Mayor Taylor stated that it should be completed by the end of April, weather permitting. M. Manerchia would like to see an ordinance put in use that a time schedule would be brought up and if the schedule is not met, a citation would be issued. Solicitor Much stated that is not necessary. This should be put in the in contract. Even though a committee met and agreed to a timeframe, they need to make sure it is in the land use plan and contract.

C. Evernham stated that during the gas main replacement work, it appears that the road is sinking at corner of 10<sup>th</sup> & Market and the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Yates. President Laird also asked about the fire hydrant. M. Manerchia asked is a call could be made to have them look into these situations and get them repaired.

C. Evernham asked why the lights appear to be blue/purple lights over the bridge. Chief Ireland stated that a call has been put into Higgins about checking into these lights. When the light film get worn, the LED will show purple, which is their natural color. Mrs. Hurst will call Higgins again to follow-up.

L. Killinen has residents asked if speed bumps can be put in on Spruce Street.

Mayor Taylor reminded everyone that daylight savings time is this weekend. Remember to change your clocks, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Mayor wished everyone a Happy Easter. Congratulations to Chief Ireland and Sergeant Barnett.

Tianjia Wang invited everyone to visit the library and Happy Easter.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Coyle, representing 29 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, stated that they have already put in over \$50,000 into the work at this building. Mr. Coyle stated that they have three more days to complete the work. He stated they had a roof permit. They are working on it and stated that the owner does not want the basement filled in and that it none of the Borough's business what the owner wants done with the building. Solicitor Much stated that it is most certainly the Borough's business. This is an unsafe structure. This is unsafe for the residents of the Borough. Solicitor Much read the code of Pennsylvania for what is considered a dangerous property. We have complied with this code. Solicitor Much offered to give them a copy of the code for their reference. The engineer reports that the owner has a report of the first collapse, not the second. A written order for demolition was given to the owner in January. The application they submitted for the demolition was denied by the Borough Engineer Charles Catania. The last thing the Borough wants to do is pay for your building to be demolished. You have been informed through many conversations and correspondence to have your building demolished to make the community residents safe.

Jamil Cottman, 13 Chestnut Street, owns an organization called Team Strike. Team Strike does a lot of youth events in Chester and would like to events within the Borough. He has lived in Marcus Hook for over 15 years. They do mentorship projects for youth as well. Councilor Evernham asked the he attend the Recreation Meeting. The next meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Cottman said he would be glad to attend that meeting to kick around ideas with the board.

Thomas Donohue, Monroe Energy, announced that their PennDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program application was accepted. This will go from Post Road from the 291 spur to the diner at Rennie Lane. There will be a spring and fall clean-up. The spring event is tentatively scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Fire Chief Ken Smith, 37 Walnut Street, has the fire report. He will give it to Councilor Killinen after the meeting for reading at the April meeting. On behalf of the fire company, Chief Smith would like to thank the Council for approving the purchase of a fire truck. It is greatly appreciated.

Darren Laws, thanked the Recreation Board for allowing them to be a part of in the Valentine's Day Bingo event. Councilor Weigand thanked Mr. Laws for his donation. There was a golden glove event in Upper Darby this past weekend. There were 10 young men from Marcus Hook attend this event. All went very well! Mr. Laws spoke to Jen Frazer from the Chichester School Board about holding a Career Fair. Also, they are looking to do a meet and greet with Marcus Hook and Chester Basketball alumni players.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by L. Killinen, seconded by M. Manerchia to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Deborah Hurst  
Borough Secretary