

May 6, 2019

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening May 6, 2019, 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

Josephine Laird, Council President, called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was requested for David Holland who passed away on April 28th, 2019. Dave was the Fire Marshall and Director of Emergency Management in Upper Chichester, as well as a former Chief and President of Ogden Fire Company.

ROLL CALL

Present were Councillors William Cox, Cheryl Evernham, Paula Ewing, 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 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 April totaled \$323,158.76. Motion by C. Evernham second by P. Ewing to receive and deposit. All in favor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager noted that Mayor Gene Taylor is being recognized for the Cecil K. Leberknight award, which is for his 10 years of public service to the Borough of Marcus Hook. Gene will be presented this award at the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) 108th Annual Conference on Tuesday, June 11th at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to record and file. All in favor.

Manager noted that Marcus Hook Borough is being recognized and has placed in the Borough News Communications Contest, for the Welcome Brochure prepared by the Marcus Hook Community Development Corporation for the Borough of Marcus Hook. Marcus Hook Borough will be presented an award at the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) 108th Annual Conference on Tuesday, June 11th at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Motion by M. Manerchia second by J. Kennard to record and file. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Police Chief John Ireland was presented with a certificate from the Office of the Secretary of Defense recognizing him on behalf of the Marcus Hook Borough Police Department as a patriotic employer. This certificate was presented, "For Contributing To National Security And Protecting Liberty And Freedom By Supporting Employee Participation In America's National Guard And Reserve Force". Motion by J. Kennard second by W. Cox to record and file. All in favor.

The Marcus Hook Police Department has been awarded a Buckle Up Grant from PennDOT by way of the Highway Safety Network, Inc., to reimburse the Borough for officer's time conducting seatbelt and child seat checks in the Borough. The first mobilization in the Borough of Marcus Hook to conduct these checks will take place between May 13th and June 2nd, 2019 with a reimbursement amount of \$1,800. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Everngham to receive and file. All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Manager presented for the second reading and adoption Borough Ordinance No. O-19-2, amending the Code of the Borough of Marcus Hook, Chapter 191, Vehicles and Traffic, adding a STOP sign on Green Street, North & South, at Fourth Street. This ordinance was duly advertised on April 10, 2019. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Kennard to adopt Ordinance No. O-19-2. All in favor.

Manager mentioned that May is annually recognized as clean-up month in the Borough, therefore in an effort to promote this message, the Borough of Marcus Hook has scheduled a bulk trash pickup and an e-Waste & Shredding event free for Borough residents. The free bulk trash event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8th and is limited to 2 bulk trash items per household. In order to qualify for this bulk trash event, you must fill out an application (available at the Municipal Building) and return it to the Municipal Building by Tuesday, May 7th. The e-Waste and Shredding event is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, rain or shine. This event will be held at the Marcus Hook Highway Garage, located at 1111 Market Street. The Borough is offering one free television disposal, per Borough of Marcus Hook household, additional televisions will be \$25 for normal televisions and \$50 for rear projection/console-type televisions. Motion by C. Everngham second by W. Cox to record and file. All in favor.

Manager recommended participating with Upper and Lower Chichester Townships in a joint bid package for the 2019 Street Improvement Project. Motion by P. Ewing second by C. Everngham to adopt Borough Resolution No. R-19-5 to join with Upper and Lower Chichester Townships in a joint Street Improvement Project with Upper Chichester Township receiving bids, awarding contracts, and billing the Borough of Marcus Hook for its share of total costs. All in favor.

PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

The 2019 Arbor Day Program was held on April 26th at Marcus Hook Elementary School. Two Norway Spruce's were planted at Robert F. Haebel Plaza behind the large war memorial. Kayla Kehres, District Forester Bureau of Forestry Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, presented the Borough with its 34th Year Tree City USA recognition materials. Students from the Marcus Hook Elementary School attended and participated in the program. Motion by J. Kennard second by W. Cox to record and file. All in favor.

Manager reminded residents that the Annual Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Saturday, May 25th, 2019 starting at 12 Noon. Motion by C. Everngham second by J. Kennard to approve the Entertainment Contracts totaling in the amount of \$15,900 for the Memorial Day Parade. All in favor.

Positively acknowledged were the members of the Marcus Hook Recreation and Park Board who coordinated the Brunch with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt on April 6, 2019 at the Community Center. Motion by C. Everngham second by W. Cox to record and file. All in favor.

Councilor Joe Flynn requested Council approval for the 10th Annual Fishing Derby to be held at the Market Square Memorial Park and Marcus Hook Fishing Pier on Sunday, June 16, 2019. Motion by W. Cox second by P. Ewing to approve the scheduling and use of Market Square Memorial Park and Marcus Hook Fishing Pier for the Fishing Derby on Sunday, June 16, 2019, 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM. Sign-ups will be on Sunday, June 16th from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM and awards will be presented at 12:30 PM. All in favor.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Manager announced that SEPTA conducted a public hearing for the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Budget and Fiscal Years 2020-2031 Capital Program and the projects contained therein on April 29th, 2019 at SEPTA Headquarters in Philadelphia, PA. Currently the Borough's SEPTA station is scheduled for modernization and ADA accessibility in the long-term capital budget; from 2025-2031 at an estimated cost of \$22.5 Million. Manager prepared testimony and spoke at this hearing to advocate that this station be moved from the long-term capital budget to the short-term capital budget; 2020-2024 due to the condition of the station and lack of adequate ADA accessibility and certain safety concerns. Motion by M. Manerchia second by P. Ewing to record and file. All in favor.

Letter received from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources congratulating the Borough of Marcus Hook on being selected as a recipient of a grant in the amount of \$85,600 from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program for the betterment of Mickey Vernon Park. This grant will be used to purchase new play equipment, provide better access to the new play areas through ADA accessible walkways, removal and planting of new trees, new fencing, as well as a new backstop for Mickey Vernon 1 Softball Field. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to authorize Catania Engineering Associates to prepare project plans and specifications, and advertise for bids. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor J. Laird reported that the MHTFD in April responded to 22 fire alarms.

Councilor J. Flynn reminded residents that the fishing derby this year is a free event and the first 30 children to sign up with their parents will receive a free T-shirt. Councilor J. Flynn also mentioned that first place will receive a trophy and there's also over \$150 worth of prizes. Councilor J. Flynn wanted to stress that all children should be accompanied by adults for this derby. Finally, Councilor J. Flynn brought up an item that was discussed at the Agenda Review Meeting the previous week, in that Mayor and Council had discussed putting a playground at the river front, perhaps in the open area in front of the Marcus Hook Community Center. Councilor J. Flynn was appreciative of the fact that this project was not completely dead.

Councilor W. Cox wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day and reminded residents of some good housekeeping tips, including cutting their grass and keeping their homes in order as the weather gets nicer. Councilor W. Cox also reminded residents to be cognizant of children out and about in the Borough as the weather gets nicer and they are no longer in school.

Councilor J. Kennard wanted to share an incident that happened at 4th and Market Street approximately two weeks ago, where a train leaving the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex did not stop at the intersection of 4th and Market and almost hit Councilor J. Kennard's car. Councilor J. Kennard stressed that we need some additional traffic control devices at this intersection, possibly gates and lights. There was some back and forth discussion on this with Manager Weldon, Chief Ireland, and the public in attendance. Manager Weldon mentioned the fact that the Borough had met with Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for a grade crossing study that we were still waiting on the final version. Manager Weldon also mentioned that PennDOT would be the funding source for traffic improvements (lights and gates) at these intersections and Chief Ireland noted that these funding dollars from PennDOT

are based on crash data. Therefore since this intersection hasn't had many accidents with automobiles and trains then it would be hard to secure funding from the state for these crossings. Chief Ireland also mentioned that all trains have black boxes and cameras so if there was an incident, please report it so they can go back and retrieve this information.

Councilor P. Ewing congratulated Mayor Taylor on his award from the PSAB.

Councilor C. Everngham expressed her desire that residents would take notice of cleanup month in the Borough, she also noted that trash bags cannot be left at the curb and need to be in an enclosed container.

Councilor M. Manerchia wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day and expressed his congratulations to Mayor Taylor on his award from the PSAB. Councilor M. Manerchia also reminded residents to come out and celebrate Memorial Day and to never forget the Veterans who are to thank for our freedom.

Mayor G. Taylor wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day. Mayor Taylor also wanted to make it known that parking lines need to be repainted in Viscose Village.

Councilor J. Laird wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day and also congratulated Mayor Taylor and Chief Ireland on their awards. Councilor J. Laird also thanked Municipal Clerk Mulholland and Manager Weldon for their hard work throughout the year.

Manager Weldon mentioned to residents that Jeff Kowalczyk and Tyler Land, both of whom work for Barbacane, Thornton & Company LLP came in and spoke to Mayor and Council about the 2018 audit results. Manager Weldon read the summary of audit results to the public. Next year it was discussed that the auditors be present to speak to the public at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pat Koch, 2 E. 9th Street commented that someone should be out in the street with the trains as they come through the intersection at 4th and Market Street. Chief Ireland noted to Mr. Koch that by law, if the engine of the train is leading then they aren't required to put flares out, nor are they required to have anyone in the street at the crossing. Mr. Koch also noted that Election Day is coming up, and it's a very important day.

Lorraine Daliessio, 1050 Yates Avenue brought up that at the last EAC meeting, Braskem notified the EAC that they would be expanding their rail capacity from 4 tracks to 18 tracks, which will certainly mean more rail traffic through the Borough. Lorraine mentioned that she was drafting a letter to send to Sen. Tom Killion to make him aware of resident's frustration at the amount of rail traffic we are seeing through town and to ask for his help. Mayor and Council thought this was a good idea and fully support any rail traffic improvements in the Borough.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from April 2, 2019 through May 6, 2019 totaled \$168,391.21. 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 7:38 PM.

Andrew Weldon
Borough Secretary