

September 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Tuesday evening September 8, 2020, 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 former Marcus Hook Police Officer, David Closs who passed away on August 23rd, 2020.

ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors William Cox, Cheryl Evernham, Paula Ewing, Joseph Flynn, Josephine Laird, and Brian Mercadante. 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 August totaled \$200,023.86. Motion by C. Evernham second by P. Ewing to receive and deposit. All in favor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mayor Taylor administered the oath of office to newly appointed Councilor, Brian Mercadante.

Council President Josephine Laird appointed Councilor Brian Mercadante to the following Borough Council Committees: Chairman – Tax Collection, Vice-Chairman – Trash and Recycling, and Chairman - Library

Council President Josephine Laird appointed Brian Mercadante as a Council representative on the Marcus Hook Community Development Corporation Board of Directors to fill the vacancy on the Board left by the resignation of John Kennard.

Manager noted that the first round of the Hometown Heroes Banner Program closed on August 24th, and the Borough received 63 applications for banners. During the months of September and October, these banners will be printed, with the intention that all banners from the first round of the program are hung by the Veteran's Day Parade to be held in the Borough on Saturday, November 7th, 2020. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to record and file. All in favor.

Manager noted that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection executed a Consent Assessment of Civil Penalty against Sunoco Partners & Marketing Terminals, L.P. for documented air pollution violations. As part of Pennsylvania Act 57, the Borough of Marcus Hook may be eligible to recover 25% of the civil penalty for projects that eliminate or reduce air pollution or for parks, recreation projects, trails or open space. The Borough of Marcus Hook is planning to submit three project proposals to DEP, the first in the amount of \$5,500 for new flagpoles at Market Square Memorial Park, the second in the amount of \$30,000 for new play equipment at Williamson Field, and the third in the amount of \$35,750 for renovations of the Marcus Hook Community Center. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to apply to the Pennsylvania DEP for the three above mentioned projects. All in favor.

Manager presented a Ballot Drop Box License Agreement from the Delaware County Bureau of Elections for the purpose of the County to install a secured ballot drop box and related surveillance equipment and signage at the Marcus Hook Community Center. Motion by J. Flynn second by W. Cox to enter into a Ballot Drop Box License Agreement with Delaware County, and to install a secured ballot drop box and related surveillance equipment and signage at the Marcus Hook Community Center. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Manager noted that in response to Hurricane Isiah, the Borough of Marcus Hook held a Boroughwide bulk trash event in town beginning on Monday, August 17th. The Marcus Hook Highway Department went through town to pick-up any furniture, or other bulk trash items that were damaged as a result of this hurricane, at no cost to property owners. Motion by W. Cox second by P. Ewing to record and file. All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Manager and Council's Highway Committee noted the need to increase staff capacity in the Highway Department and recommended part-time laborer, Slayde Turner, be promoted to a full-time laborer position effective September 8, 2020. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to appoint part-time Highway Department laborer, Slayde Turner, to a full-time laborer position within the Highway Department effective September 8, 2020. All in favor.

Manager reported that the 2020 Street Resurfacing Program was completed the week of August 31st, for Pine Street in Viscose Village. This year's program included the milling, repaving, and striping of the area noted above. Motion by W. Cox second by P. Ewing to record and file. All in favor.

Manager reported that the Streetscape Improvement Program on Spruce Street in Viscose Village has been completed. This project included new curbs, sidewalks, decorative street lamps on Spruce Street, and the milling and repaving of Spruce Street. The project was funded, in part, by way of CDBG funding in the amount of \$196,195, with the remaining project cost of \$142,900 paid from Borough Capital Expenditure Funds. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to record and file. All in favor.

Councilor M. Manerchia arrived for the meeting.

Manager reported that the Borough will be advertising surplus property for sale this month, a 2010 Dodge Charger. Bids can be placed on municibid.com through September 24, 2020 at 2:00 PM, when the auction will close. Motion by W. Cox second by B. Mercadante to record and file. All in favor.

Manager presented for first reading Borough Ordinance No. O-20-3 amending the Code of the Borough of Marcus Hook, Chapter 191, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 74 Stop Intersections, adding a STOP sign on Green Street, North & South, at Third Street. Additionally, amending the Code of the Borough of Marcus Hook, Chapter 191, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 80, Parking Prohibited at All Times, prohibiting parking at any time on the South side of East Eighth Street. Motion by B. Mercadante second by J. Flynn to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance No. O-20-3. All in favor.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Letter received from Carol Sparks indicating her resignation from the Planning Commission. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to accept the resignation of Carol Sparks from the Planning Commission. All in favor.

The Marcus Hook Planning Commission met on Thursday, August 6th, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building to review and provide comment on DELCORA's Act 537 Plan Update. This plan update was done to address the transfer of assets and operation of the DELCORA sanitary sewage system to Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., in accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Act 537 requirements. Planning Commission comments were sent to DELCORA on August, 12th, 2020. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and file Marcus Hook Planning Commission comments to DELCORA on the Act 537 Plan Update prepared July 1st, 2020. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor P. Ewing reported that the MHTFD in August responded to 70 fire alarms.

Mayor, Borough Council, and Manager expressed their warmest welcome to Councilor B. Mercadante and desire to work together for the good of the Borough.

Councilor M. Manerchia reminded residents that the Pirate Festival is still scheduled for September 19th, although it will be a slimmed down version due to COVID-19 this year.

Councilor W. Cox reminded residents that the Veteran's Day Parade is scheduled to take place on November 7th, 2020.

Mayor G. Taylor informed residents that twelve parents were arrested for curfew violations last month, so the Marcus Hook Police Department is out and about. Mayor G. Taylor also commended the Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department on a good save early in August for putting the roof fire out on Spruce Street; the fire could have been much worse.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pat Lakin, 31 Marshal Avenue, wanted to specifically thank Aubrey Mulholland and Andrew Weldon for looking out for her well-being when she came to the Municipal Building in August. Pat also wanted to thank Aubrey and Andrew for their help in getting a banner ordered for her husband.

Skip Morello, 1021 Market Street, welcomed Brian Mercadante to Borough Council and also thanked the Borough and Chief Ireland for helping to implement an ordinance he had suggested in the past, the skateboarding ordinance that was adopted earlier in the year.

Douglas Birch, 1021 Market Street, commended the Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department for their good job with the fire on Spruce Street early in August.

Jackie Holmes, 239 Green Street, wanted to thank everyone for their help in recognizing her mother Alice's 89th birthday, specifically Council President Josephine Laird, Chief John Ireland, and Annie Kersey.

Jackie also commented that she is continuing to see speeding issues on Green Street, and in her opinion these are contractors from Monroe Energy and Energy Transfer, Jackie emphasized that this needs to be corrected. Manager Weldon noted that the Marcus Hook Police Department conducted a traffic study on Green Street and Chief Ireland recommended placing a stop sign at 3rd and Green Streets, and this was already in motion by way of Council approving the request for advertisement earlier in tonight's meeting. Chief Ireland further stated that the stop sign is an active deterrent and something the police can cite drivers for not stopping at, where speed bumps are a passive deterrent and something the police cannot cite.

Finally, Jackie questioned why it always floods at 4th and Green Streets, she said every time it rains it floods there. She further stated that her mother had water up to the second step in her basement during the last storm. Manager Weldon noted that the cost to replace storm sewer piping in the Borough will be in the millions of dollars, and while Council is aware of this issue, we will need to secure some grant funding to make this happen. Councilor M. Manerchia also explained how the sanitary sewer system is owned by DELCORA, but the storm sewer system is owned by the Borough.

Aubrey Daniels, 14 E. Delaware Avenue, commented that during his tenure with the Marcus Hook Highway Department 4th and Green always flooded, and they were often out there with pumps to help alleviate the flooding.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from August 4, 2020 through September 8, 2020 totaled \$605,649.90. Motion by W. Cox second by P. Ewing 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 7:34 PM.

Andrew Weldon
Borough Secretary