

January 4, 2021

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening January 4, 2021, 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 Councilors William Cox, Cheryl Evernham, Paula Ewing, Joseph Flynn, Josephine Laird, Michael Manerchia, and Brian Mercadante. Also present were Mayor Gene Taylor and Borough Manager Andrew Weldon.

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 December totaled \$81,349.95. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to receive and deposit. All in favor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager reported that a correction was needed to be made with the 2021 Budget. The total capital fund revenues for 2021 were previously reported at \$1,211,596. Due to an omission in the 2021 Budget, a final tally revealed the correct 2021 capital fund revenue number to be \$1,337,696. With the difference of \$126,100 resulting from two remaining grant payments from the State of Pennsylvania to the Borough of Marcus Hook: the Mickey Vernon Park Improvements Project in the amount of \$66,900 and the PennDOT 5310 Grant for the Community Bus in the amount of \$59,200. Additionally, total capital fund expenditures for 2021 were previously reported at \$1,709,363. Due to an omission on the 2021 in the 2021 Budget, a final tally revealed the correct 2021 capital fund expenditures number to be \$1,849,033. With the difference of \$139,670 resulting from three capital expenditures the Borough planned to make in 2020 but timing pushed to 2021, the first is replacing the windows at the Marcus Hook Community Center in the amount of \$24,107.50, second is minor playground improvements at Williamson Field in the amount of \$41,652.50, and third is the payment for the Community Bus in the amount of \$73,910. Motion by M. Manerchia second by W. Cox to approve the 2021 Budget corrections as presented. All in favor.

Manager advised that the Borough renewed its 2021 Workers' Compensation, Employer's Liability and Heart and Lung/Act 477 coverages effective January 1, 2021, at a premium rate of \$49,006, a \$3,747 decrease from the previous year primarily attributable to a decrease in the Borough's Experience Modification Factor. Motion by B. Mercadante second by C. Evernham to record and file. All in favor.

Manager presented Borough Resolution No. R-21-1, a Fee Schedule Resolution, authorizing fees and charges pursuant to the codified ordinances of the Borough and/or as allowed under Pennsylvania state law. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to adopt Resolution No. R-21-1. All in favor.

Manager presented the Monthly Code Enforcement Report for the month of December, 2020. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to receive and file the Monthly Code Enforcement Report. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Mayor Taylor recommended the reappointment of the following part time police officers for 2021: James Dalrymple, John Kuryan, Christopher Reynolds, Matthew Elliott, Ryan Feeley, Justin Fornwalt, and Justin Major. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to reappoint the above-named part time police officers for 2021.

Manager noted a letter of resignation was received from part-time police officer, Michael Tierney, effective January 1, 2021. Motion by J. Flynn second by W. Cox to accept Michael Tierney's letter of resignation as a part-time police officer. All in favor.

Manager noted a letter of resignation was received from part-time police officer, Jeremy Baker, effective December 15, 2020. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to accept Jeremy Baker's letter of resignation as a part-time police officer. All in favor.

Manager requested authorization to advertise Borough Ordinance number O-21-1, amending the Borough Code Section 31 to align the DROP program's eligibility language to what is included in the Marcus Hook Police's Collective Bargaining Agreement. Motion by J. Flynn second by B. Mercadante to advertise Ordinance No. O-21-1. All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Manager reported receipt of a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, dated December 23, 2020, advising that the Borough's 2020 Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Funding Program application to upgrade and modernize traffic signals on 10th Street at Hewes Avenue and 10th Street at Blueball Avenue was not selected for funding during Pennsylvania's 2020 ARLE Funding Program round. Motion by W. Cox second by P. Ewing to receive and file. All in favor.

PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

Manager reported that the Recreation and Park Board's Holiday Gift Giving Event was held on December 13th, 2020. Over 90 Borough children received gifts. Motion by J. Flynn second by P. Ewing to record and file. All in favor.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Manager announced that the Borough has extended their contract with Community Champions in order to provide services to register vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties so that the Borough can properly address violations of the Borough of Marcus Hook's property maintenance codes. The term of the Amendment to the Agreement is for a period of two (2) years, with option to renew for a third. Motion by W. Cox second by B. Mercadante to record and file. All in favor.

Manager requested authorization to advertise Borough Ordinance number O-21-2, amending the Borough Code Section 157, Property Maintenance, to change the fee and frequency of registering vacant, abandoned, and foreclosed properties from an annual \$200 fee to a semi-annual \$300 fee. Motion by P. Ewing second by J. Flynn to advertise Ordinance No. O-21-2. All in favor.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Manager reported that the Borough's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program application (47th Year / FY 2021) for the Viscose Village Streetscape Project was submitted to the Delaware County Office of Housing and Community Development on December 14, 2020. CDBG funds requested totaled \$449,750 based on the construction cost estimate for streetscape work on Cedar Street, \$244,750 for Plaza to Pine Streets and \$205,000 for Pine to Chestnut Streets. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Motion by P. Ewing second by J. Flynn to reappoint the following individuals to various boards and commissions: Marie Swanson and Patrick Koch to the Recreation and Park Board - 5 year term expiring December 31, 2025; Stacy Yates to the Planning Commission - 4 year term expiring December 31, 2024; Joseph Smith to the Civil Service Commission - 6 year term expiring December 31, 2026; and, Marie Swanson to the Civil Service Commission, as an Alternate Member – 6 year term expiring December 31, 2026; Dan Smith to the Zoning Hearing Board – 5 year term expiring on December 31, 2025; Bruce Dorbian, Michael Manerchia, Delaware County Redevelopment Authority Representative, William Cox and Robert Hughes to the Vacant Property Review Committee - 2 year term expiring December 31, 2022. All in favor.

There are currently vacancies on the following boards/commissions: One vacancy on the Library Board – 3 year term, meet quarterly. Two vacancies on the Shade Tree Commission – 3 year term, meet as needed.

Councilor W. Cox noted, in response to Manager Weldon's request for Mayor and Council to inspect the new bridge and let him know of any issues to bring up to PennDOT before the project is closed out, that water lies at the base of the bridge and sediment accumulates in the pedestrian ramps. Manager Weldon will notify PennDOT of this issue.

Councilor C. Evernham noted how nice the Christmas event for Borough children was, and that the gifts were great. Thank you to emergency responders.

Councilor J. Flynn reminded residents that the Fitness Center re-opened tonight and the hours are 6PM – 9PM.

Councilor B. Mercadante notified the Borough that he purchased a sanitization fogger for his business and would allow the Borough to use this, if needed.

Mayor G. Taylor informed everyone that he recently tested positive for COVID-19, thus the reasoning for his recent absence. He is still recuperating.

Mayor and Borough Council wished everyone a Happy New Year!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from December 8, 2020 through January 4, 2021 totaled \$115,295.20. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to approve payment of Borough bills. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by W. Cox second by P. Ewing to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Andrew Weldon
Borough Secretary