

June 7, 2021

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening June 7, 2021, 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, Paula Ewing, Cheryl Evernham, 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 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 May totaled \$253,244.01. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and deposit. All in favor.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager mentioned that the Spring/Summer 2021 edition of the Marcus Hook News was distributed on May 21, 2021. The printing was the 63rd edition of this publication since its inception in 1983. Motion W. Cox second by C. Evernham to record and file. All in favor.

Manager presented the Monthly Code Enforcement Report for the month of May, 2021. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and file the Monthly Code Enforcement Report. All in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Taylor presented the Police Report and related statistics for the month of May, 2021. Motion by C. Evernham second by B. Mercadante to receive and file the Mayor's Public Safety Report. All in favor.

Mayor Taylor reminded residents that the Marcus Hook Police Department will be at the Marcus Hook Community Center on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 beginning at 6:30 PM to hand out free toys to Borough children. Toys were donated to the Borough of Marcus Hook by way of the First Responders Children's Foundation, CSX, Good360, and Toys for Tots. The goal of this drive is to empower kids to unplug this summer. Motion by C. Evernham second by M. Manerchia to receive and file. All in favor.

Mayor Taylor requested an unbudgeted allocation from the Capital Expenditure Fund in the amount of up to \$20,000 to purchase a newer vehicle for the Marcus Hook Police Department to be used for detective and other related police work. Motion by B. Mercadante second by P. Ewing to authorize an unbudgeted allocation from the Capital Expenditure Fund in the amount of up to \$20,000 for the purchase of a vehicle for the Marcus Hook Police Department. All in favor.

Chief Ireland requested authorization to submit a grant application for funding to purchase four bulletproof vests for four officers. The application will be submitted to the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership, which was created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998, and is a unique US Department of Justice initiative designed to provide a critical resource to State and Local Law Enforcement. This grant will fund up to 50% of the purchase of bulletproof vests. The remaining costs to purchase the bulletproof vests, not covered by this grant, will be paid from the police uniform operating budget. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Everngham to approve the filing of a grant application to the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership for the purchase of four bulletproof vests. All in favor.

Manager reported that the Borough advertised a 1995 Ford E250 Cargo Van as surplus property for sale in May, 2021 on the online municipal auction website municibid.com. The winning bid for the 1995 Ford E250 Cargo Van was in the amount of \$6,100 from Alex Pivenshteyn of Philadelphia, PA. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to approve the execution of a sales agreement with Alex Pivenshteyn in the amount of \$6,100 for the sale of the 1995 Ford E250 Cargo Van. All in favor.

Manager presented for the second reading and adoption Borough Ordinance number O-21-4, amending the Borough Code and adding Chapter 97, Fireworks, providing for definitions, use of fireworks, and penalties. Motion by J. Flynn second by M. Manerchia to adopt Ordinance No. O-21-4. All in favor.

Manager noted a letter of resignation was received from part-time police officer, Ryan Feeley, effective June 7, 2021. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Everngham to accept Ryan Feeley's letter of resignation as a part-time police officer. All in favor.

Manager reported that the Borough will be advertising surplus property for sale this month, a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria. Bids can be placed on municibid.com through June 25, 2021 at 2:00 PM, when the auction will close. Motion by M. Manerchia second by P. Ewing to authorize advertisement of a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria for sale on municibid.com. All in favor.

Upon discussion with Borough Legal Counsel, Manager presented for ratification, a settlement agreement and general release between the Borough of Marcus Hook and Doug Stafflebach. Motion by P. Ewing second by J. Flynn to ratify the execution of a settlement agreement and general release between the Borough of Marcus Hook and Doug Stafflebach. All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Council's Highway Committee presented the following recommendations for summer/seasonal employment with the Highway Department: Brian Cannon, 58 Green Lane, Aston, PA and Ronnie Pedrick, Aston, PA for a 24 hour week at \$12.00 per hour, beginning June 14, 2021 and June 21, 2021, respectively and ending in August, 2021. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to approve the recommendation of the Highway Committee covering summer/seasonal employment offering employment to Brian Cannon and Ronnie Pedrick, as summer laborers, 24 hours per week, \$12.00 per hour. All in favor.

PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

Letter received from Joann McElwee, 12 E. Delaware Avenue, advising of her resignation from the Recreation and Park Board, effective immediately. Motion by C. Everngham second by M. Manerchia to accept the resignation of Joann McElwee from the Recreation and Park Board. All in favor.

Letter was received from Stacy Camille Yates, noting her interest to serve on the Recreation and Park Board. Motion by W. Cox second by J. Flynn to appoint Stacy Camille Yates to the Recreation and Park Board, term to expire on December 31, 2021. All in favor.

Borough Council decided to postpone the Annual Memorial Day Parade due to inclement weather from its originally scheduled date of May 29, 2021. The postponed parade will instead be a Veterans Day Parade to be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 12:00 PM. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to record and file. All in favor.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Manager announced that SEPTA conducted a public hearing for the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget and Fiscal Years 2022-2033 Capital Program and the projects contained therein on May 26th, 2021 via teleconference. Currently the Borough's SEPTA station is scheduled for modernization and ADA accessibility in the long-term capital budget; from 2027-2033 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; 2022-2026 due to the condition of the station and lack of adequate ADA accessibility and certain safety concerns. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Evernham to record and file. All in favor.

ENVIRONMENT

Manager reported that Marcus Hook Borough successfully partnered with Pennsylvania Cleanways d/b/a Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful for marine debris removal along the Delaware River and Marcus Hook Creek. On May 14, 2021 municipal public works staff, other local officials, and volunteers from the Monroe Energy Refinery and Energy Transfer's Marcus Hook Industrial Complex came together to remove logs, assorted woody debris and trash at Market Square Memorial Park along the banks of the Delaware River. On May 15, 2021, 29 volunteers from Marcus Hook Borough and Trainer Borough collected trash and debris along Marcus Hook Creek between 10th Street (US Route 13) and just south of the AMTRAK rail corridor. The Cleanup Coordinator for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful worked with Borough staff to advance this community based activity directing our efforts to remove contaminants before entering and polluting the waters of the Delaware Estuary. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor P. Ewing reported that the MHTFD in May responded to 45 fire alarms.

Councilor M. Manerchia urged residents to get the word out that the SEPTA regional rail station in Marcus Hook needs to be fixed/improved.

Councilor J. Flynn reminded residents to keep an eye on their neighbors, pets, and the elderly now that it's getting hot out. If you see a pet in distress or out for a long period of time in the heat, then dial 911.

Councilor M. Manerchia thanked the Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department for assisting with a call at his home. A tractor trailer leaving Monroe Energy's refinery on Delaware Avenue hit power lines that run over the street and ultimately ripped them off of the side of his home. Councilor M. Manerchia also reminded residents to report damages if they occur.

Mayor G. Taylor questioned whether a sign would be appropriate for the wires above Delaware Avenue.

Councilor M. Manerchia stated he didn't think so as the wires are supposed to be 16' 4" off of the ground and trucks are only 13' 6" high.

Councilor C. Evernham reminded residents that kids will soon be out of school so be careful and watch out for them.

Councilor W. Cox thanked the Highway Department for all of their efforts to get the town looking especially nice for the Memorial Day parade. Councilor W. Cox also thanked everyone who was involved with the Delaware River and Marcus Hook Creek cleanup from earlier in the month.

Councilor J. Laird also thanked the Highway Department for helping make the Memorial at 3rd and Market Streets look nice for the parade.

Manager A. Weldon wished all of the fathers a Happy Father's Day and reminded everyone to try to stay cool in the upcoming heat.

Chief J. Ireland wished all of the fathers a Happy Father's Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tameka Gibson, 1012 Yates Avenue, thanked everyone who came out to the Marcus Hook Creek cleanup on May 15th. Tameka noted how there were children and adults of all ages participating in the cleanup. Tameka also thanked Lorraine Daliessio for coming out to help.

Lorraine Daliessio, 1050 Yates Avenue, questioned what was the time and date for the toys for tots drive.

Mayor G. Taylor noted it is scheduled for June 29th at 6:30 PM.

Chief J. Ireland noted that it's for children of all ages. However it's first come, first serve, so when they run out of toys, that's it.

Lorraine Daliessio also questioned why Stacy Yates was only appointed to the Recreation and Park Board until 12/31/2021.

Manager A. Weldon noted that while there were two vacancies on the Recreation and Park Board, Stacy was appointed to fill the one with the term expiring soonest because this position would be reappointed at the end of the year and he wanted to make sure there was someone filling the seat.

Lorraine Daliessio finally questioned what was going on with the SEPTA station.

Manager A. Weldon informed Lorraine that the Marcus Hook SEPTA station has been in disrepair and in need of improvements for many years, and prior to the most recent Capital Budget Hearing, he had last spoken about this at SEPTA's 2019 Capital Budget Hearing. Manager A. Weldon made the case to SEPTA that they need to move the Marcus Hook station improvements from their long-term capital plan to their short-term capital plan.

Skip Morello, 1021 Market Street, wanted the Mayor to know he loves him and he is not working against him.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from May 4, 2021 through June 7, 2021 totaled \$192,315.31. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Everngham 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