

November 1, 2021

The regular meeting of the Marcus Hook Borough Council was held on Monday evening November 1, 2021, 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors William Cox, Cheryl Everngham, 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 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 October totaled \$125,161.76. Motion by C. Everngham second by W. Cox to receive and deposit. All in favor.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Certificates of Recognition were presented to Ed Dougherty and Ed Keegan who will serve as the Grand Marshals for the 2021 Veterans Day Parade in Marcus Hook Borough this Saturday, November 13th at 12:00 PM.

Ed Dougherty delivered mail in Marcus Hook back in the 1960's and as it turns out delivered his own draft notice to himself for the Vietnam War. Ed served in the United States Army, reaching the rank of Sergeant, and was awarded two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam. Ed went on to become a successful professional golfer on the PGA and Senior PGA tours.

Ed Keegan was born in the Borough of Marcus Hook and resided on McClenahan Terrace during the early years of his life. Ed served in the US Army from August, 1966 – August, 1968 as a Military Police Officer, reaching the rank of Sergeant and was stationed at Fort Benning, GA. Ed now resides in Upper Chichester, PA.

Thank you to Ed Dougherty and Ed Keegan for their service to the Country and for honoring the Borough by serving as Grand Marshals in our Veterans Day Parade!

A special recognition plaque will be presented to former Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department Fire Chief, Alfonse Jackie Brooks III at the Fire Chief's Banquet on November 20, 2021. Alfonse served the Marcus Hook Trainer Fire Department as Fire Chief from 2018 – 2019.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Manager presented the first reading of the proposed 2022 budget, showing total expenditures of \$6,018,724 with \$3,956,758 of this amount allocated to the General Fund. A public meeting on the entire budget will be scheduled for November 30, 2021, 5:30 PM, prior to the 6:00 PM monthly Agenda Meeting. Motion M. Manerchia second by W. Cox to accept the proposed budget as presented, advertise the budget is open for public inspection, and advertise the time, date and place of the public hearing. All in favor.

Manager requested authorization to advertise Ordinance No. O-21-6 fixing the tax rate for the year 2022 at 7.84 mills. Motion by B. Mercadante second by M. Manerchia to advertise Ordinance No. O-21-6. All in favor.

Manager requested authorization to fill the Municipal Clerk position at the earliest possible time returning to Council at the next Council Meeting for ratification of the appointment. Motion by J. Flynn second by P. Ewing to authorize the Borough Manager in consultation with Council's General Government Committee, and Councilors W. Cox and B. Mercadante to proceed with appointment of an individual to fill the Municipal Clerk position that will soon become vacant. All in favor.

Manager presented Borough Resolution No. R-21-15 appointing Barbacane Thornton and Company as independent auditors to examine financial statements of the Borough for the year ending December 31, 2021. Motion by B. Mercadante second by P. Ewing to adopt Resolution No. R-21-15. All in favor.

Manager noted that the Sports Legends of Delaware County has kicked off a funding drive with a goal of \$100,000 for the purpose of erecting a statue of former National Football League wide receiver and special teams' great, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, who played in the NFL for 14 years. Billy was born and raised in the Borough of Marcus Hook, attended college at Widener University, and was drafted in the 15th round by the Houston Oilers, Billy's father Leonard was a full-time police officer with the Marcus Hook Police Department for over 20 years having reached the rank of Sergeant. Billy was selected by the NFL to be included on their 75th Anniversary All-Time Team as well as their 100th Anniversary All-Time Team. Billy has yet to be voted into the NFL's Hall of Fame, despite his success on the football field. The statue is currently projected to be erected in the fall of 2022 with a dedication ceremony to be held at that time. Motion by M. Manerchia second by J. Flynn to recognize the professional sporting accomplishments of the Borough of Marcus Hook's own, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, and to name the grounds of the Marcus Hook Community Center as the proposed location for the statue to be erected. All in favor.

Manager presented four tax assessment appeals from the Alan McIlvain Company for four parcels of property listed under the following folio nos. 24-00-00117-00, 24-00-00191-00, 24-00-00192-00, and 24-00-00480-00. For 2021 and going forward, the properties will have the following adjustments in assessed value and Fair Market Value:

	Original Assessed Value/FMV	Adjusted Assessed Value/FMV
24-00-00117-00	\$1,142,670	\$422,358
24-00-00191-00	\$36,060	\$499,619
24-00-00192-00	\$54,530	\$41,206
24-00-00480-00	\$4,270,810	\$3,446,165
Total	\$5,504,070	\$4,406,348

Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to accept the tax assessment appeal amounts as outlined above for folio nos. 24-00-00117-00, 24-00-00191-00, 24-00-00192-00, and 24-00-00480-00 for the tax year 2021 and going forward. All in favor.

Manager announced that the funds collected for Breast Cancer Awareness Month through the sale of awareness pins and wrist bands, as well as hand-crafted bears donated by Councilor J. Flynn, amounted to \$180, which will be donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Motion by J. Flynn second by P. Ewing to record and file. All in favor.

Manager presented the Monthly Code Enforcement Report for the month of October, 2021. Motion by W. Cox second by C. Everngham 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 October, 2021. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to receive and file the Mayor's Public Safety Report. All in favor.

PARKS, RECREATION and SHADE TREES

Members of the Marcus Hook Recreation and Park Board were positively acknowledged for coordinating two Halloween events this year; a Halloween Painting Event held on October 10, 2021 and a table or treat event held on October 24, 2021. Motion by C. Everngham second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

The Marcus Hook Recreation and Park Board will be hosting a Thanksgiving painting event at the Marcus Hook Community Center on November 14, 2021 from 12-2 PM. Motion by C. Everngham second by J. Flynn to record and file. All in favor.

Delaware County Council announced the recipients of the Delco Greenways Grant Round 2 Awards. The Borough of Marcus Hook was selected to receive two grants, the first for the Marcus Hook Mini-Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan in the amount of \$42,750 and the second for Market Square Memorial Park Delaware River Pier Removal and Reconstruction Master Plan in the amount of \$87,600. Motion by M. Manerchia second by W. Cox to record and file. All in favor.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Manager announced a public hearing to be held on November 9, 2021, at 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building, to discuss and review a Preliminary/Final Land Development and Lot Consolidation application submitted by Duke Realty Limited Partnership for property located on the southeast corner of 10th Street and Penn Avenue, to demolish existing buildings and construct an approx.. 375,000 square foot building and associated improvements to be used for warehouse and/or distribution. Motion by B. Mercadante second by M. Manerchia to record and file. All in favor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor M. Manerchia commended the Marcus Hook Recreation and Park Board for a good job, and thanked all of the volunteers who participate in community events.

Councilor W. Cox wanted to inform residents that the Borough's new cameras are up and working, and the Marcus Hook Police Department was able to utilize footage to solve a burglary today.

Councilor P. Ewing expressed her positive wishes for the first responders who are fighting the fire that is currently ongoing at 203 E. 10th Street. Councilor P. Ewing also encouraged everyone to send positive thoughts to the first responders.

Councilor B. Mercadante wanted to thank the Marcus Hook Recreation and Park Board for their efforts, as they are doing a lot for so many borough children.

Mayor G. Taylor reminded residents that clocks are going back an hour this coming Sunday, and reminded residents to check the batteries in their smoke detectors.

Councilor J. Laird expressed her gratitude to the Marcus Hook Recreation and Park Board and also hoped for everyone's safety at the 203 E. 10th Street fire.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tameka Gibson, 1012 Yates Avenue, questioned what grants the Borough received, where they came from, and how they would be used.

Manager A. Weldon noted that the grants received were a part of the Delaware County Greenways Grant Round 2, and that the Borough had been selected to receive \$42,750 for a Mini Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, as well as \$87,600 for the Market Square Memorial Park Delaware River Pier Removal and Reconstruction Master Plan.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BOROUGH BILLS

Manager advised that the payment voucher for the time period from October 5, 2021 through November 1, 2021 totaled \$209,205.95. Motion by W. Cox second by M. Manerchia to approve payment of Borough bills. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by M. Manerchia second by P. Ewing to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Andrew Weldon
Borough Secretary