

MILFORD BOROUGH – MEETING MINUTES 7/15/24

The Milford Borough Council met July 15, 2024, at 7PM in the Borough Hall located at 109 W. Catharine Street for a regular council meeting. This meeting was advertised and open to the public. Present were Council President Joseph Dooley, Vice President Maria Farrell, Council Members Peter Cooney, Sharmie Ford, George Lutfy, Doug Manion and Richard Provenzano. Also present were Solicitor Jason Ohliger, Mayor Sean Strub and Secretary/Treasurer Francesca Lombardo. The meeting was called to order followed by a roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Minutes: 6/17/24. Motion to approve by Manion/Farrell, AIF.

Adopt Agenda: Motion to adopt agenda by Farrell/Manion, AIF.

Public Comment: None

Public Hearing: Luhrs Land Development Hearing extended to August. **Motion to accept extension by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**

MFD 6 Month Report: Assistant Chief Eric Passaro presented the 6-month MFD report to the Council. The Fire Department held elections and Mark Volpe was elected President of the MFD and Adam Rufrano was elected as Ambulance Captain. There have been 4 new members added to the active staff and 3 returning from inactive status. This brings the total number of active operations members to 42. The Milford Fire Department has had 286 fire dispatches for 2024 to date; 68 of those responses were calls within the Borough of Milford.

Zoning/Building Report: The May building/zoning permit report and hot topics report were presented to the Council. **Motion to accept the Zoning/Building Report by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.** BRC-TV reporter Preston Ehrler asked whether the front loader for sale on Broad Street was in violation of Borough Code. Council Member Lutfy stated that he and the Zoning Officer reviewed the Ordinance and it does not say that someone cannot sell something on their own property. The language in the Ordinance is vague and this front loader/property are in the commercial district.

Shade Tree Report: The Borough suffered a significant attack from spongy moths this year. Formerly known as gypsy moths, the caterpillars particularly attacked oak and crabapple trees, decimating many of them. The Shade Tree Commission engaged a certified arborist to spray the trees over the course of two days to save them. As long as trees retain 30% of their foliage, they have a strong chance of survival, but can't withstand such attacks year after year. The shade Tree commission went around the town and fertilized the affected street trees to help them recover and produce new foliage. Tree Commissioners have noticed numerous egg masses in the Borough indicating another infestation next year. The commission, with council's approval, would like to invite Vinnie Catrone, Penn State Extension Urban Forester, to come to Milford in late August or early September to host a public meeting. Mr. Catrone can inform the public about the spongy moth problem and help us plan how to handle that for next year. **Motion to accept the Shade Tree Report and invite Vinnie Catrone to host a public meeting by Farrell/Manion, AIF.**

Treasurer's Report: The June financial reports were distributed as well as the income vs expense graphs. The General Fund has a total of \$23,318 in interest to date. Real Estate taxes collected through June totaled \$502,664, which includes delinquent taxes from previous years. Real Estate Transfer taxes collected through June totaled \$10,666, the Earned Income Tax through June is \$293,496 and LST Tax is \$34,943. The Borough is still receiving delinquent EIT taxes from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The 2023 Audit has been completed and there was no finding by the auditors.

After a review of the MPD & DPW compensation to date in comparison to the budget, both departments will be 11% over budget if this trend continues. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.**

Special Events/Applications:

- a. Belle Reve contacted the Borough Office stating that they wanted to have a 5k walk and small fair in Ann Street Park. A special events application was sent to them. **Motion to approve contingent upon receiving the special events application by Manion/Farrell, AIF**

HARB/Certificates of Appropriateness:

- a. 201 Broad Street – Milford Community House – Addition of new public restrooms – All materials will match existing building. **Motion to approve by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.**
- b. 214 E. Harford St – Denise Fey – Repair leaking roof (already approved via admin review), repair siding and trim. **Motion to approve by Manion/Farrell, AIF.**

- c. 515 Broad St – 515 Broad St LLC – Roof replacement and new sign. **Replace/repair porch railings & molding tabled to next meeting. Motion to approve by Manion/Farrell, AIF.**
- d. 114 Catharine St – Milford Theater – Roof replacement. **Motion to approve by Lutfy/Manion, AIF.**
- e. 401 Broad St – Milford Hospitality Group – Roof replacement. **Applicant requested this application to be tabled to next meeting.**
- f. 107 East Harford – East Harford St LP/Dunkin Donuts – replace sign. **Motion to approve by Lutfy/Manion, AIF.**
- g. 109 East Harford St – Billy Shi - roof replacement due to leaking roof. **Motion to approve by Lutfy/Manion, AIF.**
- h. Borough Office was approved to use wood or metal in mast fabrication. **Motion to approve by Lutfy/Manion, AIF.**

New Business:

- a. 2025 Budget Prep Start. Secretary/Treasurer Lombardo stated that by next week the Budget template will be distributed to the Council to start preparing the 2025 budget.
- b. Discussion on reinstated compensation for Council Members and Mayor. After further discussion Council Member Manion and Solicitor Ohliger were going to do some research and determine a compensation amount to help cover Christmas Party expenses.
- c. Discussion and vote to pay Oliver, Price & Rhodes in the amount of \$6,000. **Motion to approve payment by Manion/Farrell, AIF.**
- d. Employee Pension Plan Update. Council Member Manion and Solicitor Ohliger will review Act 600 that needs to be adopted for having 3 Uniform Officers on the pension plan.

Old Business:

Rt. 209/Sawkill Creek Bridge update. President Dooley had a conversation with Mike Conway, inspector in charge of this project. The last safety inspection of that bridge was done in May of 2024, showing no urgent safety concerns that would require closing the bridge. PennDOT is working with the National Park Services to revise their special use permit. PennDOT will remove the piece of concrete that was found on the site and replace it at the end of the project. Christina Thompson, a historical research employee, has been meeting with the PennDOT archeologists and the National Parks Service archeologists. It is unknown when construction will resume.

- a. After further discussion regarding the newly passed public comment policy to limit this to only Borough residents, business owners and workers, **the Council agreed to overturn this policy by a vote of 4 to 3.** The new policy states that Milford Borough residents, business owners and employees can speak first during the public comment period and if there is time left non-Borough residents are allowed to comment.

Mayor's Report: The Council received the June reports from the MPD.

Committee Reports:

Correspondence:

Appointments/Resignations: None

Borough Solicitor Update: None

Council President Update: President Dooley asked Vice President Farrell to reach out to the company that will be placing the camera's in Ann Street Park and Ballfield for a quote to place cameras on the DPW garage in a few locations.

Public Comment on Matters Under Borough Control: Tim Haar suggested the County, MPD and NPS work together to help cleanup areas near the river to protect the environment.

Fred Weber asked the Council to send him a copy of the signed agreement between HRG and the Borough for the Act 537 plan. President Dooley let Mr. Weber know that the agreement was signed by the County and the agreement included the surrounding Boroughs and Townships that are involved in the Act 537.

Executive Session: Open Executive session by Manion/Provenzano, AIF. Motion to close by Manion/Farrell, AIF.

Motion to vote to file an enforcement on SNK signs by Manion/Farrell, AIF.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:30pm by Manion/Farrell, AIF.