

MILFORD BOROUGH – MEETING MINUTES 6/17/24

The Milford Borough Council met June 17, 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, and Richard Provenzano. Also present were Solicitor Jason Ohliger, Mayor Sean Strub and Secretary/Treasurer Francesca Lombardo. Council Member Doug Manion was not present. The meeting was called to order followed by a roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Adopt Minutes: 4/15/24 – revision, 5/20/24. **Motion to approve by Lutfy/Farrell, AIF.**

Adopt Agenda: **Motion to adopt agenda by Provenzano/Lutfy, AIF.**

Poet Laureate: A poem titled Messiah: Christmas Portions by Mark Doty was recited by Chuck O'Neil in recognition of Pride Month.

Public Comment: Fred Weber, Milford Borough, asked the Council questions about the two items under Old Business. The Council President stated that all questions will be answered when we discuss this part of the agenda.

Public Hearing: None

Zoning/Building Report: The May building/zoning permit report and hot topics report were presented to the Council. Council President Dooley asked Judy Acosta, the Building/Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, what is the biggest zoning code enforcement issue that you've seen regularly in Milford Borough over the last year. Judy mentioned that property maintenance was one issue as well as confusion among the residents not knowing if they need a permit for construction, repairs, etc. **Motion to accept the Zoning/Building Report by Farrell/Provenzano, AIF.**

Treasurer's Report: The May financial reports were distributed as well as the income vs expense graphs. The General Fund has a total of \$18,169 in interest to date. Real Estate taxes collected through May totaled \$524,664, which includes delinquent taxes from previous years. Real Estate Transfer taxes collected through May totaled \$7,481, the Earned Income Tax through May is \$291,266 and LST Tax is \$33,918. The Borough is still receiving delinquent EIT taxes from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The workers compensation policy with MRM has been cancelled by MRM effective August 31, 2024. The Borough is working on hiring a new company.

The Borough is working with Ron Bittner on the uniform pension plan in regards to a resolution/act that needs to be adopted due to having three full time officers.

At the upcoming workshop meeting in July, 2025 budget worksheets will be distributed to the Council to start preparing for 2025 income and expenditures.

The Wayne Bank account the Borough opened, that housed fund for an old grant, is now in dormant status due to inactivity. The account will be closed to avoid the monthly surcharge. The account balance to date is \$850.00, which will be transferred to the NBT Bank General Fund.

This year July 4th is on a Thursday. Garbage pickup is going to be on Friday, July 5th for that week. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Lutfy/Farrell, AIF.**

Special Events/Applications:

- a. Milford Garden Club – Secret Garden Tour – 7/13/24. **Motion to approve by Ford/Farrell, AIF**
- b. Pike Artworks – Milford Readers & Writers Festival – 9/13/24 – 9/15/24; 2 Banners. **Motion to approve by Provenzano/Lutfy, AIF.**

HARB/Certificates of Appropriateness: None

New Business:

- a. Discussion and vote on changes to public comment policy. The Council had a discussion in regards to changing the policy to limit the public comment period to Milford Borough Residents, taxpayers, business owners and individuals who work in the Borough. Council Member Ford verified that this change was allowable per the Sunshine Act. Non-Borough residents that have any questions or comments on Borough matters, can email or call the Borough Secretary with their concerns. Fred Weber, Milford Borough, asked if someone came to the meeting to speak and they are not a Milford Borough resident, what would the Council do. The Council responded that they will ask this individual to call or email the Borough Secretary with their questions. Preston from BRCTV asked how the Council will know if the individual that asks to speak during public comment is a Milford Borough resident or tax payer. The Council President responded by saying that the Council is going to trust the

person is honest about where they live and/or work. **Motion to approve by Ford/Provenzano. Farrell/Cooney opposed. Motion passed 4 to 2.**

- b. Discussion and vote to advertise changes to Special Events Ordinance. After some discussion, the Council decided to table this change to the July meeting.
- c. Opening and vote on paving bids. The Borough received 2 bids for the paving project that was advertised. The first bid opened was from Leeward Construction for a total of \$157,140. The second bid was from Wayco for a total of \$98,771.22. **Motion to approve the bid from Wayco for the paving project by Lutfy/Provenzano, AIF.**
- d. Discussion and vote on adding cameras to Ann St and 3rd Street parks for a cost not to exceed of \$6,800. **Motion to approve by Farrell/Lutfy, Cooney opposed, All Others in Favor.**
- e. Discussion and vote to advertise revision to chapter 101-1 – Brush, Grass & Weeds to match chapter 222-5 A (1) and 222-6 (g) of new Property Maintenance Ordinance. **Motion to approve to advertise by Lutfy/Ford, AIF.**
- f. Discussion on letter from property owner regarding trees on 7th Street. As per the advice from Solicitor Ohliger, the property owner needs to contact an attorney for this type of legal advice.
- g. HARB End of Year Report. The HARB meeting for June was cancelled. This agenda item was tabled to the July meeting.
- h. Discussion and vote to approve additional repairs to Borough Office building for cupola base, roof and mortar at a cost not to exceed \$35,000. **Motion to approve DMR Construction for the roof repair, Lattimore Construction for the cupola repairs and Vinnie Leto for the mortar/repainting by Lutfy/Provenzano, AIF.**

Old Business:

- a. Rt. 209/Sawkill Creek Bridge update. PennDOT uncovered a 12-foot by 12-foot piece of concrete that they think is related to the old Metz Icehouse. PennDOT notified the NPS and NPS sent down a team of archeologists to investigate. PennDOT's permit was revoked and all construction has stopped. PennDOT did do some repairs to the existing bridge structure during the digging. The Council President has been in contact with PennDOT and has requested the latest inspection report on the bridge. This inspection will determine the state of the existing bridge and see if immediate repairs are needed at this time. The Borough Council is going to send a letter to National Park Services asking about the status of the bridge for safety concerns.
- b. Act 537 update-Discussion and vote to approve payment of up to \$15,000 as advance for engineering and site assessment costs on behalf of Municipal Water Authority. The four Municipalities met with HRG to review the concerns from the DEP regarding the Act 537 plan. The DEP wants to know why the entire Borough is not getting sewers. The Borough needs to provide a technical explanation as to why we are not putting sewers in the entire Borough. DEP also wants to know where the sewage water from our cess pools is going into the ground and/or aquifer. **Motion to approve payment of up to \$15,000 by Farrell/Ford, Cooney stated no, All Others in Favor.**

Mayor's Report: The Council received the May reports from the MPD. The Mayor spoke about how the MPD enforcement has improved from last year. The Borough's IT company has been working with the MPD to update their computer programs because they are having issues with the body cameras and other software programs.

Committee Reports: Council Member Provenzano updated the Council that the DPW crew is almost done with painting the crosswalks and parking lines. He also stated that safety equipment must be worn when working including articles such as gloves, boots, safety vest in addition to the uniform supplied by the Borough.

The No Exit signs have been erected on some of the Alleys east of Broad Street.

Correspondence:

- a. Dunkin Donuts Grand Re-Opening Invitation. Vice President Maria Farrell volunteered to represent the Borough at the Grand Re-Opening.

Appointments/Resignations:

- a. Megan Strub – Borough representative for Grey Towers Agreement. **Motion to approve by Farrell/Provenzano, AIF.**

Borough Solicitor Update: Ordinance creation/revision process. Solicitor Ohliger suggested that at our next workshop or regular meeting, the Council work with the Solicitor to put a process in place to be used for future Ordinance changes.

Council President Update: None

Public Comment on Matters Under Borough Control: A non-Borough resident, Pierre Tardy, was allowed to speak during this public comment period due to the majority of the Council agreed to let him speak. Mr.

Tardy stated that after the Pike County Commissioners meeting incorrect statements were made to the media regarding his church and his beliefs. Mr. Tardy just wanted to make it know that these statements were false.

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

Motion to Adjourn at 9:55pm by Lutfy/Farrell, AIF.