

Milford Borough Council Meeting Minutes 5/18/2021

The Milford Borough Council met for a regularly scheduled Council Meeting to include a conditional use hearing on Tuesday May 18, 2021 at 5:45 pm. The meeting and conditional use hearing were advertised and open to the public. The meeting was done by zoom. Present at the meeting were Mayor Sean Strub, Borough Council President Frank Tarquinio, Vice President Adriane Wendell, council members Joseph Dooley, Rob Ciervo, Peter Cooney, Maria Farrell, George Lutfy, Treasurer Greg Myer, Solicitor Anthony Magnotta and Borough Secretary Laurie DiGeso.

Frank Tarquinio called the meeting to order followed by roll call and the pledge of allegiance.

Conditional Use Hearing

Solicitor Magnotta explained the purpose of the conditional use hearing to approve the Milford Farmer's Market. Court stenographer from Panko Reporting recorded the minutes of the hearing. David Wallace was called during the meeting by the Borough Secretary to participate in the hearing. David Wallace was on the call.

Motion to close the conditional use hearing by Dooley/Wendell. AIF.

Motion to adopt agenda with the addition of MEC discussion by Wendell/Dooley. AIF.

Motion to adopt minutes from 4/20 with changes- (Joe Dooley voted no to repointing the chimney on Borough Office)- by Lutfy/Dooley. AIF

Public Comment: None

Clean Air Presentation: Richard Evans was on the call to introduce Heidi Hunka and Richard Mckenna. Heidi gave a presentation on the Local Climate Action Plan. Richard Mckenna is a Milford Borough resident volunteering to lead the effort supporting the program. Tarquinio said the Borough is definitely interested and will look into whether there is anyone interested in giving their time to support Mr. Mckenna. Dooley said he would follow up with Mr. Mckenna.

Pension Funding Presentation: Ron Bittner- managing director of Girard Pension Services presented the status of the Borough pension plans. As of 1/1/2019, funding status was at about 80%. That is a good return. Greg Myer stated that around \$10,000 is contributed each year from the general fund. Bittner recommended staying at a 60/40 mix of investments. Tarquinio said he thought going more conservative like 50/50 would be good as well. Can discuss this further at a later date. Bittner- should update mortality table as well. Should also reduce assumption of 7.5% to 7.25 or 7%. Cooney- Do employees make contributions to the pension plan? Bittner- no they don't. Myer- what is the amount of the unfunded liability? Bittner- the non-uniformed plan was about \$35,000 and the uniformed was about \$95,000 as of two years ago. Should see an actuarial gain. With next valuation there should be substantial gain and will reduce the cost for the plan and put the Borough under the state aid cap. Dale

Thatcher offered help with the pension plan if needed as he has extensive experience with pension plans.

Treasurer's Report: Myer- through April there was \$510,000 in real estate taxes collected. \$47,200 balance to collect. Real estate transfer tax collected was \$29,500. Budgeted \$25,000 so already more than budgeted. Dooley- are we going to cut checks to EMS for ambulance tax? Myer- we have around \$28,000 in that account. **Motion to transfer \$15,000 to the EMS 33 as partial payment for the ambulance tax with provision that the money be used for ambulance service by Dooley/Lutfy. AIF.** Wendell- how is the budget doing? Myer- computers and telephone system not budgeted. Over budget right now by about \$10,000. Doing quite well in other items. **Motion to accept treasurer's report by Dooley/Wendell AIF.**

Shade Tree Report: Tarquinio- want to thank the commission for Bill Kiger cleanup day and all their help. Thatcher- had over 200 people come out and help. Planted 14 trees for Arbor Day. Collection for tree removal is now down to only two bills. If not paid by the next council meeting, a final letter will be sent and if not paid within thirty days, then a lien will be placed.

Milford Enhancement Committee: Yana Thatcher discussed plans for the MEC. 20 years under the Historic preservation trust- this year the MEC is going to be reborn as a separate organization due to the fact that although there are a lot of similarities, the purpose is a little different for the two organizations. Currently we are preparing for Memorial Day and looking at some spots that can use a little improvement. Looking at the verges, grassy areas etc. Long term we would like to change from grass to hardscape in high traffic spaces. Would like to work with the property owners on this. Tarquinio- Responsibility for maintaining these areas is on the property owners. Any of these changes should be discussed with them and they should be responsible for buy in to help.

Sewage Report: Bob DiLorenzo not present on the call.

Zoning Report: Shawn Bolles not present.

Special Events:

• Log Tavern Brewing- Oktoberfest Banner- By Milford Presents- 9/10-9/24.

• Kindred Spirits- Special Event- Concert in Ann Street Park- 6/19, 8/7, 8/21

Motion to approve both special events as presented by Dooley/Wendell AIF.

Certificates of Appropriateness:

1. 112 East Catharine Street- Gerard Fuqua- New Stairs, deck, door and awnings
2. 401-407 Broad Street- Sean Strub- Terrace, deck, ramp, exterior renovations- Tarquinio- ADA ramp would be a new structure. By ARB regulation, composite decking would be acceptable and preferred because it distinguishes the old from the new and would be safer.

Motion to approve Certificate of Appropriateness for 112 East Catharine Street as recommended by ARB by Wendell/Ciervo. AIF.

Motion to approve 401-407 Broad Street amended by Borough Council to allow composite decking for ADA ramp, no zoning approval or shade tree approval needed-by Wendell/Dooley AIF.

- Tarquinio- would like to a letter of recognition to Tim Gartner of the Milford Water Authority on his retirement. **Motion to send letter by Ciervo/Dooley AIF.**
- Tarquinio-There are Dick Schneider Grant opportunities available. Would like to apply. **Motion to apply for grant to maintain verge/sidewalks by the Craft Show on Harford Street by Lutfy/Wendell. AIF.**

In person meetings: Wendell- Boro Hall will be difficult to distance people. Dooley suggested a different venue to accommodate people while distancing. Wendell had concerns about sound and technology. Would require microphones. Cooney made a motion to have meetings in person and Dooley seconded the motion. Ciervo asked to have a special meeting to check in with guideline changes. Cooney stated he would table the motion until June 9th for a special meeting to discuss the possibility of in person meetings.

Grants Committee: **Motion to appoint Yana Thatcher and Lisa Emery members of the grants committee by Dooley/Lutfy. AIF.**

EIT: Dooley discussed EIT justification and mentioned the possibility of exempting volunteers (fire, EMS). Council will discuss this at a later date. Would like to move forward with advertisement of intent to adopt EIT. Council will vote to advertise notice of intent at special meeting on 6/9 and ask Berkheimer to attend this meeting as well.

UGI: Tarquinio spoke to UGI about condition of roads after work is done and how to remedy this moving forward. Ray Banach also asked for a 7am start time for work. Wendell noted that this would violate the noise ordinance. No 7am start time.

Cherry Alley and Mott Street: Two bids presented by Kowal Bros. and Wayco. Two different depths of pavement on the estimates. Borough Secretary to ask Wayco to redo the estimate with blacktop at a 2" depth and present at next meeting.

Dog Waste Receptacles: Tarquinio- should look into putting a few near the parks. Lutfy- there are \$11 bag dispenser you can attach to pails. Tarquinio- we can try this first and see how it goes.

CLC Certification: Tarquinio- still waiting to be certified.

Mott Street Parking: David Weinberg- during the week all the large trucks come down this way. No parking on one side on summer weekends does not solve the problem for public safety. After some discussion of the best way to solve the parking issue, a **Motion to limit parking on Mott Street East Side May 20-Sept.15 on weekends Friday through Sunday dawn to dusk by Dooley/Cooney. AIF.**

Committee Reports:

- **Law and Zoning/Communications & Technology/Insurance & Finance-** Letter going out regarding rental registration this month. We will follow up in the fall with an application for rentals in 2022. Tarquinio- we still need a computer for SEO. George, Adriane and Suzie got together to meet about communications to residents.
- **Streets and lights/Borough Property/Parks and Recreation-** Ciervo- nothing to report for streets and lights at this time. Cooney- nothing to report for borough property at this time.

Farrell- letter of request to move gazebo in Ann St. Park 60 degrees towards 5th street from Mike Zimmerman. This would be helpful for concerts. Zimmerman also mentioned they could use another outlet. Farrell-would like to engage in conversation with County to discuss using Santos Farm for future concerts as well. Playground safety course was completed. Should the borough pursue estimates to have the playgrounds inspected? Tarquinio- yes. Farrell requested mor fibar around the playground. Ciervo- we will have Duane get another load. Farrell said she will get some volunteers to help spread the fibar around. Chess table getting remodeled. Several benches restored and a table and Adirondack chairs placed at River Rd. location. Recreation committee discussed that there are a lot of things for young adults to do in the Borough but not adults. Suggested a possible fitness trail or sit up/ pull up bars in the park. Approved for \$2500 mini park grant for plans for Ann Street Park.

Mayors Report: Nothing significant to report at this time. Patrol miles were the highest they have been in 4 years. Getting great comments about the Police.

Public Comment: Bill Kiger- Can you ease up on the early public comment restrictions? Many issues public are interested in that they want to discuss. Tarquinio mentioned that the purpose of the restrictions is to get through the agenda first and then allow comments at the end. Kiger- at the end of the last meeting you said something to Fred Weber that was unclear about citizens advisory committee. Frank, it seemed you suggested committee not formed until final vote on sewer. Tarquinio- no I did not say that. There is no urgency to do it yet but it is on the radar. Wendell- we approved the plan but it is not approved by the powers that be. No need for committee yet. Kiger- several citizens feel there are a lot of downsides to sewers. Committees allow the citizens to have a voice.

Correspondence: Chuck Petershiem- letter not read.
Strub- Greenwood Hills POA discussion about possibility of patrol from Police. They will not be proceeding at this time.

Motion to adjourn by Dooley/Ciervo. AIF.

Adjourned 9:15pm