

MILFORD BOROUGH – MEETING MINUTES 8/19/24

The Milford Borough Council met August 19, 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 via zoom, 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: 7/15/24, 7/25/24. **Motion to approve by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.**

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

Public Comment: Preston Ehrler from BRC-TV, asked several questions about the Residential Registration Ordinance. Charles Kannebecker, John Klemeyer, Matt Osterberg, Larry O'Leary, Andrew Jorgenson and Billy Shi all spoke against the Ordinance. The Borough Zoning and Building Officer, Judy Acosta, addressed the public's comments and explained the details about the fees and how this Ordinance will be implemented. Council Member Doug Manion expressed his concerns about the Ordinance and called for its repeal. **The vote to repeal the Ordinance was denied 5 to 2 by Council.**

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

Zoning/Building Report: Update on Rental Registration Ordinance & Implementation. No additional information was provided by Borough Zoning and Building Officer as this topic was discussed during the public comment period

Treasurer's Report: The July financial reports were distributed as well as the income vs. expense graphs. The General Fund has a total of \$28,188 in interest to date. Real Estate taxes collected through July totaled \$553,632, which includes delinquent taxes from previous years. Real Estate Transfer taxes collected through July totaled \$15,683, the Earned Income Tax through July is \$333,943 and LST Tax is \$38,081. The Borough is still receiving delinquent EIT taxes from 2022 and 2023.

In preparation for the 2025 budget, the renewal rate for the dental insurance through United Concordia is the same as last year. No increase for 2025.

The liability insurance through PIRMA is going up between 7% - 10% for 2025. The Council will know the exact amount closer to the renewal date.

The workers compensation insurance that was terminated by MRM effective 8/31, will be covered under State Workers Insurance Fund, which will be voted on under new business. There will be a \$9,754 increase in premium cost as a result of this change. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.**

Special Events/Applications: **Motion to approve all special events applications by Lutfy/Manion, AIF.**

- a. Septemberfest – Jive Bar 9/21/24
- b. Septemberfest – Dimmick Inn 9/21/24
- c. Domestic Violence Ribbons – 10/1/24 – 10/31/24

HARB/Certificates of Appropriateness:

- a. 109 Broad Street – 109 Broad St LLC (Matt Osterberg) – Replace roof shingles with architectural shingles in black or slate grey. **Motion to approve by Lutfy/Provenzano, AIF.**

New Business:

- a. Discussion and vote to advertise changes to Ordinance 253-3, Section A - Containers packaging of waste and implementation of same. **Motion to advertise changes to Ordinance 253-3 by Lutfy/Manion, AIF.** Resident Rebecca Lindsey had questions in regards to yard waste. Council Member Lutfy said he would address those questions and give her a call.
- b. Discussion and vote to approve up to \$6,000 to repair Ann Street Park lights. **Motion to approve by Provenzano/Ford, Cooney – Nay, All Others In Favor.**
- c. Discussion and vote to approve estimate of \$8,000 for the repair to the cupola. **Motion to approve by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**
- d. Discussion and vote on updated fee schedule. **Motion to approve by Lutfy/Dooley, Manion/Cooney – Nay, All Others in Favor.**
- e. Discussion and vote for camera's on DPW garage at a cost not to exceed \$3,000. **Motion to approve by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**
- f. CapEx discussion. Council Member Manion will work with Borough Secretary/Treasurer on this project.
- g. Discussion and vote to approve participation in Master Grant Contract. Adriane Wendell explained what the Master Grant Contract is about. **Motion to approve by Ford/Lutfy, AIF.**

- h. Discussion and vote to accept Worker's Comp proposal from SWIFT in the amount of \$32,781.

Motion to approve by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.

Old Business:

- a. Act 537 Plan update - Discussion and vote for additional payment of \$3,467 to be reimbursed by sewer rate payers. President Dooley explained that there is an additional cost due to the withdrawal of Milford Township from the Act 537 Plan. **Motion to approve by Dooley/Provenzano, Cooney – Nay, All Others in Favor.** Resident Fred Weber asked for clarification as to whether the amount being approved is to make up for the withdrawal and the additional cost was spread between the 3 other municipalities.
- b. Update on reinstated compensation for Council Members/Mayor. Council Member Manion stated the last time any Council Member and Mayor were paid was in December of 2009. The mayor was being paid \$660 a year, Council Members were being paid \$300 a year, and the President was \$360 a year. In preparation of the 2010 budget, it was determined the Borough did not have the funds to continue the compensations. The Pennsylvania Code of Boroughs states that as of now, Mayors of Boroughs of our size could be compensated up to \$2,500 a year, and that Council Members could be compensated up to \$1,800 a year.
- c. Update on research regarding Act 600 for Pension Plan. Council Member Manion researched this Act and said If the Milford Police have three or more members enrolled in the pension plan, it's mandated that the municipality participate in the Act 600. The Act also states that the members can contribute up to 8% towards their pension and as of May 2024 there are some more changes that the Council will be updated on as they are researched.
- d. Update on Route 209 bridge. President Dooley spoke to Mike Conway from PennDOT who reported the National Park Service is requiring a core sample of the 12- foot by 12-foot piece of concrete uncovered as part of the abutment construction in the event it is damaged and needs to be reconstructed. The concrete repair under the bridge continues. A Right to Know request, for the two safety inspections, was sent to PennDOT. The inspection in November and in May were received and a request was sent to PennDOT asking if the Borough can publicize these on the website.

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

Committee Reports: Vice President Farrell spoke about the special meeting on August 8th to discuss updates to the Ann Street Park. All the questions and feedback from the public was taken into consideration and the Borough will be having another meeting September 24th at 7:00 PM to provide updates. Brian Smyth from Barry Isett will be back with improved visuals of the proposed playground and equipment.

Correspondence:

- a. The Borough office received an email regarding dogs in Ann Street Park. The Council reiterated that dogs are not allowed in Ann Street Park and asked the MPD to patrol the park.

Appointments/Resignations: None

Borough Solicitor Update: None

Council President Update: None

Public Comment on Matters Under Borough Control: None

Motion to Adjourn at 9:10pm by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.