

MILFORD BOROUGH – MEETING MINUTES 7/14/25

The Milford Borough Council met July 14, 2025, 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 George Lutfy, Peter Cooney, Sharmie Ford and Richard Provenzano. Also present were Solicitor Jason Ohliger, Mayor Douglas Jacobs 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.

Adopt Minutes: 6/16/25. Motion to approve by Provenzano/Farrell, AIF.

Adopt Agenda: Motion to adopt agenda with the addition of # 11n – Discussion and vote to enter into contract with Kobalt Construction in the amount of \$265,691 for Phase I of Ann St Park Project by Lutfy/Provenzano, AIF.

Public Comment: Craig Selnick stated that he noticed the holes on E Catharine St have been filled in but wanted to know if E Catharine St was going to be included in the paving project being voted on at this meeting. President Dooley replied that E Catharine Street is not being paved until the stormwater lines are in place and that will not happen for a couple of years. Candace Mahala state she was unable to open the Workshop Meeting agenda on the website. Secretary/Treasurer Lombardo said she will have this fixed as soon as possible.

Public Hearings:

- a. Luhrs Land Development Extension. **Motion to carry forward by Cooney/Farrell, AIF.**
- b. Harford Inn Plan Revisions. **Motion to open the hearing by Cooney/Farrell, AIF.** Attorney John Stieh stated the project was approved by the borough approximately three years ago. Unfortunately, because of some misunderstandings, the five parking spaces that were supposed to be designated to the Borough, had to be removed from the plan. Everyone had an understanding that the five additional parking spaces could be built on top of the sewage system. DEP has determined that the guidance previously received was not in accordance with the regulations. The number of parking spaces has been reduced from 14 down to 9, eliminating the 5-parking spaces for the Borough. **Motion to approve by Lutfy/Cooney, AIF. Motion to close hearing by Provenzano/Lutfy, AIF.**

Zoning/Building Report: Council members discussed zoning issues identified in the zoning reports including unsafe conditions in the Bloomgarden Building. All issues detected by our Zoning Officer must be rectified by Friday, July 18th.

Treasurer's Report: For June the General Fund collected \$20,668 in interest to date. Real Estate taxes collected through June were \$502,724, Real Estate Transfer Tax was \$21,884, Earned Income Tax was \$318,497, and LST Tax was \$33,188. **Motion to approve by Provenzano/Lutfy, AIF.**

Special Events/Applications: None

HARB/Certificates of Appropriateness: None

New Business:

- a. Open, review and vote on acceptance of 2025 Paving Bid. **Motion to accept bid from Leeward Construction by Lutfy/Provenzano, AIF.**
- b. Discussion and vote on termination of part-time DPW employee. Fred Weber made a statement that we should promote one of our part-time DPW workers to full-time. **Motion to terminate Kevin Thompson from the DPW by Provenzano/Ford, AIF.**
- c. Discussion and vote on new HARB Bylaws. **Motion to adopt the HARB Bylaws by Lutfy/Provenzano, AIF.**
- d. Discussion and vote on purchase of new plow in the amount of \$6,728. Candace Mahala asked if this was the same plow we approved to purchase at another meeting. Council Member Provenzano stated that this was another plow being purchased. Craig Selnick made a statement that we have to replace the plows because the DPW is hitting the road too much. Council Member Provenzano said that this was not the reason why the plow had to be replaced. **Motion to approve by Provenzano/Cooney, AIF.**
- e. Discussion and vote on need for time clock. This item was tabled to the next meeting for further research.
- f. Discussion and vote on new computers for the MPD in the amount of \$26,031 paid monthly at zero percent interest. Fred Weber asked if this amount was monthly. President Dooley let Mr. Weber know that this was the total amount for 3 computers. Candace Mahala asked if there was a grant the MPD could have applied for to help with the cost of the computers. Chief McCormack said that there was a grant that could have covered this purchase, but the deadline to file had already past. Wayne Wikowski from the Pike County Dispatch verified with the Council that this amount was for only 3 of the 4 cars. **Motion to approve by Lutfy/Provenzano, AIF.**

- g. Update on Ann Street Park renovations and vote on additional funding of up to \$20,000 for DCNR Grant. Vice President Farrell stated that since the original DCNR Grant application was approved, the cost for the construction has gone up considerably. The Borough will be applying for additional funds from the DCNR Grant with a match amount that will be funded from the Recreation fund. **Motion to approve request for additional funding by Farrell/Provenzano, AIF.**
- h. Discussion and vote on resolution for MultiModal Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of \$1,292,588. **Motion to approve by Farrell/Provenzano AIF.**
- i. Update on ID's for Borough Council, MPD and Office Employees. Secretary/Treasurer Lombardo has been in contact with Tim Knapp to obtain ID's for the Borough. Once employee and Council Member names, titles and pictures are sent to Tim , a draft ID will be provided for approval.
- j. Discussion and vote to send letter to Senator Baker in support of Senate Bill 194 to allow Public Notices on Municipal Websites. Fred Weber stated that he likes the idea of sending the public notices via MailChimp and website. **Motion to sent letter by Farrell/Lutfy, opposed was Ford and Provenzano, All Others in Favor.**
- k. Update on new trash collection services. Council Member Provenzano stated the correct way to put the garbage cans out with the metal bar facing forward and the opening if the can is facing the street or alley. The transition to Casella had a few things to be corrected and the Borough is working on it with Casella. The Borough provided some residents with a 65-gallon can is the 96-gallon can was too large for them to handle. The Council thanked Rich, Paul, Francesca and Kathy for their help in getting the transition to Casella as smooth as possible. Candace Mahala asked what happens with purple bags that were purchased. President Dooley and Secretary/Treasurer Lombardo both stated that the bags can be used for garbage and put in the garbage cans or returned to the office for a refund.
- l. Discussion and vote on spending up to \$23,800 for repair of Sawkill Ave/Broad St stormwater pipe and road surface. **Motion to approve Warner Paving to repair the stormwater pipe by Farrell/Provenzano, AIF.**
- m. Discussion on consideration of providing active Milford Fire Department members an annual \$250 stipend for expenses starting in 2026. **The Council agreed to prepare a Policy for 2026.**
- n. Discussion and vote to enter into contract with Kobalt Construction in the amount of \$265,691 for Phase I of the Ann Street Park Project. Tamara Chant asked if the Council knew anything about the vendor Kobalt. Vice President Farrell stated that they were the vendor that won the bid for the Ann Street Park Project and Kobalt was the company that completed the West Harford Sidewalk Project. **Motion to approve by Farrell/Provenzano, AIF.**

Old Business:

ARLE Grant update. Council Member Provenzano stated that the application has been submitted along with letters of support from Senator Baker, Pike County Commissioner's Office and Rep. Olsommer.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Doug Jacobs spoke about the hit and run accident that happened on Mill Street. The driver was found and was given 4 citations and will be paying for the damages. Mayor Jacobs asked Council Member Provenzano when DPW will be doing line painting because some of the lines in the Borough are not noticeable anymore. Provenzano said this will be done soon, when the nights are a bit cooler so the paint dries in time. Mayor Jacobs also stated the MPD lost a good part-time officer to another department and have not been able to fill the open spot. A Civil Service exam was scheduled and 3 applicants took the exam, with only one passing. This individual is not able to give us the hours we need at this time. The MPD is also looking into the accident at Broad St and Harford Street, where the truck struck the wall. There is an ongoing investigation for that incident.

Police Report: Reports were distributed to the Council. Chief McCormack reported the following data for June: The police responded to 150 calls for service, one drug arrest, 5 domestic related arrests, 8 parking complaints, and 15 traffic accidents. In addition, 25 parking tickets, 22 traffic citations, 25 verbal warnings, 15 written warnings, and there were 51 traffic stops and 7 commercial vehicle stops. The MPD conducted one crosswalk details, resulting in 6 citations and other violations. All 6 citations were crosswalk violations. All Officers were on patrol for Music Fest and 5 officers were on patrol for Kings Day.

Preston Ehrler from BRC-TV 13 asked Chief McCormack why a drone was used for the No Kings Day Protest. Chief McCormack stated that credible threats to both parties were made and communicated to him from the State Police. A licensed drone operator and member of the Milford Fire Department offered the use of his drone, free of charge, for surveillance in case an incident happened. Three minutes after the drone was deployed, there was an issue with the drone, it was returned to the operator and not used again. Preston then asked what would have been done with the video if the drone stayed operable

in the air. Chief McCormack said nothing would have been done with the video unless an incident occurred. The video would then be deleted.

Committee Reports: Council Member Provenzano stated that starting July 21st, there will be single-lane traffic for approximately 16 days while they're installing piles for the support system. After the 16 days there will be flaggers controlling the traffic flow. VP Farrell wanted to give credit to Paul and Jay for removing 4 large pallets from a truck that were filled with playground equipment by using the backhoe forks and the DPW trucks to store the pallets in the DPW garage.

Correspondence: None

Appointments/Resignations:

Vote on HARB appointments/resignations. **Motion to appoint Susan Agar to the HARB by Lutfy/Farrell, AIF.**

Motion to accept the resignation from Adriane Wendell by Lutfy/Farrell, AIF.

Vote on appointment to Civil Service Commission. **Motion to appoint John Fedorka to CSC by**

Provenzano/Lutfy, AIF.

Borough Solicitor Update: None

Council President Update: President Dooley stated that there was an article in the Courier about some homeowners may be eligible through a grant for home safety repairs. This article will be sent out via MailChimp and posted on the website.

Public Comment on Matters Under Borough Control: Fred Weber asked what happens at night on the 209 Bridge. President Dooley and Council Member Provenzano believe the bridge will be back to 2 lanes of traffic. The flaggers are there only during the day.

Wayne Wikowski from Pike County Dispatch asked what was Adriane Wendell's title with the HARB.

President Dooley stating her title was Historic District Official.

Tamara Chant asked when were the tenants and building owner notified about the violations in the Bloomgarden Building. President Dooley stated that Judy found the violations a few days ago.

Candace Mahala asked when DPW is going to pick up yard waste. Council Member Provenzano let her know the regular day is on Monday. Mahala also asked what the DPW was going to do now since they do not have to collect garbage anymore. Council Member Provenzano stated that there is line painting that needs to be done, storm drains that need to be cleaned out and the DPW can catch up on things that have been neglected in the Borough, like yard waste pickup. Lastly, Mahala asked why did the MPD discontinue crosswalk details. Chief McCormack stated that the details have not been discontinued and with the loss of one officer, the crosswalk details are on hold at this time and will pick back up soon.

Preston Ehrler from BRC-TV 13 asked Chief McCormack the name of the officer that has left the MPD.

Chief McCormack stated that the officer that left was Dave Nicoletta.

Executive Session: Motion to open the Executive Session by Lutfy/Provenzano, AIF. Motion to close by Lutfy/Provenzano, AIF.

Discussion and vote on Union Contract. Motion to approve collective bargaining agreement for the DPW by Lutfy/Ford, AIF. Motion to approve the collective bargaining agreement for the MPD by Lutfy/Cooney, AIF.

Discussion and vote to hire part-time DPW employee. This discussion was tabled to the August meeting.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:21 pm by Provenzano/Cooney, AIF.