

MILFORD BOROUGH – MEETING MINUTES 1/22/24

The Milford Borough Council met January 22, 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.

Motion to adopt Minutes from Meetings, 12/18/23 & 1/2/24, by Farrell/Lutfy, AIF.

Motion to adopt Agenda: Item 14a-1 was added for the Verizon Cell Tower Update. **Motion by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**

Public Comment: None

Public Hearings

- a. Hearing to consider vacating the unopened (i.e., “paper”) portion of Cranberry Alley, located north of East George Street to Charles White. **Motion to open hearing by Lutfy/Manion, AIF. Motion to vacate Cranberry Alley by Cooney/Manion, AIF. Motion to close hearing by Manion/Farrell, AIF.**
- b. Discussion and vote to adopt the revised Ordinance 488 – to amend Zoning Ordinance to allow Short-Term Rentals in the Commercial and Limited Commercial Districts. **Motion to open hearing by Farrell/Lutfy, AIF. Motion to approve Ordinance 488 by Manion/Cooney, AIF. Motion to close hearing by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.**
- c. Conditional Use Hearings to consider the application of Douglas and Penny Luhrs for approval to permit construction of three two-family homes upon property located at 404 Seventh Street. **Motion to open hearing by Provenzano/Lutfy, AIF. At the request of the applicant, this CU hearing is being moved to the March Council Meeting. Motion to close hearing by Lutfy/Manion, AIF.**
- d. Hearing to consider the appeal of Kan & Di F Cheng from denial of their sewage permit application relative to 201 West John Street. Will Whitehead went out, inspected that property, and they have appropriate covers over the cesspools on that property. **Motion to cancel hearing by Cooney/Manion, AIF.**

Zoning/Building Report: The Zoning/Building report was distributed for review. **Motion to accept Zoning/Building report by Farrell/Manion, AIF.**

SEO Report: Quarterly

Update from MFD/EMS: Quarterly

Milford Enhancement Committee Report: There was a delay in finishing the project due to the delay in shipment of pedestrian light poles. The polls arrived shortly before Christmas, and given the holidays, Kriger was hoping to be able to install them in the beginning of January. Kriger should have them installed by the end of February, beginning of March.

Shade Tree Report: None

Treasurer’s Report: The General Fund interest to close out 2023 is \$34,438.81 collected between NBT Bank and our PLGIT accounts. Total real estate taxes collected for 2023 was \$627,102 which includes any delinquent taxes that are still being collected. Real estate transfer tax through December is \$38,764.16. The EIT collected through December is \$523,424.91 and LST Tax is \$48,397.21. We're still receiving delinquent EIT money from 2021 and 2022. The new bidding threshold for 2024 has been increased. Purchases and contracts below \$12,600 require no formal bidding or written/telephone quotes. Purchases and contracts between \$12,600 and \$23,200 require three written/telephone quotes. Purchases and contracts over \$23,200 require formal bidding. **Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**

Special Events Applications:

- a. Milford PA St. Patrick’s Day Parade – 3/17/24 – Special Event and 2 Banners. **Motion to approve by Cooney/Manion, Dooley abstains, All Others in Favor.**
- b. Toast to Milford by Milford Presents – 5/18/24 – Special Event and Banner (Broad 5/6-5/20).

Motion to approve by Farrell/Manion, AIF.

- c. Milford Music Festival by Milford Presents – 6/14-6/16/24 – Special Event and Banner (Broad 6/3-6/17). **Motion to approve by Farrell/Manion, AIF.**
- d. Pike County Butterfly Release Celebration by Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice – 6/22/24 – Special Event. **Motion to approve by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.**
- e. Septemberfest by Milford Presents – 9/21/24 – Special Event and Banner (Broad 9/3-9/23). **Motion to approve by Farrell/Manion, AIF.**
- f. Oktoberfest by Log Tavern Brewing – 9/28/24 – Special Event and Banner (Harford 9/13-9/28). **Motion to approve by Provenzano/Manion, AIF.**
- g. Toast to Milford by Milford Presents – 10/12/24 – Special Event and Banner (Broad 9/30-10/14). **Motion to approve by Farrell/Manion, AIF.**
- h. Pooch Parade by Milford Presents – 10/28/24 – Special Event. **Motion to approve by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**

HARB/Certificates of Appropriateness:

- a. 320 Broad Street – Kam Shi – Bloom Garden Building – Repair/replace sloped roof with architectural shingles due to leak. **Motion to approve by Cooney/Manion, AIF.**
- b. 206 West Harford St – Kam Shi – Chang Mao – Repair/Replace sloped roof with architectural shingles due to leak. **Motion to approve by Cooney/Farrell, AIF.**
- c. 201 East Harford St – Billy Shi – Install gutters and leader downspouts with painted brown aluminum material that matches color of building on the back of building. **Motion to approve by Cooney/Manion, AIF.**
- d. 309 East Harford St – Sean Strub – Repair leaking roof above front porch with in-kind shingles. **Motion to approve by Cooney/Farrell, AIF.**

New Business:

- a. Discussion and vote to adopt resolution for 2024 Budget and set millage rate to 40.85. **Motion to adopt the 2024 Budget by Cooney/Provenzano, AIF.**
- a.-1 Verizon Cell Tower Update. The Council will send an email to Verizon requesting a proposal to be reviewed and invite Verizon reps to come speak at a Council meeting to address the resident's concerns. Two residents had comments regarding the cell tower. Heidi Braun spoke about how the tower will lower property value as well as emit high waves of radiation. Bill Pitman wanted to know if this was going to be a receiver or transmitter and also had concerns about radiation. **Motion to send email to Verizon by Lutfy/Farrell, AIF.**
- b. Vote to hire part-time police officer on provisional basis. **Motion to approve by Cooney/Manion, AIF.**
- c. Renewal of garbage truck agreement with Matamoras Borough. **Motion to renew garbage truck agreement at same terms by Farrell/Lutfy, AIF.**
- d. Vote to approve 2024 Budget Message. This agenda item was moved to the February meeting
- e. Vote to approve Planning Commission year-end report. **Motion to approve report by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.**
- f. Status of Tristan LP letter 12/18/23. **Motion to carry to next meeting by Cooney/Manion, AIF.**
- g. Stormwater system cleaning update. The Borough hired Joe Barth, BandB Services, rented a vacuum to suction 18 storm drains, 250ft of pipe. Due to the poor condition of some of the drain pipes however, certain sections were unable to be completed. Connie Nichols stood and stated that leaves are causing problems with the storm drains because they clog them up and cause flooding.
- h. Milford Borough 150th Celebration. This discussion was moved to the February meeting agenda.
- i. Discussion and vote to approve payments to MFD. **Motion to approve all 3 payments by Farrell/Provenzano, AIF.**
 - 1. \$10,000 – 3rd Qtr. match from Pike County
 - 2. \$10,000 – 4th Qtr. Distribution from Milford Borough
 - 3. \$25,000 – Year-End Distribution

Old Business:

- a. Act 537 plan update. There was a meeting in the Pike County Commissioner's office on the Act 537 plan. Present were Lisa Baker, Joe Adams, the three county commissioners, HRG, the Pennsylvania DEP and all four municipalities involved, plus the Westfall authority, which manages the sewer treatment plant. The DEP is still preparing their report to get back to us. There will be no further action until we get that report from the PA DEP. There was a lot of discussion with Milford Township's participation in the plan, and they were strongly encouraged to continue their participation in the plan by everyone present at the meeting.
- b. Update on aquifer concerns. There was an open meeting with the Milford Township Supervisors, their Zoning Commission, and the MWA to discuss potential changes to their zoning ordinance. A blue-ribbon panel set up by Matt Cartwright is looking at the possibility of private acquisition of the proposed warehouse property.
- c. Discussion and vote to authorize memorandums of agreement for union stipulations. **Motion to authorize President Dooley to sign the agreements by Lutfy/Manion, AIF.**

Mayor's Report: The MPD stops are way, way up, and citations are considerably up. The stops in the fourth quarter of 2022 were 71 in the fourth quarter of 2023 they are over 213. The MPD Officers are being much more active in pulling people over and giving verbal and written warnings. President Dooley had a question regarding the monthly stats do not add up correctly each month. Mayor Strub explained that there can be multiple citations in one vehicle stop. This will show one vehicle stop, but there's three different actions that occurred in that vehicle stop that could include different written warnings. President Dooley also asked Chief McCormack if the MPD ever issued a citation for a motorist not stopping for a pedestrian in a crosswalk in 2023. Chief McCormack answered and said yes that they had several in 2023 and he stopped a vehicle just that day for a crosswalk violation and issued a warning.

Committee Reports:

- a. Maria Farrell, head of the Recreation Committee spoke about the ice-skating rink was finally open for the few days that were very cold but will have to be closed due to the upcoming warmer weather. The Chili and Mac N Cheese fundraiser was a great success. They had a tree hundred plus headcount this year.
- b. Rich Provenzano spoke about wanting to add stop signs on Currant Alley in a few different spots. He also stated that loader/backhoe is being sent to Lindsay's for repairs. We negotiated a price of \$2,500 a month for a loader and backhoe from Bobcat of Milford. All the plow trucks are working. Paul's working on the list of what he needed on the new truck. When it's completed, he'll get a quote from Costars. We have also been on contact with Dingman's Township to be included in their electronics day pickup.

Correspondence:

- a. Letter from Alex Garcia-Osuna was read into the record regarding his concerns over the placement of a Verizon cell tower in the center of Milford Borough.
- b. Email received from Pocono Wildlife and Rehabilitation asking to come and talk about their organization at one of the Council Meetings. Secretary/Treasurer Lombardo was going to reach out to them to find out more about them and what they would be speaking about.

Appointments/Resignations: None

Borough Solicitor Update: None

Council President Update: Council members are asked to come to the meeting with a list of major items to be addressed in the next two years.

Public Comment on matters under Borough Control:

Fred Weber stood and asked the Council if the letter was ever drafted and sent to Milford Township in regards to changing the zoning ordinance. The Council stated they would wait to see what Milford Township if going to say in their meeting the following evening. Mr. Weber also asked if the Borough has considered that expenses in the future could be more than the revenue it is generating, even with EIT. President Dooley replied that the Council has been discussing this and will have a plan in place when that time comes.

Executive Session – Motion to adjourn and open Executive Session by Manion/Lutfy, AIF. Motion to close Executive Session by Manion/Farrell AIF.
Motion to Adjourn at 9:05 pm by Manion/Farrell, AIF.