

MILFORD BOROUGH – MEETING MINUTES 2/20/24

The Milford Borough Council met February 20, 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, Council Members Peter Cooney, Sharmie Ford, George Lutfy, Doug Manion and Richard Provenzano. Also present were Solicitor Jason Ohliger, and Secretary/Treasurer Francesca Lombardo. Vice President Maria Farrell was present via zoom and Mayor Sean Strub was not present. The meeting was called to order followed by a roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to adopt Minutes from Meetings, 1/22/24, by Lutfy/Provenzano; 2/5/24, by Provenzano/Cooney, Lutfy and Manion abstain, All Others in Favor.

Motion to Adopt Agenda: Item 12 d. – A banner request from Pike County District Attorney's Office for Child Abuse Prevention Month. **Motion by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**

Public Comment: None

Public Hearings

- a. 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 Lutfy/Manion, AIF. At the request of the applicant, this CU hearing is being moved to the March Council Meeting. Motion to close hearing by Manion/Ford, AIF.

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

SEO Report: Quarterly

Update from MFD/EMS: Quarterly

Milford Enhancement Committee Report: The pedestrian lights will be installed by Kriger either next week or right thereafter. Once installed, this will complete the West Harford Street Project. The Milford Welcome Party is on June 22 at a property on the corner of East High and Fourth Street. Cleanup Day in Milford Borough is on April 20, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Shade Tree Report: Superior Trees is working throughout the borough and they are in the process of removing 24 trees identified as dangerous by the Shade Tree Commission.

Treasurer's Report: The General Fund has collected for interest to date is \$3,341. Real estate transfer taxes for January was \$3,342. The EIT for January is \$32,369 and the LST tax is \$10,810. We're still receiving delinquent EIT monies from 2021, 2022 and we have started now in January, receiving some delinquent funds from anyone from 2023. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Provenzano/Manion, AIF.**

Special Events Applications:

- a. Progressive Rehab's 30th Anniversary – 5/18/24 – Special Event. **Motion to approve by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**
- b. Pike Autism Support Services – Blue Autism Awareness bows on trees in the Borough – 4/1/24-4/30/24. **Motion to approve by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.**
- c. Christmas in July – PMVB - 7/20/24 Special Event & Banner 7/7/24-7/20/24. **Motion to approve by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**
- d. Pike County District Attorney – banner for Child Abuse Awareness Month. **Motion to approve by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**

HARB/Certificates of Appropriateness:

- a. 611 Broad St – Action Bikes – 2 new signs painted on front and side of building. **Motion to approve by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**
- b. 115 Mill Street – The Salt Lounge – Hanging painted wood sign with vinyl lettering. **Motion to approve by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**
- c. 107 W. Ann St – Pike County Developmental Center – Replace weathered sign with the same exact sign, same material and same colors. **This should not have gone to the HARB because it is residential and all funds are to be returned to the applicant. Motion to approve by Manion/Ford, AIF.**

New Business:

- a. Discussion and vote to form Verizon Cell Tower Research Committee. President Dooley spoke about the comments on Facebook that were untrue and recited to the public all the times the Council discussed this proposal from Verizon at the Council meetings in 2023 and 2024. Fred Weber stood and asked who has been chosen to head up the Verizon Cell Tower Committee. President Dooley replied with the list of names who were to be on that committee, Heidi Braun, John Ciccolella, Joe Dooley, Doug Manion, Alex Garcia, Sean Strub and Richard Provenzano. Borough residents and business owners were given an opportunity to stand and address the Council with their concerns regarding the cell tower. Non-Borough residents were given an opportunity to speak as well. The Council then took a vote to move forward with the cell tower committee. The motion to form a committee to research the feasibility of a cell tower on Borough property failed to pass by a 4 - 3 vote.
- b. New ARLE Grant. The Borough received a grant for \$14,202 to purchase two, rapid flashing beacon pedestrian crosswalk signs. The signs would be placed at the entrances to the borough, one by the Water Wheel and one by Log Tavern Brewery.
- c. Liquid Fuels Audit. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General independent auditor's report did not identify any deficiencies to be of material weakness.
- d. Vote to approve 2024 Budget Message. **Motion to approve by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**
- e. Status of Tristan LP letter 12/18/23. As per Solicitor Ohliger the questions have been answered and we can remove this topic from the agenda. Tristan will submit their building permit applications and there are no other actions needed to be taken by the Council.
- f. Discussion and vote to approve repairs to Leaf Vacuum for \$13,667.89. **Motion to approve by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.**
- g. Discussion and vote on Council workstreams for next two years. **Motion to approve by Manion/Ford, AIF.**
- h. Discussion and vote to advertise amendment Ordinance #290 for stops signs on Currant Alley. The council could not vote to advertise, just carry this concept on the agenda and give an opportunity for the other residents that live on that alley to come in and weigh in on the issue or to vote to advertise a hearing.
- i. 2024 Milford Farmers Market. The Council is awaiting a response from the Zoning Officer if the permit application was approved.
- j. Progressive Health Lot Improvement. As per Solicitor Ohliger this lot improvement is not a single-family dwelling lot improvement and requires a public hearing as per our Ordinance. The hearing will be scheduled and advertised for the March 18th Council Meeting.

Old Business:

- a. Milford Borough 150th Celebration. The Council discussed several options to commemorate the 150 years of incorporation. Resident and member of PC chamber of commerce, Lisa McAteer. offered to present the idea of celebrating this event at the Annual Tree Lighting to the Chamber. **Motion to approve by Cooney/Lutfy, AIF.**

Mayor's Report: The numbers for January of 2024 are: Tickets - 37 traffic citations, 8 verbal warnings, 30 written warnings, 23 traffic stops, 55 commercial vehicle stops, 14 commercial vehicle citations, 190 stationary traffic enforcement locations and vehicle mileage totaling 3,120. Six people took the Civil Service Exam, next step is oral interviews. Police Officers completed CPR/first aid training updates, and will complete defensive tactics training next week. **Motion to accept by Lutfy/Provenzano, AIF.**

Committee Reports:

Council Member Sharmie Ford stated that the Grants Committee and the MEC is applying to the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau on behalf of the borough for a grant to repair the fashionable street lights. **Motion to approve by Lutfy/Manion, AIF.**

Council Member George Lutfy reached out to three companies to get quotes to replace the heating system in the MPD locker area with split systems for heat and air conditioning. George also updated the Council that Lattimore Construction will start working on the corner of Broad and W Harford when

the weather improves.

Council Member Richard Provenzano updated the Council that the DPW backhoe is fixed and back in the garage. There are also several repairs that have to be done on the trucks, plow and spreader; which will be taken care of by DPW. Rich also spoke about the Ford F-350 that we want to put up for sale. He will give Secretary/Treasurer Lombardo the specification on the truck to place the advertisement for bids, since the estimated value of the truck is \$7,000.

Vice President Maria Farrell stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee is going to be working with the Fire Department again to put on a March 23rd Easter Egg Hunt, photographs with the Easter Bunny and a Touch the Truck event. Maria also spoke about the ice-skating rink liner that was vandalized and damaged by a wooden stake. They will assess the damage and see if it repairable for next season.

Correspondence:

- a. Any other late correspondence

Appointments/Resignations: None

Borough Solicitor Update: None

Council President Update: The Borough received a Deficiency Notice from the Pennsylvania DEP on the Act 537. A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday with HRG and the other participants in our Act 537.

Public Comment on matters under Borough Control: Tim Haar thanked Secretary/Treasurer Lombardo, Council Member Provenzano and President Dooley for the quick response to his email and concern regarding the stop sign placements on Currant Alley.

Alex Garcia asked if we could have the plow trucks not cut too far on the corners when plowing because they are pushing up a lot of grass and dirt in piles.

Theresa Rocco from Family Promise addressed the Facebook posts stating that their facility is a homeless shelter. The facility is a transitional housing unit for people or families who are in need who find themselves in unsustainable living conditions.

Executive Session – Motion to adjourn and open Executive Session by Manion/Provenzano, AIF.

Motion to close Executive Session by Manion/Lutfy AIF.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:15 pm by Manion/Lutfy, AIF.