

Milford Borough Regular Council Meeting Minutes 2/16/21

On Tuesday February 16, 2021 the Milford Borough Council met via zoom for a regular council meeting. In attendance were Council President Frank Tarquinio, Vice President Adriane Wendell, Council members Joe Dooley, Peter Cooney, Treasurer Greg Myer, Solicitor Anthony Magnotta, and Borough Secretary Laurie DiGeso. Council members Rob Ciervo, Susan Lyddon and Luke Turano were not present. Mayor Sean Strub joined the meeting approximately 10 minutes past 6pm. The meeting was advertised and open to the public.

President Frank Tarquinio called the meeting to order at 6:00pm followed by roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public hearing on Conditional Use:

Motion to open public hearing on conditional use application for 203 West Sarah Street LLC. On 101 Elizabeth Street by Dooley/Wendell AIF.

Solicitor Magnotta stated that Mr. DiLorenzo was present on behalf of applicant. Zoning officer Bolles did not post the property ahead of time and advertising was not done to MPC. Contiguous properties were not notified by the applicant. Due to these items not being done, Magnotta asked applicant if he had any objections to continue at 5:45 at the March meeting. Mr. DiLorenzo stated he did not have a problem with that. Will readvertise the public notice two consecutive weeks, mail to contiguous property owners and post the property. **Motion to close public hearing by Wendell/Dooley. AIF.**

Motion to adopt Agenda by Dooley/Wendell AIF.

Motion to Adopt Minutes from 1/12 and 1/19 by Dooley/Wendell AIF.

Public Comment: Fred Weber of 315 West Ann Street-Had questions regarding comprehensive plan-line 45. Tarquinio mentioned that all comments for the comprehensive plan should be submitted to the Borough office as we are still in the public comment period until first week of March.

Eugene Murphy of 301 W. Catharine Street said that he sees comprehensive plan on the agenda. Why not allow public comment? Tarquinio said that public comments are to be sent to the Borough office.

Treasurer's Report: Greg Myer noted that there has only been one month so far so the report is kind of slim. We collected up to \$8,807 in delinquent taxes so far. Real estate transfer tax is up \$17,203. Old Garbage truck was put out to bid for sale. Highest bid so far \$8008. It was accepted. Have not received a check yet. Milford Borough should see about \$2400 of that money. Dooley asked what the split was with Matamoras. Myer- the split is 1/3 Milford and 2/3 Matamoras. Old split was 40/60. Dooley- how are we doing in respect to snow plowing? Well, there was a lot of overtime due to the snow. Myer- that will be in next month's report. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Dooley/Wendell. AIF.**

Special Events: Pike Autism Awareness ribbon placement around the Borough. Would like to hang blue ribbons on trees Sunday March 28 and removed promptly on May 1. **Motion to approve hanging the bows on the trees by Wendell/Dooley AIF.** Tarquinio- just mention that they should wear masks while hanging the bows.

Certificate of Appropriateness: 112-114 West Harford Street- Milford Mart PA, Corp. DiGesio- this is an amendment to the previously approved ARB application. Only changes are to the type of lighting being hung on the monument sign. ARB recommended approval to hang goose neck lighting on the top of the monument sign to include dimmers. Total of 6 lights altogether. Removed grounded flood lights from application. **Motion to approve the certificate of appropriateness by Wendell/Dooley. AIF.**

Shade Tree Commission: Dale Thatcher- 33 dangerous trees removed at a cost of \$9,000. Collected \$2,000 of the billed cost to property owners. If no payments collected from property owners the total cost would be \$16,000. Bills will be sent out as a reminder next week. Labounty family fund donated \$4,000 to the commission. 14 trees to be replace some of the trees removed will be covered by a grant. Will be placing orange ribbons on trees that will need to be removed. Pike County Light and Power will be removing trunks and branches of some of these trees.

New Business: Dooley- we are thinking about hosting an electronics recycling project. Looking for grant funding to do this. Would like to try to get recycling for electronics, white goods, paper.

Cooney- Looking to possibly make the second floor of the Borough Hall a conference room for people to rent. Tarquinio- that would be great if we could rent the space and possibly make some money for the Borough.

Tarquinio-Route 6 and 84 development- We will support the Water Authority's opinion on concerns about our drinking water as a result of development.

DiLorenzo- might want to make sure it does not increase truck traffic through the Borough.

Parking by the river. Tarquinio- do we want to consider making any changes since we had some issues with this last summer? Dooley- are we talking about a parking ordinance? Tarquinio- we should look at what we could do to make sure people can use the river. Mayor Strub- would it be feasible to restrict parking to Mott Street residents only. Tarquinio-yes. Strub- I will speak to the Chief about it. Dooley- can you park along River Rd.? Tarquinio- aside from the two spaces on our property, the only other space is federal property. We can discuss this some more next month.

Park Master Plan: Pike County has offered to help us with writing a grant for this. There are also some grants available but it looks like it would be a 50% match for the Borough. The county offered to write the grants at no cost. Dooley- we don't have the money in the budget to do that right now. Tarquinio- we will hold off on this for now. We can look for other grants in the meantime.

Licensing/Bonding for Builders in the Borough: Tarquinio- right now we have no recourse for property owners in the Borough who have issues with builders walking away from projector uncompleted work. No penalties for those who do not file correct permits. Magnotta- maybe BIU can send a letter of to enforce building permits are applied for. Wendell- it's also ARB permits. Bolles- most of the contractors know they need a permit but do the work anyway. I am pushing at the least for licensing for any

contractor doing work in the ARB District. Strub- we can put all licensed contractors' names on our website so people know who is eligible to work in the Borough. Tarquinio- Tony, can you work with Shawn to come up with something regarding contractor registration? Magnotta- yes.

Hiring of PT Police Officer: Strub- Kylie Tausendfreundt is currently working at Eastern Pike Regional PD. Public safety committee met with her and agreed that we'd like to hire her. **Motion to hire Kylie PT contingent upon results of background checks and paper work by Dooley/Wendell AIF.**

Comprehensive Plan: Reminder that it is still the comment period for residents to comment on the Comprehensive Plan. Please send those comments to Laurie at the Borough office.

Storm Water: Met with the water authority regarding what the first steps of looking at stormwater study. The estimated cost at looking at a new system would be about a million and a half dollars. Talked about looking first at 3rd and E. George street where the water rushes out into the road and down to the ballfield since it's closest to where the water runs into the river. Next would be to discuss keeping all the drains clean. There is a sewage vacuum that you can use to suck the water up out of the drains but it costs \$37,000-\$40,000. Dooley- does Matamoras have one that maybe they would share? Chief McCormack-they share one with Port Jervis. They come in and help them with their drains. Tarquinio- we should look at this in the long term

Cupola: Cooney met with Mike Marusewski. Mike is working on getting us an estimate of the cost for the repairs. Together we are working on a timeline. Wendell- there is DCED funding for restoration of historic buildings. One we have all the information from Mike maybe we can start working on a grant.

Certified Local Government: We passed the ordinance last week to update the historic ordinance and the ARB has approved the draft of the by-laws. We just need the Council to sign off and certify these by-laws. **Motion to approve by-laws recommended by the ARB by Wendell/Dooley AIF.**

Cherry Alley: Results of study on the alley from Kiley and Associates stated that the holding tank drained too quickly. We need to go back and figure out a new plan. DiLorenzo- did anyone look into an underground system? Tarquinio- they went down 48 inches. They felt it couldn't be used for that. Mr. Souza asked what the next steps will be after seeing the report? Tarquinio- we need to get another idea from the engineers. Souza- why can't we have this paved to our specifications? Tarquinio- that could be a good resolution but I think we have to wait until the Spring for that.

Mayor's Report: Over 3,000 miles in January. 27 parking tickets, 25 traffic citations, 58 traffic stops. Busy month.

Zoning Report: Two permits for January- 1 sign, 1 change of use. Attended ARB meetings. Changing forms on website with new forms with the new fees. Consultations with new perspective businesses.

Sewage Report: DiLorenzo- January- two re-use applications and one system replacement. Still don't have a computer. Can you please discuss getting me a computer with permit manager? Laurie- will see about getting a wire to replace the broken one. Brandon from TOPP will be coming soon to update everything so I will talk to him about getting the computer upstairs working.

Parking Ordinance Amendment: Wendell- we need to amend the ordinance for Penn Dot regarding parking on West Harford Street. **Motion to advertise to amend the ordinance and approve at the next council meeting at 5:45 pm by Wendell/Cooney AIF.**

Wendell- working on a property maintenance ordinance with Shawn Bolles and Tony. Basing it off of one done in Matamoras. Will send out a copy of what we are working on by next meeting.

Finance and Insurance: Dooley- nothing at the moment. Two volunteer FD employees exposed to COVID. Filing a workers comp. claim for lost wages. Waiting on responses from SWIF.

Tarquinio- we are also being sued for a trip and fall on our sidewalks. In the process currently.

Borough property: Cooney- already did report about cupola. Nothing else to report.

Communication and HR: Wendell-authorized Preston to do some updating on the website specifically the COVID-19 links and some new photos.

Streets and Lights: Cooney- there are lights out by Turkey Hill. Tarquinio- send a list to Laurie so Paul can take a look at them.

Appointments/Resignations: Sue Smith has resigned from the Planning Commission after many years of service. Laurie will send a letter thanking her for her time and service.

Doug Manion submitted a letter to council requesting to continue to serve on the Water authority board. **Motion to appoint Doug Manion to the Water Authority Board by Wendell/Dooley. AIF.**

Correspondence: John Kazmierczak would like to serve on the Borough Property Committee. Tarquinio- Pete, as chair of the committee, you can accept the request.

Delaware Water Gap News Release regarding Bridge Repairs on Route 209 in National Recreation Area. Tarquinio- Laurie please put this on the website.

Public Comment: No additional Comments

Motion to Adjourn by Wendell/Cooney AIF

Adjourned 7:22PM.