

A regular meeting of the Myerstown Borough Council was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room at the Myerstown Community Center, the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

Present were: President Bryan L. Rittle, President Pro Tem Park W. Haverstick, II, Councilmembers Eric L. Powell, Jeffrey L. Thomas, and Ronald L. Ream, Mayor Gloria R. Ebling, Solicitor Frederick S. Wolf, Assistant Manager Barry A. Ludwig, and Manager Michael R. McKenna. Absent were Vice President Michael D. Behm, Councilmember Dana Reich, and Treasurer Lee C. Smith.

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ronald L. Ream moved and Eric L. Powell seconded to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous month's meetings held on January 7th and January 8th, 2019. Motion carried.

The Chair opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments.

Vince Podolski of 40 W Main Ave explained to Council that he would like to plan another block party for the Borough, just like the one held in 2018, to be held on September 28, 2019, on Main Avenue from College Street to Cherry Street, and Railroad Street from Washington Avenue to Center Avenue. Manager McKenna explained that there are three actions upon which Council must act. The first would be to approve holding the block party on that date, the second would be to approve the closure of Main Avenue and Railroad Street, and the third would be for the Borough to provide liability insurance for the event and act as treasurer. Manager McKenna explained that in 2018, the Borough held insurance for the Sestercentennial events. He also explained that the Borough holds insurance for the Myerstown Activity Network for the National Night Out and the Holiday Parade. He went on to explain that he is working on getting a 501(c)3 organization up and running that could provide liability insurance for these events in the future. The President of Council suggested that this be done by creating a Block Party Committee, to be co-chaired by Vince Podolski and Victoria Laysen.

Park W. Haverstick, II moved and Ronald L. Ream seconded to authorize a Block Party Committee to be co-chaired by Vince Podolski and Victoria Laysen for the purposes of planning and executing the second annual Myerstown Community Block Party on September 28, 2019 to be held on Main Avenue from College Street to Cherry Street, and Railroad Street from Washington Avenue to Center Avenue. Motion carried.

Park W. Haverstick, II moved and Jeffrey L. Thomas seconded to authorize the borough to provide liability insurance for the second annual Myerstown Community Block party, and for the borough to act as treasurer for the Block Party Committee. Motion carried.

Brian Wentzel, President of ELCO Youth Girls Softball, was in attendance representing the organization for their application to use the gymnasium at the Myerstown Community Center for practices. He announced that he submitted all necessary paperwork to the office staff. Manager McKenna confirmed this and added that the Borough charges \$25 per use of the gymnasium.

Park W. Haverstick, II moved and Jeffrey L. Thomas seconded to approve the Recreation Request for the ELCO Youth Girls Softball to use the gymnasium at the Myerstown Community Center on Saturdays from February 23 through May 4, 2019. Motion carried.

The Mayor presented her report. A conversation was had regarding the status of the police contracting project. Council President Pro Tem Park W. Haverstick, II explained that although the issue of illegal drugs in town is one that needs to be addressed, people should use caution when discussing the issue because it is becoming over-exaggerated and painting a negative picture of the town that is inaccurate.

Councilmember Dana Reich entered the meeting.

The following reports were presented to Council: Code Enforcement Officer's Report, Solicitor's Report, and the Assistant Manager's Report.

Eric L. Powell moved and Ron L. Ream seconded to approve for Barry A. Ludwig and David Schmidt to attend the annual Industrial Pretreatment Conference. Motion carried.

Ronald L. Ream moved and Jeffrey L. Thomas seconded to approve for the Wastewater Treatment Department engineer to put together a design and cost estimate for a flood mitigation project, and for Barry A. Ludwig to pursue grant funding to cover planning, engineering, and project costs for the flood mitigation project for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Ludwig explained that in his opinion and the opinion of the engineer, raising the levy is not a good option because we could spend a million dollars to raise the levy one foot and it may not be enough. The flood mitigation project he is pursuing would build retaining walls and other small projects to prevent damage in the instance of a flood. Motion carried.

The Manager's report was presented to Council.

Eric L. Powell moved and Ronald L. Ream seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report and have it on file for Audit. Motion carried.

Ronald L. Ream moved and Jeffrey L. Thomas seconded to pay the bills as submitted. Motion carried.

Dana Reich moved and Ronald L. Ream seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, which contained the following six items: (1) approval of the Wenger's Tractor & Car Cruise for Saturday, August 17, 2019 with a Rain Date of August 24, (2) approval for the Borough to participate in the Lebanon County Tire Collection on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, (3) approval to advertise for pool admission/snack bar staff for the 2019 season, (4) approval to Use of Facility/Pavilion request from the Lebanon County Children & Youth for their Annual Fishing Rodeo on Saturday, April 6, 2019 and waive the rental cost, (5) approval of the Isaac Meier Country Fair Days on Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and (6) approval of the use of the Recreation Area by the Myerstown Church of the Brethren for their Easter Sunrise Service on April 21, 2019 at 7:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Eric L. Powell moved and Ronald L. Ream seconded to approve staff attendance to the PA Borough Association Conference and appoint the Borough Manager as a voting delegate. Motion carried.

Dana Reich moved and Jeffrey L. Thomas seconded to approve the request from the Isaac Meier Homestead to use the pool parking lot on May 23, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the Horseless Carriage Club of America as they stop by to tour the homestead. Motion carried.

Jeffrey L. Thomas moved and Dana Reich seconded to approve to buy a half page advertisement for the 2019 Lebanon County Firefighters Convention Book. Motion carried.

Eric L. Powell moved and Jeffrey L. Thomas seconded to approve the 2019 pool rates and operating dates as presented. Motion carried.

Ronald L. Ream moved and Eric L. Powell seconded to approve the use of the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) method to calculate Stormwater Assessment Fees for properties in the borough to fund the Stormwater Management Program as presented by the Borough Engineer on January 7, 2019. Motion carried.

Dana Reich moved and Ronald L. Ream seconded to approve two public meetings to discuss the new Stormwater Fee on April 1, 2019 and April 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Myerstown Community Center, and to advertise for these meetings. Motion carried.

Ronald L. Ream moved and Eric L. Powell seconded to approve an extension request for the Early Intervention Program Phase IV Grant from June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Motion carried.

Jeffrey L. Thomas moved and Bryan L. Rittle seconded to stop pursuing the Regional Police Force Study and send a letter to the Eastern Lebanon County Municipalities informing them of this intent. Motion carried.

Ronald L. Ream moved and Dana Reich seconded to approve Resolution 2019-03 designating the month of April 2019 as “Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month.” Motion carried.

Dana Reich moved and Jeffrey L. Thomas seconded to approve the Lease Agreement with Harvest Bible Chapel of Lancaster to lease space in the Myerstown Community Center through January 1, 2022. Motion carried.

Council recessed the regular meeting and entered Executive Session at 8:13 p.m. to discuss a legal matter regarding contracting for maintenance work at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. reconvening the regular session.

Ronald Ream moved and Dana Reich seconded to approve the quote from Empire Services, Inc. to perform maintenance activities to the reed beds at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, and to authorize the Council President to sign the contract, and to waive the requirement of the contractor to post bond or issue a letter of credit. Motion carried.

The Chair asked if there were any additional comments for the good of the borough.

Ronald L. Ream moved and Jeffrey L. Thomas seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael R. McKenna, MPA
Borough Manager/Secretary