

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 22, 2016

The meeting was called to order with the following Councilpersons in attendance: Mr. Walker, Mr. Specht, Mr. Farr, Mr. Budman, Mr. Shearer, Mr. Keiser, and Mr. Swartz. Also in attendance were Mr. Beck, Mr. Benion, Mayor Nelson, Sam Shaffer, Chief Zettlemoyer, and Shelly Sandstrom. Mrs. Meckley, Ms. Fawess, and Mr. Cyphers were absent.

Minutes: On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Shearer and carried, Council approved the amended minutes from the November 9, 2016 Council meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mr. Beck informed Council that there were packets they were given this evening for their review for a Conditional Use Hearing at the next Council meeting.

Next, Mr. Beck stated that Representative Lynda Culver has expressed interest in having an office located in the northern end of Northumberland County, and she has asked if it would be possible to utilize the small office area in the rear of the Borough Hall.

It would be named Representative Culver's Milton Office and would be open Monday through Friday 8:30 A:M until 11:30 A: M.

Details, such as phone, copier, internet service, etc. would have to be worked out.

Mr. Beck asked if Council would be in favor of this action. On motion of Mr. Shearer, seconded by Mr. Walker and carried, Council approved this request and authorized Mr. Beck to proceed.

Mr. Beck informed Council that the contractor for P.P. &L. has begun to install the new L.E.D. street lights throughout the Borough. The project should be completed in approximately 2 to 3 weeks.

Mr. Beck asked Council to authorize the Civil Service Commission to take the necessary steps, as outlined in the civil service rules and regulations, to compile a list of candidates for future vacancies within the Milton Police Department. On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council approved this request.

Mr. Beck reported that attached to his Manager's Report is a copy of the proposed 2017 street paving schedule that he discussed at the November 9, 2016 Council meeting. It is a very substantial project, and as he stated at the previous meeting, the portion which the Borough will be responsible to fund will be funded through Liquid Fuels Monies.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Nelson addressed Council regarding the issue of the budget not including the replacement of an officer and reducing the police force to 7. He was amazed that members of Council have not approached either Chief Zettlemoyer or him regarding their thoughts on the issue. Mayor Nelson outlined his concerns regarding not hiring a replacement for the vacancy. Mayor Nelson has talked with several officers that feel they are burnt out and tired from the overtime they are working. This includes staying after an 8 hour shift or coming in early to fill a vacant shift due to illness or other reasons before working the shift they are already assigned to work. Mayor Nelson feels this level of fatigue will eventually lead to a great cost to borough residents. With the growing number of crimes and

the heroin epidemic, the problems and threats facing police departments has grown nationally and our community is not immune. Mayor Nelson also stated that during the Borough's Act 111 arbitration, it included 8 officers. This did not include the School Resource Officer or the part-time officers. All numbers for the three-year contract included cost calculations to include eight officers; now we have changed our minds and decided seven will work. Mayor Nelson closed by saying that he strongly opposes the reduction in the police force and urged community members to contact their council representatives to express their views on this issue.

Mr. Farr responded that he has given this issue a lot of thought and that Council and the Mayor have had plenty of time to review the budget. While he understands some of the Mayor's concerns, in particular the concern about some of the officers stating they were burnt out and tired, he also realizes that some of our officers not only work full-time for Milton Borough but part-time in neighboring municipalities. Mr. Farr also stated that because we have a fairly new Chief, we are still restructuring the force and will address issues as they arise. Mr. Walker added that he has worked hard to understand exactly how the Borough operates and that Council does care about the Borough and manning it the right way.

Report of the President of Council: President Budman recognized Representative Lynda Culver who was in attendance at the meeting and thanked her for coming. Next, President Budman thanked Girl Scout Troop 60470 for helping to decorate the Borough's Christmas tree yesterday and for starting the Pledge of Allegiance for Council.

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer reported that the bonfire held at the school this evening was a great event and he is proud to be the Chief of Police in our diverse community. President Budman stated that his message was very well taken and thanked him for addressing the public at the bonfire. He reported that the Department will be looking for abandoned vehicles in the coming weeks. Chief Zettlemoyer also stated that he is very concerned about the current staffing issue in the Police Department.

Report of Public Works Director: Sam Shaffer reported that leaf collection is on-going throughout the Borough. Snow plows and salt spreaders have been checked and are ready for use. Christmas lights have been hung in the Borough and the department calibrated and replaced batteries in parking meters.

Report of the Fire Chief: Scott Derr reported that since the last Council Meeting the Fire Department responded to 10 calls. The Department will have an open house to try to get new members from the boy scouts.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Highways and Protection to Persons and Property:

- A. On motion of Mr. Swartz, seconded by Mr. Keiser and carried, Council approved a request from the Holiday Lighting Committee to hold their event at Lincoln Park on Friday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m.
- B. On motion of Mr. Shearer, seconded by Mr. Swartz and carried, Council approved a request to

reserve four (4) parking spaces in the Municipal Parking Lot for the District Magistrate's office. Mr. Farr was opposed.

General Government and Recreation

- A. On motion of Mr. Specht, seconded by Mr. Shearer and carried, Council approved a Compensation Plan for the Milton Regional Sewer Authority. Mr. Walker was opposed.
- B. On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council re-appointed Raymond (Jim) Callenberger and Carl Henschal to the Milton Regional Sewer Authority Board. This is a five year term that will begin on January, 2017 and end on December 31, 2021.
- C. On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council adopted Ordinance #1207 establishing a 15 mile per hour speed limit on a portion of River Alley.
- D. The agenda item to authorize the Borough Manager to enter into contract with the Milton Area School District pertaining to the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program was tabled for the next meeting.

Finance, Health and Sanitation

- A. On motion of Mr. Shearer, seconded by Mr. Walker and carried, Council adopted Resolution 16-07 reducing the Police Officers' contributions to the Police Pension Plan for 2017.
- B. On motion of Mr. Shearer, seconded by Mr. Walker and carried, Council approved the second reading of the 2017 budget.
- C. On motion of Mr. Shearer, seconded by Mr. Walker and carried, Council authorized Attorney Benion to prepare and advertise the 2017 Tax Ordinance.
- D. On motion of Mr. Shearer, seconded by Mr. Farr and carried, Council approved paying the bills from General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Community Pool and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$95,662.42.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Shearer and carried, Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom
Borough Secretary/Treasurer