

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

March 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order with the following Councilpersons in attendance: Mr. Specht, Mr. Farr, Mr. Budman, Mr. Keiser, Mr. Cyphers, Mrs. Meckley, Mr. Shearer, Mr. Swartz, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Walker. Also in attendance were Mr. Beck, Mayor Nelson, Attorney Benion, Officer Zettlemoyer, Doug Diehl, Officer Lehman, Sam Shaffer, and Shelly Sandstrom.

Minutes: On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Cyphers and carried, Council approved the minutes from the February 25, 2014 Council meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mr. Beck stated that in the future, Preliminary Agenda's and Proposed Ordinances will be available for public information on the Borough's Webpage.

Next, he reported that the equipment needed for the installation of the two sirens and disaster warning systems has been ordered. The systems should be installed and operable by the end of April.

Mr. Beck informed Council that it has come to his attention that there is another round of Transportation Funding Grants. This program is administered through DCED along with the Commonwealth Financing Authority. This program funds projects beginning at \$100,000.00 up to \$3,000,000.00. He does not have all the regulations or special conditions; however it requires a minimum match in funding of 30%. He will look into the feasibility of utilizing this program as a source of funding to complete the Front Street Phase of the 2017 Streetscape Project, and report back to Council.

Mr. Beck has completed and submitted our 2014 County Recycling Report to Northumberland County, and our #904 Recycling Performance Grant Application to D.E.P.

In 2013, 34% of the total recycling tonnage that was collected in Northumberland County was done in the Borough of Milton.

In 2013 our Residential Recycling Tonnage was 429 tons. In 2014 our residential tonnage was 585.79 tons which is an increase of 156.79 tons or 37%.

In 2013 our Commercial Recycling Tonnage was 1054.11 tons. In 2014 our commercial tonnage was 2088.38 which is an increase of 1034.27 tons or 98%.

These are very impressive numbers for a municipality the size of Milton and they are a strong indicator that the residents and commercial businesses are utilizing a program that is provided.

Without the participation level that we are currently experiencing, the Borough would not receive the amount of performance grants that we currently do, and therefore we would have to raise the two dollar per month fee that is currently charged for the recycling program.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Nelson had no report.

Report of the President of Council: President Budman had no report.

Report of the Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer reported that the Tracks Program for e-citations will be installed next week. He also stated that since the weather is getting nicer, people should slow down as there is more foot traffic. He also reported that the officers will complete their first aide training on Friday.

Report of the Fire Chief: Fire Chief Shaffer had no report.

Public Comments: President Budman addressed the public stating that the burning ordinance is an agenda item under the General Government and Recreation Committee and comments could be made concerning the ordinance at that time. There were no public comments.

Highways and Protection to Persons and Property:

- A. On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Keiser and carried, Council approved a request from West Chillisquaque Township to utilize the Milton Fire Police for the Montandon Community Days for May 23, 2015 and their Memorial Day Parade on May 24, 2015.

General Government and Recreation:

- A. On motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council adopted the Penalty and Violation Ordinance #1195 as outlined by Attorney Benion.
- B. Mrs. Meckley stated that the next agenda item is to consider adopting the revised Burning Ordinance. President Budman read a letter from John Herman who could not attend the meeting expressing that he is not in favor of restricting burning. President Budman also read a letter from Severna Young who stated that she feels she should be able to burn once a month. He then read letters from Mindelle Bartholomew and Lindsay Thomas who both were in favor of the ban due to health issues. President Budman then asked for public comments.

Jim Bolich from Front Street addressed Council stating that this ban on burning seems like a last-resort move when all other avenues have been tried. If he can be convinced that all has been done to enforce the burning ordinance, so be it; but if not, it seems that the majority is being overruled by the minority. Mr. Bolich also stated that residents could help police their own neighborhoods to be sure people were following the rules. Dennis Delcamp from Shakespeare Avenue asked if this issue could be put on a ballot so the residents could decide on this. Attorney Benion stated that this is not something that can be done. Connie Wallize from Park Avenue said that in 40 years there has never been a problem with burning in her neighborhood. Leonard Swope from Turbot avenue feels that they should be given the chance to help enforce this in their own neighborhoods before putting a ban on burning. Linda Russell from Vine Street feels that Council is taking away their rights and that it is only one day a week that they can burn. Kathy Gessner from Lower Market Street asked Council to not ban burning as it would just fill up the landfills and asked that the people abusing the right be held accountable. She also asked if landlords receive a copy of the ordinance so they can inform their tenants. It was addressed stating that they do not automatically get a copy but that anyone can ask for a copy from the Borough office and that it is on the Borough's website.

Mr. Shearer then stated that he has yet to have a good answer on whether or not the current ordinance is being properly enforced. Doug Diehl said that residents are cited if he finds proof of or physically sees them burning plastic. He stated that he cannot cite individuals if there is no proof that plastic was burned. Chief Zettlemoyer stated that on a first offence a written warning is typically issued and the offender is given a copy of the ordinance so they are aware of what is and is not permitted. Mr. Shearer stated to the residents that there are both good and bad points to the proposal to ban burning. We have everything in place in our recycling program so you wouldn't have to burn your items. However, he understands the concerns of the residents. Mr. Walker said that he didn't think the revised ordinance would include a complete ban on

burning. There are way more pressing issues that we should be worried about. He feels that taking a right like this away is not the right decision. He also stated that the police have more important things to deal with and they should not be out enforcing burning issues. After further discussion this issue was brought to a vote.

Mrs. Meckley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farr to adopt the revised Burning Ordinance. President Budman asked for a roll call vote with the following results: Mr. Walker – no; Mr. Keiser – no; Mr. Jones – yes; Mr. Swartz – no; Mr. Cyphers – yes; Mr. Shearer – no; Mr. Budman – yes; Mr. Farr – yes; Mr. Specht – no; Mrs. Meckley – yes. There being a tie, Mayor Nelson was asked to cast the determining vote. Mayor Nelson voted no, therefore the Ordinance did not pass.

- C. Mrs. Meckley reported that her committee is continually working on the rental inspection and parking lot ordinances.

Finance, Health and Sanitation

- A. On motion of Mr. Shearer, seconded by Mr. Cyphers and carried, Council approved paying the bills from General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Community Pool, Liquid Fuels, and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$89,358.42.

There being no further business, on motion of Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mr. Specht and carried, Council adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom
Borough Secretary/Treasurer