

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
(Hybrid Meeting)

November 26, 2024
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Walker. The following Councilpersons were in attendance: Mrs. Mabus, Mr. Moralez, Ms. Fawess, Mr. Swartz, Mrs. Meckley, Mr. Scheimreif, Mr. Derr and Mr. Pfeil. Also in attendance were Jessie Novinger, Sam Shaffer, Jennifer Foust, Atty. Hartley, and Chief Zettlemoyer. Absent from the meeting was Mr. Robol and Mayor Aber.

Minutes: On Motion from Mr. Pfeil, seconded by Mrs. Mabus, and carried, Council approved the minutes from the November 13, 2024 Council Meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mrs. Novinger reminded Council that the Milton Winterfest Christmas tree lighting will be taking place on Friday, December 6 and Breakfast with Saint Nicholas will take place on Saturday, December 7, 2024.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Aber was absent from the meeting, however President Walker advised that he wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He also advised that the Mayor will be at the WinterFest Toy Drive with the Milton Fire Department on Friday, December 6, 2024.

Report of the President of Council: President Walker thanked Sam Shaffer, DPW supervisor, and the DPW workers for their decorating of the downtown as it looks incredible. He also thanked the Budget and Finance Committee for their work on the 2025 budget. He then wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Report of Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer advised that there will be a presentation tonight in regard to the camera project in the Borough. He also advised that the department has begun to work on their annual Christmas project. They added 11 kids to their list for 2025. He was hoping to get a lot of their shopping done on Black Friday and to catch some good deals. He reminded everyone that there will be traffic detours in place on Friday, December 6, 2024, in the downtown area due to the Winterfest activities taking place.

Report of Public Works Director: Mr. Shaffer advised that all the Christmas lights are up in the Borough and working. He met with the head of the Winterfest Committee to discuss any items that will be needed for the upcoming festival. He announced that the last leaf pick up in the Borough would be Friday, November 29, 2024, as we are still down a leaf machine. The parts are in for the broken machine, and the crew will be working on getting it fixed as soon as possible.

Report of the Fire Chief: President Walker read the report as follows: the Fire Department responded to 16 calls for service, the volunteer EMS responded to 16 calls, and MICU15 responded to 174 calls for service.

Public Comments: Lance Thomas from Clearview and Anthony Hackett from Siklu gave a presentation to Council on the mapping of the camera system through the Borough and how it will work with the Police Department, how this system will help with crime in the area and the Amber Alert Project. This new system would have searchable filters to help our officers in real time. President Walker advised that no taxpayer dollars will be used for this project as the Borough was given a \$1.5 million endowment from the Dale Ranck Estate. Chief Zettlemoyer advised that information is not sold with this system, and the Borough owns the cameras and the servers.

Public Works and Cemeteries: No Comments

Public Safety: No Comments

General Government and Finance:

- Consideration to apply for two (2) LSA Grants due 11/30. Mrs Novinger advised that the grant applications are well underway, but approval is needed as there is a \$100 fee for each application.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley, and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to adopt Resolutions #24-12 and 24-13 approving a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant to be used for the purchase of DPW and Fire Department Equipment.

- On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley, and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to approve the first reading of the budget
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley, and carried, Council approved this request. Vice President Morales was opposed.
- Consideration to authorize the advertisement of the 2025 budget
 - On Motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley, and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to authorize Attorney Wiley to prepare and advertise the 2025 Tax Ordinance
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley, and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough of Milton and East Buffalo Township for Equipment and Personnel Sharing. Mrs. Novinger advised this comes from the Borough borrowing their grader to help at the Cemetery, and we would like to continue these types of agreements.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley, and carried, Council approved this request.
- Consideration to pay the bills from the General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Liquid Fuels and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$197,787.43.
 - On motion from Ms. Fawess, seconded by Mrs. Meckley, and carried, Council approved this request.

President Walker asked if there were any other items or questions to come to Council, Rick Dandes from the Daily item asked what is the terms in dollars for the tax increase? Mrs. Novinger advised if a property is assessed at \$100,000 at 24.3 mills, they paid \$2,430.00. If a property is assessed at \$100,000 at 26.55 mills, they will pay \$2,655.00 or \$225 more per year or \$4.33 more per week. For example, an average assessed home in the Borough is \$34,000, the owner would pay \$826.20 annually and for 2025 it would change to \$902.70 annually, for an increase of \$76.50 annually, or \$1.47 per week. Mr. Yocum asked what the big overall number the increase would bring to the Borough, Mr. Schiemreif advised approximately \$138,000 if his math was correct. She advised that the mill is worth \$64,038.25 which is a decrease from last year. Mr. Yocum then stated that the Borough received \$1.5 million do we need to increase taxes? President Walker advised that those funds can only be used for certain projects. Mrs. Novinger advised that the Borough receives property sales information from the County monthly, and what the sales were for the last month compared to what the assessed values of the properties are in the Borough. When or if Northumberland County reassesses the properties, it will even out or balance the property values to the millage, giving the Borough the opportunity to adjust millage to an appropriate level (ex. 7 mills instead of 26.55 mills).

At this time, 7:58pm, on Motion from Mrs. Meckley, seconded by Mrs. Mabus, Council adjourned.

(Seal)

Submitted By:

 Jennifer Foust
Borough Secretary/Treasurer