

SHIPPENSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

August 7, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Present at the Council Meeting: Andrea Lage
Bruce Hockersmith
Sandra Mailey
John Alosi
Mitchell Burrows
Kathy Coy, Mayor
Samuel Wiser, Solicitor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE COUNCIL

THE MAYOR'S MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAN FOR PAUL G. MARR (45 MONTGOMERY AVENUE)

Councilperson Bruce Hockersmith moved to approve the minor subdivision plan for Paul G. Marr, for his property located at 45 Montgomery Avenue. Motion seconded by Sandra Mailey. Council President Lage explained that rather than subdividing it would be a joining of two parcels so that it could be considered as one in all future events. Councilperson Alosi asked if there will be a driveway constructed in the rear to go on to Morris Street? Mr. Marr stated that no, a driveway will not be installed. Motion carried 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Borough Council went into executive session at 6:03 p.m. and returned at 6:25 p.m. President Lage reported that they discussed various personnel matters.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE MINUTESE OF THE JULY 17, 2018, MEETING

Councilperson Hockersmith moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2018, meeting as written. Motion seconded by Mitchell Burrows. Motion carried 5-0.

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION LETTER OF THE BOROUGH MANAGER

President Lage reported that Council has a letter before them from the Borough Manager resigning from his position effective September 14, 2018. Councilperson Bruce Hockersmith moved to accept with regret the resignation letter of Borough Manager Epley. Motion seconded by Sandra Mailey. Bruce stated that in his letter Mr. Epley referenced some of the difficulties that helped him to bring about his decision to resign this position and he would like to know if he is willing to share some of those things with Council which doesn't have to be publically during the meeting. Manager Epley stated that he has been asked to provide some of his thoughts on certain things for future reference for council to look at and he will work on that information and get it to Council members. Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURING

Council President Lage explained that one of the things that we are now in the situation of is that we have recognized that we have gone through a turnover of managers and in speaking to Manager Epley they are beginning to think there is a better way to structure management and at this point there are a lot of ideas floating around but they do not yet have the answer to that. President Lage stated that her thought was to put it before Council to see if they would allow the personnel and finance committees to spend a bit of time and report back at the next meeting on the progress to talk with some of the current employees and continue discussions with John to think about how best to move forward. She stated that what they are noticing is that there is just too much for one position so she is looking to Council to see if they do want committees to go forward in looking at the restructuring and if there is anything in particular that they think should be investigated and brought back. Councilperson Mailey stated that she feels it should be investigated and they should talk with current employees and review the current situation to see how it might be improved. President Lage stated that if it is the will of Council she would like direction for Personnel and Finance to work and come back in two weeks with initial findings from discussions on how they might structure everything. She also stated that she would suggest to Council that they come back either at the next meeting or the first meeting of September with a structure of how to work in the interim.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A STREET CLOSURE RQUEST BY DOIT FOR THE "DOIT FARM TO TABLE" EVENT TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2018, FROM 9 AM TO 9 PM

McCREARY AVENUE FROM KING STREET TO MARTIN AVENUE AND PORTION OF THE BOROUGH PARKING LOT

Mayor Coy reported that the dinner is at 5 pm and last year it was over at 7 pm but this year they will have some entertainment both musical and a gallery of pictures and Park & Rec is going to partner with them to show a free movie afterwards behind the police station if Council will allow them to use the piece of land. The Mayor stated that she spoke to Manager Epley and Chief Scott and neither had any concerns with it. Councilperson Mailey moved to approve the street closure for the Farm to Table event being held on September 29, 2018. Motion seconded by Councilperson Burrows. Motion carried 5-0. President Lage asked the Solicitor if they would need a motion to allow the use of the property at the police station? Solicitor Wiser stated yes. President Lage asked the Mayor to come back to have it on the agenda for a formal action. The Mayor stated that they would like to start advertising it. Councilperson Hockersmith moved to approve the use of the lot between the branch stream and the police station for the showing of an outdoor movie. Motion seconded by Councilperson Burrows. Solicitor Wiser asked if it would be a Park and Rec sponsored event? Mayor Coy stated yes. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A STREET CLOSING REQUEST FROM THE SHIPPENSBURG KIDS EVENT COMMITTEE FOR THE 31ST HALLOWEEN PARADE SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018, FROM 6 PM TO 9 PM (RAIN DATE WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018, FROM 6 PM TO 9 PM)

KING STREET FROM QUEEN STREET TO WEST ORANGE STREET
WASHINGTON STREET FROM MARTIN AVENUE TO NEFF AVENUE
PRINCE STREET FROM BURD STREET TO ORANGE STREET

Councilperson Hockersmith moved to approve the street closing request for the Halloween Parade. Motion seconded by Councilperson Alosi. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor Coy stated that they want to make sure that the fire police will have enough coverage because currently they are down with their staffing.

CONSIDERATION TO SUPPORT THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT RAIN BARREL PROJECT (FUTURE WORKSHOP) FOR RESIDENTS WITHIN THE MIDDLE SPRING, GUM RUN AND MAINS RUN WATERSHEDS

President Lage stated that she believes they are just looking for us to promote the event which will be run for us by the conservation district. Manager Epley stated that the date has not been set yet for the actual event and they are just looking for us to embrace the event. Mayor Coy stated that she contacted Council President Lage when she received this information and stated that she would be willing to be the representative for the Borough because she feels it is a great project. Councilperson Hockersmith moved to support the Cumberland County Conservation District Rain Barrel project. Motion seconded by Councilperson Mailey. Motion carried 5-0.

FY 2019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECTS; POSSIBLE PROJECTS:

EARL STREET SIDEWALK EXTENSION @ \$65,000

CODE ENFORCEMENT

ENHANCED POLICE PATROLS

President Lage reported that the deadline for the CDBG grants for 2019 is August 31, 2018, and Council only has one more meeting where they can take action. She went on to state that the two projects that we always do is the enhanced police patrols and code enforcement. President Lage reported that Multimodal grant went in on time and the overall value of the grant they applied for was \$240,043.51, which will be reviewed in November and what they need to do between now and then is that if anyone knows anyone with pull that would talk to legislatures to try to get them to support this project because it comes down to people lobbying others to vote for projects that they really like and in this instance political pull is important. President Lage stated that if they do not get the grant one of her thoughts is to put the sidewalk extension which runs from Fort Street to existing sidewalk just shy of Burd on the CDBG Grant request with the amount to construct it including engineering being about \$65,000. Council President stated that it would qualify for these monies if Council is willing to put it on. She went on to state that Manager Epley reported that they have received extra money from CDBG that included extra monies for signaling and she is wondering about taking some of that and putting it towards the ADA complaint crossings and the signalization of the crosswalk. President Lage stated that she would like to wait until November to see if they get the grant and if they don't, the idea is to try to line up other sources of money and they might be able to use some of the money that they have already gotten from CDBG as well as if we would consider putting in another request they might be able to get some of it done even if the other grant doesn't come through. Manager Epley stated that since President Lage and the engineer has already gotten all the information together for the other grant they can just pull that information together and be ready to submit this within the time line that we have. Council President Lage stated that if Council members have other ideas of projects they can also suggest them but action has to take place at the next meeting and wanted to let Council know that if they do choose this option it will limit anything else they can do because of the amount. She went on to state that if the other grant comes through and we get awarded this you can redirect it to a different project you just have to let them know and ask. Councilperson Mailey moved to apply for a grant from CDBG to support the three projects listed which are the sidewalk extension, code enforcement, and the enhanced police patrols. Motion seconded by Councilperson Alosi. Motion carried 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilperson Burrows stated that he sent out an email to Council members which he would like everyone to take a look at. He went on to state that the Long Range Planning Committee has been talking about the LERTA program for a long time and there have been some misconceptions that have been brought up in town hall meetings and committee meetings, one being that should this go through, there is no tax base loss because of the incentive that it is put out. Councilperson Burrows stated that the second biggest grievance with this program is when it gets put in place is what is considered green space through LERTA and where green spaces are given tax incentives to developers which is also something that they are not trying to do, and this is very specific and based on what they have gathered

from different municipalities acting on programs such as this, the more aggressive you are and the more openly marketed the program is directly correlated to how successful the program is. He stated that we, as a borough, have the ability to control the first part which is how aggressive we do the program and we can play a part in how aggressively it is advertised. Eric Walker, representing the Long Range Planning Committee, reported that one of the things that he and Councilperson Burrows have tried to do is to do some comparative research and the data they have points to the fact that the more aggressive you get with the schedule the longer you give someone to try to recapture their investment the more successful these programs have been. Mr. Walker stated that they looked at some neighboring communities and in Chambersburg they have one or two participants in a program which has been in effect for a few years and you cannot even find anything about it on their website, and one thing they found is that in the communities where the application was easy to find and where it was tied to the permitting process were more likely for people to participate in it. Mr. Walker stated that he does not see the downside to this program and it will show the business community that the borough is interested in trying to help revitalize the downtown. Steve Brenize stated that as someone who previously opposed the LERTA program he would like to state that he now supports it because of Act 76 of 1977, which specifically made this about deteriorated property and about areas where there was a high level of unemployment or economic depression amongst the populous and the idea was to encourage people to invest. Mr. Brenize went on state that it was to give communities the opportunity to be able to welcome people in whenever the economy is not that welcoming. He stated that he supports it because he feels it is actually in the nature of the act itself and the purpose for LERTA and what a LERTA is designed for.

Council President stated that she spoke with someone yesterday who reminded her that there are several folks out there that have been thinking about our sign ordinance and that it needs improvement. Councilperson Burrows stated that they actually have three different amendments to the sign ordinance with the goal being to bulk sell them so they do not have change after change to the ordinance which comes at a cost to the borough. President Lage stated that they have on record that Council acknowledges that there could be some improvement to our sign ordinance and it is being looked at and will be coming back to Council very soon.

Councilperson Alosi stated that he did read the email from Councilperson Burrows regarding the LERTA and he also used to be opposed to it but the fact that this is actually focused on the brownfields development and it is the original purpose of LERTA he feels that there is merit in exploring those options. Mr. Walker stated that LERTA not only helps by improving if someone makes that investment and they presumably get a higher assessment and also the realty transfer tax is also something the local taxing authorities would see a benefit in because we are increasing the value of the property so when it does transfer they would see a return there as well.

Councilperson Hockersmith stated that there is a possibility that the new floodplain overlay may come down in the not too distant future and there appears to be some movement and it looks really positive especially for King Street.

Manager Epley stated the Univest Second Quarter Period reports ending June 30th are available for review of Council for the Police and the Non-Uniform pension plans. He stated that he did receive a call from the Cumberland County Commissioners office stating they received our letter of notification for the multimodal grant and asked if we wanted a letter of support and he stated yes. Mr. Epley stated that the Commission will take action on it at their next meeting. He also state that he did receive notification of the 2018 CDBG grant fiscal year awards and we did get for awards, \$10,000 for Code Enforcement, \$15,000 for enhanced police patrols, \$35,000 towards more crosswalk signalization, and the \$52,000 we asked for the rehab of the memorial pool house.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilperson Burrows moved to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Secretary