

SHIPPENSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

October 2, 2018

6:02 p.m.

Present at the Council Meeting: Andrea Lage
Bruce Hockersmith
John Alosi
Sandra Mailey
Keith Swartz
Mitchell Burrows (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
Kathy Coy
Stephen Coccorese, Solicitor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE COUNCIL

THE MAYOR'S MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Ocker, Fire Chief at Cumberland Valley Hose Company, stated that he is here to try to understand the decision of Council on the possible move of their department. Mr. Ocker stated that he has been working with Chief Randy O'Donnell and is trying to understand how Council came to that decision because they were told that they would have to move and if they choose not to move and would stay where they are their workman's comp would be pulled and they would no longer be running any calls in the Borough, and their funding would be pulled. President Lage stated that Council was working on the information that the organization was such that there was some question about the long term as well as the short term sustainability and so with that they agreed as a Council that Chief O'Donnell has the authority to take the actions that he deemed was necessary and that they wanted to spend the next year or so looking forward to see what the plans are to create a very strong sustainable fire coverage for the borough in the future, whatever that may look like. Mayor Coy stated that over the years they have talked as a group and currently there is no leadership in the company anymore which has been noted can happen to any fire company and it is unfortunate that it happens to be the CV Hose Company right now. The Mayor stated that the leadership has fallen through because of volunteering and it doesn't sustain the need and they are having trouble maintaining leadership and administrative personnel which is the concern. The Mayor went on to state that the concern is the safety not just for the community but for their personnel and the concern about having an incident that could have been prevented is major. Chief Randy O'Donnell stated that this has been the discussion for many years as far as the number of stations they have in the community, the number of apparatus, etc., and there has been consistent personnel issues within the firehouse and while some has been taken care of very well and some has not. Randy went on to state that with the recent loss of their chief

officers he was never informed and he was also not informed that they put some other people in place. He also stated that the Shippensburg Fire Department in general and not just CV Hose are at a cross roads. Randy stated that they have lost all of their senior people at CV Hose and Vigilant Hose Co. has a lot of older people managing the company and then a lot of younger guys but no one in the middle and West End Fire is a little more stable because they have some generational people there but if a few leave they will be in the same boat. Randy stated that this is not just all about CV Hose but about what is best for the long term of the organization. He went on to state that they are at a place where their building has a lot of age to it and needs to be replaced or upgrades and the community cannot afford it and local government can't afford everything that they are going to do in the future and adjustments need to be made within the next year or two of a new organization. Chief O'Donnell stated that at the June fire chief's meeting he asked CV Hose to provide him with a plan and what their ideas are and he has never gotten anything. Randy stated that they always revert back to where they were. He further stated that they have a decent strategic plan and a fire plan that was in place and not all of that is perfect but at some point, as an organization, they have to re-tool and realize that they can't we keep buying \$600,000 pumpers or maintain these services for down the road. Chief O'Donnell stated that this is not all about CV Hose Company but about the general service and delivery service that they want to provide. Mayor Coy stated that she would agree that CV Hose is feeling the brunt of it which is the hard part but going forward if they have suggestions it needs to go to the group of chiefs so they can discuss it and try to work out a solution. Dave Ocker stated that he is for the majority of reorganization and feels that they can restructure the whole fire department without truly giving up a station and he as a plan for that and he expressed his opinions at the reorganization meeting and the feeling he got was that they were going to have to move or the borough will just not use them. Mr. Ocker stated that he does not want to see the station gone because once you lose something it never comes back and once a service is gone it never comes back and his fear is that they are selling themselves short at this time and if they would just change a couple little things that they do they could reach their goals. Randy stated that he is open to suggestions and if they would come to the next meeting on the 11th and present their ideas and proposals they can consider everything but the issue is that they cannot keep operating the way that they are. President Lage stated that Council hears what they are saying and that there is a concern but the way to address it is to work with the other chiefs and create that plan and then Council will entertain what they come up with. She went on to state that Council is very concerned that things cannot continue as it is which is not enough overall administration and management so all three companies must work together to think about how they are providing services. President Lage stated that Council didn't ax everything all at once but they did say they need a year and are worried that we are rapidly coming a point that there will be problems so they have put a year time frame on this so that they can consider how best to position themselves for the next decade or so. Councilperson Hockersmith stated that this Council understands and appreciates completely the value of a volunteer fire department and some things that happened recently precipitated them to look at the situation and see what to do. Councilperson Hockersmith went on to state that they had a discussion and decided that something has to be done. Mayor Coy stated that the plan has to be done by January 1, 2019, and then implemented for a year to see if it is going to work and then at that point Council will look at it again and make a decision. Councilperson Hockersmith stated that it is terribly difficult for him to make a decision about his heart and soul but he has to do that because he has to keep in mind the

protection of persons and property which is what they are charged with and responsible for. George Katsaras, board member at CV Hose, stated that in regards to the messages that have been relayed back to the Board, one of the things that Council was worried about was the leadership and administration and from the dates that he has been looking at it seems that this plan was already being talked about before anything happened with their recent leadership and administration. President Lage stated that the broad thing has been in the works for years. Chief O'Donnell stated that what brought this up was when Chief Ocker went to Southampton Township asking for area outside and the discussion that happened there is what stemmed the conversation back up again. Mr. Katsaras went on to state that if they do move from their current location and pay a certain amount possibly \$2,000 a year in bills and currently they do not have a mortgage so they have to come up with funds for wherever they move for rent or whatever they have to pay to stay there. He further stated with them losing even more volunteers they have to work even harder to come up with that extra \$10,000 or \$12,000 per month to pay wherever they have to go. Chief O'Donnell stated that those things would be part of the discussions when they meet with the other two stations.

Bill Helm stated that he is totally disgusted with the entire situation and the thought of losing something that they have worked for all of these years and he is totally against them moving and having to give up their home.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2018, MEETING

Councilperson Hockersmith moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2018, meeting as written. Motion seconded by Councilperson Swartz. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY THE SHIPPENSBURG VETERANS COUNCIL TO CLOSE KING STREET FROM WASHINGTON STREET TO MONTGOMERY AVENUE, BEGINNING AT 12:30 P.M. AND ENDING AT 2:45 P.M. FOR THE VETERAN'S DAY PARADE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018 (PARADE BEGINNING AT 2:00 P.M.)

Councilperson Sandra Mailey moved to approve the street closure for the Veteran's Day Parade as requested. Motion seconded by Councilperson Swartz. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE KEVIN PLASTERER AS BOROUGH SECRETARY

President Lage explained that this is a formal motion so that Kevin is the official secretary as the managers usually are but naming him in that position. Councilperson Swartz moved to approve appointing Kevin Plasterer as Borough Secretary. Motion seconded by Councilperson Mailey. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE ZONING MAP UPDATE (ORDINANCE 13-897, 17-919, & 18-924)

President Lage stated that she would presume they have had all of the hearings on this and it just got lost in the process and this just puts into a pretty picture everything they have discussed already? Council discussed the three locations where they zoning changes have been made and this action is to reflect the various ordinances that that have been changed and to have the map reflect what the ordinance says. Solicitor Coccorese stated that when he spoke to Solicitor Wiser regarding tonight's agenda he was not entirely sure what this was intended to do and he would suggest that if there is any uncertainty that they do not approve it at this time. Councilperson Hockersmith moved to table action on the zoning map update. Motion died for lack of second. Council discussed the properties again and determined that all ordinances have been advertised and followed through. Councilperson Burrows moved to approve the zoning map update as presented. Motion seconded by Councilperson Hockersmith. Motion carried 6-0.

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO DESIGNATE A HANDICAP PARKING SPOT AT 203 EAST ORANGE STREET

Councilperson Hockersmith moved to designate a handicap parking spot to be installed at 203 East Orange Street. Motion seconded by Councilperson Burrows. Motion carried 6-0. Solicitor Coccorese asked if the handicapped spaces are designated in the ordinances because of they are they will need an amendment to that as well. President Lage stated that they are created by resolution. Kevin Plasterer stated that at the next meeting he will come back with dimensions from point A to point B on the southwest, northeast side and Council can approve that as a resolution at that time.

DISCUSSION REGARDING A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM FOR CONTRIBUTION TOWARD PUBLIC SERVICES FOR TAX EXEMPT PROPERTIES

Mayor Coy reported that she meets with the multiple mayors throughout the area and this came up in discussion and she thought it was a great program to look into. Mayor Coy stated that Chambersburg has used it as a pilot program as well. She stated that the Mayor's office goes out and notes to those properties that are tax exempt and solicit donations to support the general fund explaining that the services that they receive such as fire safety, police, ambulance, etc., is still included even though they are not paying their portion of taxes. The Mayor went on to report that they started out using it in 2015 and they started out with raising about \$27,000 and to date they are at about \$38,000. Mayor Coy stated that she would like to try it and would need Council's backing. Councilperson Swartz moved to support the Mayor's intuitive for the voluntary contribution plan for public services. Councilperson Hockersmith asked if contributions in lieu of taxes deductible? Councilperson Burrows stated that they do not need to be deductible because they would be asking non-profit organizations. Motion seconded by Councilperson Burrows. Motion carried 6-0.

CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT LOWEST BIDDER AND ISSUE NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD FOR BRANCH CREEK SENIOR CENTER ROOF BID

President Lage stated that the bid that we have received is in the amount of \$36,500. Kevin Plasterer reported that he met with approximately six contractors, it was posted on our website, and we only received one bid and if we would have put on a new rubber roof it would have been over \$100,000 due to the extent of what would be required and this bid is to install a metal roof over the existing rubber roof. He went on to state that the redevelopment authority has \$43,700 set aside for this project so what is left we can put those funds into another category for something else they have chosen to do around the borough. Councilperson Hockersmith asked Kevin if he is familiar with any work that this particular contractor has done? Kevin stated yes. Councilperson Mailey moved to accept the lowest bidder for the roof at the Branch Creek Senior Center. Motion seconded by Councilperson Burrows. Motion carried 6-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kevin Plasterer reported that Scott Brown was in to sign the contract for the banners downtown. He also reported that Anne Brands has submitted her resignation at the Senior Center effective November 4, 2018, so Menno Haven will try to find someone qualified for the position. Mr. Plasterer reported that the new water foreman has started and things are going well.

Councilperson Mailey stated that she would like to report that the Farm to Table dinner was very well done and that the Mayor was very instrumental in organizing it.

Mayor Coy reported that she does have a concern about the vendor selling food from a truck on the main street and she is concerned about allowing businesses to come in and not pay taxes which doesn't seem fair to those people that have established businesses. She stated she is not sure what the process is and what needs to be done or what Council can do about it. Kevin stated that as far as he knows Chief Scott approved their permit and it is just like at the Corn Festival. Mayor Coy stated that she thinks those permits are good for a year and she doesn't feel that is right. She further stated that the location that they are parked is very dangerous with the propane tanks hanging off the back, etc. The Solicitor stated that it is definitely something they can take a look at through the zoning ordinance or just the stand alone ordinance regulating food trucks. President Lage asked Council if they would like to investigate the idea of a food truck ordinance preferably something that stands alone so it doesn't get involved in the entire zoning thing and then they can look at issues of meeting fire safety, looking at appropriate parking, and how mobile they need to be, etc. President Lage suggested checking with the Solicitor to see if they have a template from any other communities. Steve Brenize stated that State regulation allows them to physically only locate in one location for 14 consecutive days. Solicitor Coccorese reported that food trucks are mentioned in the peddling and soliciting ordinance already to some extent.

Mayor Coy stated that she also met with Dr. Kim Garris from the University and they are in the midst of creating a town and gown committee to try to unite the community to the university. The Mayor also stated that she met with the Superintendent Dr. Wilson regarding issues and events with the school community and she has photos of the courtyard that was done by them that she would like to see posted on the TV in the Council room and possibly put on the website in addition to including events that are going on in town in a scrolling banner. Kevin stated to provide it on a thumb drive and they can do it. The Mayor stated that Officer Nagy was recognized and received the DUI Top Gun award. She also stated that she will be speaking at an event honoring John McCune at the University.

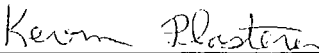
Councilperson Burrows reported that he had the pleasure of being a part of the fundraising proposal between the Ship Speak Initiative and Volvo who have agreed to fund the program in some manner.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Lage stated that they do have an executive session with no action coming out. Council went into executive session at 6:55 p.m. and returned at 7:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilperson Burrows moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilperson Swartz. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.



Secretary