

**Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting  
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236  
January 4, 2016  
MINUTES**

**Attending:** Mayor Jim Zeger, Tom Suddeth, Jeff Main, Catalin Bonciu, Lisa McCoy, Amy Burkot, Jonathan Kittredge, Donald Stoner, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Assistant Manager Derek Stoy, Solicitor Steve Coccorese, District Court Justice

**Absent:** Engineer Lance Kegerreis

**Press:** Rachel Nichols, Mercersburg Journal

**Guests:** See sign in sheet

Mayor Jim Zeger presided over the meeting, welcomed guests, and asked the Judge to swear in the Re-Elect Council Member Jeff Main, and Newly Elected Council Members Lisa McCoy, Amy Burkot, and Catalin Bonciu. All elected Council Persons completed the required Affidavit of Residency and Oath of Office.

**Mayor Zeger then opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Catalin Bonciu nominated Tom Suddeth as Council President, Lisa McCoy second the motion, Donald Stoner closed nominations, a vote was taken, all ayes, Tom Suddeth was appointed as Council President via Resolution 01-16.**

President Suddeth opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President and Treasurer.

**Jeff Main was nominated for Vice-President, Catalin Bonciu was nominated as Treasurer by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Amy Burkot, a vote was taken, all ayes, Jeff Main was appointed to Council Vice-President and Catalin Bonciu was appointed as Borough Treasurer via Resolution 02-16.**

President Suddeth asked for approval of Borough Check Signers to remain the same of Tom Suddeth, Jeff Main, Catalin Bonciu and Donald Stoner.

**MOTION: to approve Resolution 03-16 appointing Check Signers as Tom Suddeth, Jeff Main, Catalin Bonciu, and Donald Stoner was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jonathan Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.**

No appointments were made for Council President Pro Tem.

**MOTION: to approve Resolution 04-16 appointing John Rose as a member of the Sewer Authority was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jonathan Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.**

Borough Council did not receive any letters of interest to fill the Water Authority seat, Borough Council tabled the appointment.

**MOTION: to approve Resolution 05-16 General Purpose Appointment of Tom Suddeth to fill the vacancy was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve Resolution 06-16 Planning Commission Appointment of Josh Meyers to fill the vacancy was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve Resolution 07-16 HARB Appointments of Jennifer Greenlee to fill the architect position and Clem Mellot as the building inspector and appoint Tom Heefner and Michael Cokash to fill two additional vacancies was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, Jonathan Kittredge abstained, remaining ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve Resolution 08-16 Fire Board Appointments of Jeff Main and Tom Suddeth was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve Resolution 09-16 Vacancy Board Appointment of Josh Meyers was made by Jeff Main, second by Jonathan Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve the meeting schedule for 2016 to be the first and third Mondays excluding Holidays where the meeting would be held the Tuesday after the holiday and advertise as required was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.**

The Mayor reported that the Fair would be the week of August 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

President Suddeth announced that the Borough Committee Appointments would be the same as 2015.

President Suddeth asked the Mayor to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and then he opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Rockwell spoke to remind Council Members that they should not be gathering in the back office area prior to a meeting beginning as he felt it could be improper. He also reminded elected officials of their duties and asked that Council publicly announce their plan for the upcoming year. He asked that Council be proactive as opposed to being reactive.

Chris Ardinger provided Council Members with a recent survey taken by Chamber Members with regards to Free Parking Wednesdays. Chris spoke that he remains impartial as he has received both pros and cons to free parking Wednesdays, but did share the survey results and feedback obtained thru the survey. Chris believed that one struggle was that Free Parking Wednesdays has not been advertised a lot. Council persons discussed whether a Merchant Ad or other forms of advertisement would be appropriate verses the cost of such ads.

**MOTION: to terminate Free Parking Wednesdays was made by Jonathan Kittredge with died lack of a second.**

More discussion was made and ultimately decided that this would be an item for the Streets Committee since they were in the process of reviewing the Parking Permit Trial period and changes to the Ordinance would need to be made if decided to keep the Parking Permits.

**MOTION: to approve the meeting minutes from December 7, 2016 as presented was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve the Treasurers Report for the month ending December 31, 2015 and the Bills payable and Invoice List for the Month ending December 31, 2015 was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.**

Mayor Jim Zeger wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mayor reviewed the letter received in the Council Packets regarding the donation of a Taser. Borough Council asked if the Officers have a Taser now and would it affect the insurances. It was confirmed that the Police Department does currently have a Taser and that Council would need to accept the donation.

**MOTION: to accept the donation of a Taser, holster, two cartridges, and a battery pack and it was asked that a Thank You note be sent, Mayor noted that the Police Department had sent a letter already, was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.**

Mayor also noted that he had been contacted from someone in Scotland regarding history on Mercer as he had received a booklet from them. He showed the booklet and noted that it would be available for members of the public to view the document. Members of the Public noted that someone should do some research as to who created the document and fact check the information first so that the Borough is aware that the information is true, especially if linking a web site to the Borough's web page. Mayor noted that the meter heads look nice now that they have been painted and are back in operation after the Holiday Parking. Mayor also noted that with the expected surplus of approximately \$60,000 that the Borough Council consider restoring the Police Salary wages to what it had been in 2015 as he feels it is in the best interest of the borough to do so.

Police Chief Reports were placed at the Council Members seats for review.

Steve Coccorese announced that the Bidding thresholds would remain the same for 2016 as they were in 2015. Steve also provided a draft Resolution appointing a trustee for the Non-Uniformed and Uniformed Pension Plans appointing Advisor Trust, Inc.

**MOTION: to approve Resolution 10-16 appointing a trustee of the Borough's Non-Uniformed and Uniformed Pension Plans was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jonathan Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.**

Dawn Scheller provided her report which included information about a parking complaint during the Free Holiday Parking and also Reorganization Meeting information. It was decided that the Streets Committee would meet and review the parking issues at the next meeting which was scheduled for January 13, 2016 at 7:00 pm. Other upcoming meetings were discussed and it was decided to cancel the Personnel Committee Meeting on January 11, 2016, Streets Committee would meet on 1/13/16 at 7pm, Planning on 1/20/16 at 7 pm, Finance Committee would meet tentatively on 1/22/16 at 1 pm to discuss the surplus of funds from 2015, and then the Beautification Committee would tentatively meet on 1/26/2016 at 7pm. Dawn Scheller stated that those meetings would be advertised and the Chairs were asked to contact Dawn if there was any issues or if times needed to be changed prior to the ads being run.

Derek Stoy reviewed his report which included repair updates on the Ford F350, Parking Meter Repairs, Parking Permit Sales, and noted that some of the Borough's Ordinances would need to be updated if Council wished to continue the parking permit program. Streets Committee would discuss that information at the meeting.

President Suddeth moved on to the Committee Reports.

MMP&W provided their monthly report to Council. Jeff Main provided an update on the annual Box Cards which require Council's Approval and asked that the Box Cards be approved as the Fire Chief is the individual who completes and recommends any changes to the box cards.

**MOTION: to approve the Box Cards prepared by the Fire Chief and submit them on the Borough's behalf was made by Donald Stoner, second by Jonathan Kittredge, all ayes, motion carried.**

Council Members reviewed that they did not wish to make any changes to the already appointed representative and alternate of the Chambersburg Area Tax Wage Board and Franklin County Council of Governments to be Dawn Scheller as the Representative and Derek Stoy as the alternate. No action was made regarding the appointment of the Franklin County Emergency Services Alliance Appointment.

**MOTION: to approve Tom Suddeth to attend the PSAB Training for Newly Elected Officials to be held in Gettysburg was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to adjourn at 8:30 pm was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.**

*These meeting minutes were transcribed with the use of Dawn Scheller's notes and audio recording and have been respectively submitted for approval.*

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion Made by: \_\_\_\_\_ Second by: \_\_\_\_\_



