

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
November 17, 2005

Media Borough Council met in Council Chambers on the above date with the following officials present: Mayor McMahon, President Hagan, Vice-President Robinson, Councilpersons Alyanakian, Whitaker, Sherwin, Krull and Tyson. Also present were Borough Manager Smith, Solicitor Middlebrooks, Engineer Mulvena and Treasurer Gioggia.

President Hagan called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and led the salute to the flag. President Hagan observed a moment of silence for the passing of Doris Mahler, proprietor of Remember When Antiques.

Approval of the Minutes

Vice-President Robinson made a motion to approve the October 20, 2005 Council Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson made a motion to approve the October 20, 2005 Public Hearing minutes pertaining to the General Obligation Note. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson made a motion to approve the October 20, 2005 Public Hearing minutes pertaining to fees for subdivision/land development applications. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Privilege of the Floor

Jane Rowland, Second Street, thanked Borough Council for their efforts in the recent resurfacing of her street.

Mayor's Report – Mayor McMahon

Mayor McMahon reported there were 982 complaints during the month of October and two (2) reported burglaries. On October 28, 2005 a burglary was discovered at a pool supply business in the 500 block of West Baltimore Avenue. On October 31, 2005 a complainant of an apartment located in the unit block of West Baltimore Avenue reported that unknown person(s) entered an unsecured apartment and stole cash and personal effects.

Council Committee Reports

Recreation, Code Enforcement & Properties – Mr. Tyson

Councilman Tyson mentioned the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce recently held it's annual dinner and noted they honored the Media Theatre for its role in community and economic development within Media and throughout the county. Councilman Tyson congratulated the Theatre staff and board members.

Councilman Tyson also congratulated the newly elected Council members and mentioned he is looking forward to working with them for the good of the Borough.

Public Safety – Ms. Whitaker

Councilwoman Whitaker made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1004, amending the Traffic Ordinance to provide for additional snow emergency routes and to remove a snow emergency route within the Borough, remove a handicapped parking spot and provide for additional handicapped parking spots, and to provide for additional no parking this side of a street. Vice-President Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Community Development – Mr. Robinson

Vice-President Robinson announced two separate public hearings will take place for Zoning Ordinance amendments and a Zoning Map amendment on Thursday, December 15, 2005, 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively. Borough Council will consider both items at the December meeting.

Vice-President Robinson announced the new Wine & Spirit shop on Baltimore Avenue expects to open during the first week of December.

Personnel & Highway – Ms. Hagan

President Hagan mentioned she would accept a motion to authorize the drafting and advertisement of an ordinance amending the Solid Waste Ordinance. Vice-President Robinson made a motion to draft and advertise an amendment to the Solid Waste Ordinance, which eliminates municipal trash collection from food establishments and assesses a fee in the amount of \$150 for municipal collection of commercial establishments. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Hagan noted Council received two (2) street light requests. Vice-President Robinson made a motion to install new streetlights at Citron and Emerald Streets and in the vicinity of Veterans Square and Front Street. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Hagan announced the resignation of Cristina Vacca from the Borough. Councilwoman Whitaker made a motion to regrettably accept the resignation of Cristina Vacca. President Hagan mentioned the Borough is accepting resumes for a part-time administrative assistant position and that Borough Manager Smith would make a recommendation to the Personnel Committee in the near future. Vice-President Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Hagan mentioned the Borough is planning to outsource payroll services due to a shift in office personnel. Borough Manager Smith received three (3) proposals for these services from ADP, Paychex and PrimePay. Councilwoman Whitaker made a motion to approve the outsourcing of payroll services on a bi-weekly basis with PrimePay in the amount of \$2,986.62 per year. Councilwoman Krull seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance, Insurance & MBA – Mr. Sherwin

Councilman Sherwin read the finance report. The Finance Committee reported checks drawn on the Central Disbursement account for the following funds:

General Fund	\$ 570,446.62
Recreation Fund	\$ 953.00
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$ 7,438.14
Total	\$ 578,837.76

Councilman Sherwin motioned that bills be paid when properly approved for all funds. Councilwoman Krull seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Sherwin mentioned Council will adopt the 2006 preliminary budget this evening. The final budget will be adopted at the December 15, 2005 Council meeting. A couple of the 2006 preliminary budget highlights are as follows: the proposed millage rate will stay the same at .29 mills and a real estate transfer tax of 1% has been proposed. Councilman Sherwin noted that the real estate transfer tax needs to be explored due to rising costs (i.e. insurance, etc.). Councilman Sherwin thanked Borough Manager Smith for his hard work on the preliminary budget and mentioned a copy of it is available for inspection at the Media-Upper Providence Library. Vice-President Robinson mentioned he will support the preliminary budget although he believes there is a significant amount of work that needs to be done to arrive at a proper budget. It's important for residents to go to the Library to review this document. Councilman Alyanakian noted he does not support the 2006 preliminary budget. Significant discussions took place on Tuesday evening and Councilman Alyanakian believes there are many problem areas in this budget. President Hagan echoed Vice-President Robinson and Councilman Alyanakian's comments pertaining to significant concerns with the budget as it relates to long-term spending. More discussions needs to take place regarding whether to impose a real estate transfer tax or raise the millage rate. A special budget meeting will be held on November 30, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. and will be open to the public. Councilman Sherwin made a motion to adopt the 2006 preliminary budget. Vice-President Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-2, with Councilmen Alyanakian and Tyson casting the dissenting votes.

Councilman Sherwin mentioned as a follow-up to the 2006 preliminary budget, Council should draft and advertise an ordinance pertaining to increasing the real estate transfer tax to 1%. Councilwoman clarified that this is merely a drafting and advertising of the ordinance and does not necessarily mean it will be passed along with the final budget. Councilman Tyson has concerns about the nature of this tax and believes this will put affordable housing in Media Borough out of reach for many individuals. Vice-President Robinson stated that he does not have an issue with the drafting and advertisement of the ordinance in order to leave our options open, however, he agrees with Councilman Tyson that this is not a good move to impose this tax. Vice-President Robinson noted that he believes the millage rate should be increased instead, that way the tax increase is shared by all residents, not just people moving into and out of the Borough. Vice-President mentioned that he would not support this if it is included in the final budget. Councilwoman Whitaker does not support the real estate transfer tax and believes it should not be an option included in the final budget. Councilman Sherwin noted that the real estate transfer tax would be built into the selling price of the property and would be something that is negotiated between the buyer and seller. Councilman Sherwin believes this to be a better option than increasing the millage rate, which would hurt lower income individuals. Councilman Alyanakian noted that revenue generated through this proposed tax is purely speculative and we

may not have that amount of transfers in 2006. Vice-President Robinson stated that he believes an additional \$60-\$90 Borough real estate bill is not unreasonable to expect residents to pay if the millage rate is increased. President Hagan mentioned that further discussion will take place pertaining to the 2006 budget and particularly, the proposed real estate transfer tax over the next month. Councilman Sherwin made a motion to authorize the drafting and advertisement of an ordinance increasing the real estate transfer tax to 1%. Councilwoman Krull seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-3, with Councilpersons Tyson, Whitaker and Alyanakian casting the dissenting votes.

Councilman Sherwin made a motion to adopt Resolution #2005-15, which ratifies the ordinance adopted last month pertaining to the \$910,000 Non-electoral General Obligation Note from PNC Bank. Vice-President Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Sherwin announced, during the last Business Mixer, Citizen's Bank gave a \$5,000 check to the Media Business Authority Promotion Committee in order to continue their efforts in promoting shopping within the business district during the holiday season. Councilman Sherwin noted the Media Business Authority anticipates a good holiday season in retail within the business district.

Recreation, Grants, Recycling & Streetscape – Mrs. Krull

Councilwoman Krull announced the Recreation Board is sponsoring a bus trip to Lancaster, which will include lunch at Hershey Farms and a holiday show at the American Music Theatre. The trip will take place on December 8, 2005 and will leave the Olive Street parking garage at 11:00 a.m. and return at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$50 for residents and \$60 for non-residents and includes lunch and the price of the show.

Councilwoman Krull announced that the Streetscape Project has begun on State Street from Jackson to Olive Streets (south side of the street) and in front of the Media Theatre. Councilwoman Krull reminded everyone that shops and restaurants are open during construction.

Health & Shade Tree Commission – Mr. Alyanakian

Councilman Alyanakian mentioned the Shade Tree Commission is looking for volunteers to fill a vacancy. Anyone interested should send a letter of interest and resume to Borough Manager Smith.

Councilman Alyanakian thanked the Shade Tree Commission and Highway Department for the wonderful work they did in enhancing the gateways into the Borough.

Councilman Alyanakian noted the Borough is in the process of planting approximately 75 trees throughout the Borough. If you are interested in having a tree planted in front of your property, please contact Borough Manager Smith.

As a reminder, Councilman Alyanakian mentioned that the trees that are being removed along the Streetscape project area will be replaced in the spring of 2006.

Councilman Alyanakian reported the first phase of the solar panel installation is completed at Media Elementary School and the second phase is starting at the Media-Upper Providence Library and Media Municipal Center.

Councilman Alyanakian announced the arrival of Santa on Friday, November 25, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Alyanakian congratulated the election of the four (4) new Council members and mentioned he looks forward to working with them. Councilman Alyanakian also thanked Vice-President Robinson for his years of service.

Privilege of the Floor

President Hagan noted there are many opportunities to serve the Borough as many boards/commissions are looking for volunteers. Interested individuals should send a letter and resume to Borough Manager Smith.

President Hagan noted that leaf collection is continuing throughout the Borough. There will be an increased presence with pick-up taking place over the weekend.

Bob Dimond thanked the Mayor and others for another successful Veterans Day Parade and for the opening of the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum.

Vice-President Robinson thanked the Police and Highway Departments for their efforts with the Veterans Day Parade. Vice-President Robinson noted that the grand opening of the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum was a huge success and thanked Mayor McMahan for his efforts. Mayor McMahan noted the museum hours as follows: Thursday through Sunday from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Please stop in to check it out!

Councilman Tyson thanked Tax Collector Bob Dimond for his part in coordinating the Veterans Day Parade and his ongoing work with the Veterans Legacy Project.

Councilman Tyson reminded everyone to frequent the shops, restaurants and Theatre within the business district this holiday season.

Adjournment

Vice-President Robinson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Councilwoman Krull seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey A. Smith
Borough Manager/Secretary