

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
JULY 6, 2023**

Media Borough Council met on the above date with the following officials present: Mayor McMahon, President Hall, Vice-President Romaine, Councilpersons Boyer and Washington. Also present were Borough Manager Forman, Engineer Matson and Solicitor Ewald. Councilpersons Paikoff and Robinson attended via phone.

President Hall called the Workshop meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He mentioned that Council met in Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter.

Public Comment & Privilege of the Floor

Received via email:

Chris Shuster of South Ave:

I am writing to request that the Media Area Girls Softball retain permit access to Barrall field and the lights at the field. If access to either is limited because of a new permit process, then it will significantly impact the league and take away opportunities for local girls.

This field space provides an important avenue for girls as there are limited softball fields across Delaware County designated for female sports. In addition, the families who spend time at the field add value to the community by patronizing the businesses on State Street. The less time the families are at the field, then the less money they spend in the Borough. The girls' softball league not only adds value by creating a safe and healthy community for local girls, but they are also supporting our local businesses.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

John Baumgardner of N Olive St:

I am a Media Borough resident, and have been involved in Media Girls Softball for 12 years. I have seen first hand the benefit the organization and sport have in developing strong, confident, and healthy girls, while also building community between families.

Media Borough, at its core, values the health of our families and the strength of our community. Media Girls Softball embodies these values and should be supported by the Borough and not threatened with reduced resources.

I understand that a couple residents next to the Barrall Field have recently voiced complaints about the field usage. I ask that the Borough not take a reactionary approach to these complaints that would have significant long-term impacts on this community asset, such as reducing the hours that the field can be used. Instead please look for other ways to work with Media Girls Softball and the school district to mitigate the neighbors' complaints. Potential mitigation measures could include replacing the chain link fence along Front Street with a solid

fence (to reduce noise along Front Street) and upgrading the lights to reduce light spillage beyond the field. I'm sure additional productive measures could be identified through dialogue.

Recreation and socialization are vital to the physical and mental health of our youth. It would run counter to Media's values to reduce such opportunities for girls in our town. Please look for ways to work collaboratively to mitigate neighbor complaints without reducing the ability of girls to use Barrall Field.

Kelli Milliner of East 4th Street:

I am writing specifically to address the agenda item considering permitting the Barrall Field Lights. In full transparency, I am a parent and coach of two girls who participate in the Media Area Girls Softball league and have recently joined the board of MAGS, so I am aware of the concerns about the lights that have come up over the past few months. I understand the need for the council to address all concerns of the residents and I also hope that the council can understand and listen to all perspectives. Some voices may be louder or more frequent, however, I feel that other voices, who may not be as constant should hold weight and merit within the community.

My understanding is that the league holds permits to use Barrall Fields with the school district and has had a wonderful partnership, especially with the Penncrest softball teams and coaches. The lights are not covered in that permit and that could be the reasoning for the discussion on assigning a permit for the lights at this time. I don't disagree that there should be a permit process so the residents are aware of who should be utilizing the lights, however, I do want to emphasize that a reduction in the usage of the lights could have a significant impact on the opportunities for girls in our community as well as the benefits realized from the league for the borough. I am also aware that in the Borough Code 215-2 Hours for use: restrictions, it specifically states in A. (2) that "Facilities with lights may be used until 10:00 p.m.; lights will be turned off no later than 10:00pm." The softball league complies with this code.

I spend a lot of time at the fields with two girls on two different teams and I enjoy watching so many children and families using not only the fields for games and practices, but the playground, the tennis courts, and even walking into town. The sense of community from so many of the families is really great - and bringing those from outside of the borough into our town and being able to show it off is really a sense of pride. I know, from being on the MAGS board, that we have to turn away girls who want to play because there is just not enough time and space to accommodate everyone and the reason that we can have as many teams as we do is due to the ability to use the fields up until the end time for public use, 10:00 pm.

If that time were to change, it would reduce the time and fields for the girls who participate in the league by about half. There would be a negative impact on the experience for our girls and our community members. A change to the Borough Code is not only unnecessary, but will hurt children, families and the community at large. Please take this into consideration when discussing the permitting process.

I will be in attendance at the meeting tonight to listen and understand the issues. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Brooke Forry of E State Street:

I am writing in support of Media Area Girls Softball (MAGS) to continue regular use of Barrall Field and its lights without a change to the permitting process for this incredible youth organization.

I have been a resident of 309 East State Street — just yards away from Barrall Field — since December 2011. When choosing to live at a property within such close proximity to Barrall Field, the tennis courts, the SEPTA 101 trolley line, etc., we expected the noise, lights, and parked cars that come along with these downtown features. We actually embrace and enjoy these elements of Borough living.

My husband and I are raising two children here, now ages 7 and 10, and the noise and lights from softball games have never affected us negatively. While we sometimes hear the respectful, excited cheers of spectators and see the lights from our home at bedtime, the white noise of fans and the simple act of closing blinds and curtains makes them disappear.

While neither of my children participate in the MAGS league, I have seen the positive impact that this softball league has had on so many young girls. Permitting that limits the use of the fields under the lights will greatly impact the organization, likely reducing the number of girls who can play in the league, shorten the season, reduce opportunities for practices, and ultimately reduce opportunities for local girls to participate, grow, and thrive under the incredible leadership of MAGS coaches and volunteers.

MAGS goes beyond creating a safe and supportive environment for girls to participate in softball and learn important teamwork and life lessons. MAGS contributes positively to our community by volunteering at DUTS, participating in holiday parades, hosting field cleanup events, providing cleaning services to the bathroom and concession stands (that are used for many Media School and community events throughout the year), maintaining the softball fields, and bringing economic support to Borough businesses.

Please clarify the intended outcome of the discussion regarding Barrall Field light permitting, and reconsider making any changes to the permit process for MAGS so the girls of Media can continue safe access to their sport.

Erica Burman of W. Baltimore Avenue:

I want to again thank Borough Council for hosting the presentation on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and considering the MOU so we can learn more about this incredible opportunity for the Borough to not only collectively reduce emissions and promote local renewable energy, but also improve our climate resiliency and provide energy cost savings over time to residents.

As we currently are experiencing the hottest global days on record and deal with the impacts of wildfire air pollution exacerbated by our fossil fuel warming climate its easy to feel helpless and wonder what our little Borough can do. This is a big opportunity for our small Borough and I strongly hope Council signs this MOU so we can explore the data and logistics of engaging in a

CCA contract and procuring energy for residents. We can't wait for state or federal movement on this and we are uniquely positioned to take action.

Received in person:

Linda Coulston of Fox Cross Lane representing Bee City USA mentioned that mosquito and pesticide spraying is causing damage to the pollinators and native plants. She recommends that Council require the following: controlling the method of spraying and she provided examples that would help reduce drift, no spraying is wind speed is more than 10 mph and request that companies disclose the dangers of the materials they spray. Councilperson Robinson mentioned that he is working with Senator Kearney and Representative O'Mara to allow local government to make decisions on issues like this.

Borough Manager's Report

Manager Forman had no report.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Matson mentioned he has provided a written report. He mentioned the CMAQ sidewalk project is complete and looks great.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Ewald mentioned the terms of the Orange Street lot agreement will be discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor's Report

Mayor McMahon gave the police report.

Mayor McMahon mentioned he would like to see cameras on all of State Street. Chief Egan attended and spoke about the steps taken in the Borough for safety. He added that he recommends additional cameras should be placed at State and Jackson, State and Monroe, State and Church, 5 Points and the Media Elementary School playground.

Council/Committee Reports

Properties, Public Works and Fire - Mr. Robinson

Councilperson Robinson mentioned a resolution for emergency fire sprinkler repairs. The system was inspected and found to be not operational, therefore replacement is needed immediately.

Councilperson Robinson mentioned limiting the number of times the lights can be used and the times at Barrall Field. The Properties Committee recommends the usage of lights September through November for games be permitted until 9:30 p.m. and for practice until 8:30 p.m. The issue was tabled to allow for fall registration and Council will discuss the rebalancing of use of the field at a future meeting.

Personnel and HARB– Ms. Washington

Councilperson Washington mentioned an agreement with Karen Taussig-Lux for grant writing services.

Councilperson Washington mentioned the promotion of Rich Leicht and Mitch Helmandollar to the rank of Sergeant.

Councilperson Washington mentioned the hiring of Christine Cylc for the position of Sidewalk and Property Maintenance Inspector.

Finance and Media Business Authority– Ms. Romaine

Vice President Romaine mentioned the Pride Parade was a very well attended event and was good for business.

Councilperson Washington asked Vice President Romaine to consider including Septa Perks through the MBA.

Community Development – Mr. Hall

President Hall mentioned authorizing the Solicitor to draft a zoning ordinance amendment to allow for a ground floor restaurant at the former Santander Bank property.

Public Safety, Recreation and Civil Service Commission – Mr. Boyer

Councilperson Boyer mentioned the 4th of July event was a great success and he thanked all involved for their help.

Councilperson Boyer mentioned that the Public Safety Committee agrees with Chief Egan regarding additional camera upgrades.

Councilperson Boyer mentioned a mass gathering permit application for Media Rotary Music and Food Festival to be held on Saturday, September 9th.

Library – Lisa Gelman

Councilperson Gelman mentioned the Summer Reading Program at the Library is underway.

Environmental Advisory Board and Shade Tree Commission – Mr. Paikoff

Councilperson Paikoff mentioned the possibility of a mosquito spraying drift letter to residents. The sense of Council was to revisit this in the Spring 2024.

Councilperson Paikoff mentioned the MOU for Community Aggregation Agreement. There will be no commitment required of the Borough.

Public Comment and Privilege of the Floor

The President of Media Area Girls Softball spoke about using the field. She mentioned that there are not a lot of softball fields in the area. She mentioned the team gives value of the girls working together and supports community involvement.

Adjournment

Councilperson Boyer made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Repino
Recording Secretary