

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
JULY 11, 2019

Media Borough Council met in the second floor board room at the Media Fire & Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, 11 S. Jackson Street, Media, PA on the above date at 7:30 p.m. with the following officials present: Mayor McMahon, President Hall, Vice President A. Johnson, Councilmen Boyer and Williamson, Councilwoman L. Johnson and Councilwoman Dixon. Also present were Solicitor Scott, Engineer Matson and Manager Smith.

Public Comment & Privilege of the Floor

Michael Straw thanked Council for their support for the Pride Day event. The event was very successful and well attended.

John Dorchester of West Street suggested that Council consider limiting parking to one side of West Street and install a bike and pedestrian lane on the other side. President Hall mentioned the RFP for traffic calming and suggested Mr. Dorchester bring his suggestions to the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

Tom Dooley of E. 6th Street mentioned the rat infestation in his neighborhood caused by a nuisance chicken coop. He mentioned that at least 12 large rats have been killed. Mr. Dooley quoted the ordinance that he believes prohibits chickens. He mentioned that former and current council members have chicken coops and feels that Council is not addressing the issue due to this fact and feels that Council is leaning towards legalizing chicken coops. Mr. Dooley mentioned he is satisfied with the cleanup by the Borough, but still feels the food source which is the nuisance chicken coop and the practices of the owner who permits the chickens to run free in his yard, therefore the rats are still present. President Hall mentioned that the issue was discussed at the recent CDC meeting. He mentioned that he doesn't feel that it is fair for Mr. Dooley to say the efforts of the CDC are aligned at legalizing chickens in the Borough. The CDC discussed tightening up the current ordinance because the ordinance is not clear if it is appropriate or inappropriate to have chickens in an urban setting. President Hall mentioned that the Borough understands the concerns of Mr. Dooley and the Code Enforcement Department has been instructed to be vigilant in their inspections of chicken coops. President Hall pointed out that it is difficult to enforce the ordinance since the ordinance it not a model of clarity. The CDC will work with Solicitor Scott to review the ordinance and decide whether it needs to be changed and how it should be changed.

Borough Manager's Report

Manager Smith mentioned an agenda and police report are in the folders.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Matson mentioned there was a pre-construction meeting with the contractor for the Olive Street Parking Garage. The contractor has begun some investigative work and updates will be placed on the website.

Engineer Matson mentioned the road resurfacing program required paperwork is being completed and work should begin soon.

Engineer Matson is working on general maintenance contracts in preparation for the upcoming budget year.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Scott had no report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor McMahon mentioned the police report.

Council/Committee Reports

Properties, Public Works and Fire – Mr. Robinson

Councilman Robinson mentioned a license agreement with the Farmer's Market for placement of a shed at Borough Hall. Mr. Robinson mentioned he is not comfortable with allowing one non-profit space for storage and not others. Vice President Johnson mentioned that the Farmer's Market is not brick and mortar and therefore does not have the ability for storage. The Public Works Director suggested placing the shed in the dumpster area. Vice President Johnson mentioned they approached the Rose Tree Media School District but were denied.

MBA, Historic, Public Safety and Civil Service – Ms. L. Johnson

Councilwoman L. Johnson mentioned a mass gathering permit application for the Media Elementary School Welcome Back Potluck on Friday, September 13, 2019 from 4:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (raindate: September 20, 2019).

Councilwoman L. Johnson mentioned an amended mass gathering permit application for Media Open Streets event changing the raindate from October 5, 2019 to September 29, 2019.

Councilwoman L. Johnson mentioned the appointment of Ally Britton to the Media Business Authority for a term expiring 12/31/21.

Councilwoman L. Johnson mentioned the appointment of David Sibley to the Media Business Authority for a term expiring 12/31/21.

Councilwoman L. Johnson mentioned a resolution authorizing the resubmission of Multimodal Transportation Fund Program Grant for Pedestrian Safety Enhancements. Engineer Matson mentioned he feels resubmission is worthwhile for the Borough.

Fair Trade, Farmer's Market, Shade Tree and EAC – Mrs. A. Johnson

Vice President A. Johnson mentioned the resignation of Brian Taussig-Lux from the Environmental Advisory Council. Council discussed and would like to present a plaque to Mr. Taussig-Lux as a founding member of the EAC.

Community Development, HARB and Media Arts Council – Mr. Hall

President Hall mentioned that neighbors were invited to express their thoughts on the issue of sidewalks locations. Based upon the comments by the neighbors, the CDC is recommending the following locations: Haldeman Street between 2nd & 3rd Streets on the east side, Edgmont Street between 4th & 5th Streets on the east side, West Street between Front and 3rd Streets, State Street in front of Glen Providence Park, Lemon Street between Front & 2nd Streets on the west side, Orange Street at 5th Street. The CDC has decided to not include 8th Street between Plum and Olive Streets.

Recreation and Board of Health – Mr. Boyer

Councilman Boyer mentioned upcoming Recreation events.

Finance and Library – Mr. Williamson

Councilman Williamson mentioned the mid-year budget resolution that is upcoming.

Personnel, Public Relations and Historical Archives – Ms. Dixon

Councilwoman Dixon had no report.

Public Comment and Privilege of the Floor

Mary Ellen Lemon of W. 8th Street thanked the CDC for listening to the neighbor's opinions regarding the sidewalks and for removing 8th Street from the sidewalk plan. Ms. Lemon mentioned the rain run-off and mud on 8th Street from the construction. Engineer Matson has been in contact with the proper parties regarding erosion and sedimentation practices and will continue to do so.

Adjournment

Vice President Johnson made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting at 8:40 p.m. Councilman Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Smith
Borough Manager