

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2020**

Media Borough Council met via Zoom and streaming live on YouTube on the above date with the following officials present: Mayor McMahon, President Hall, Vice-President A. Johnson, Councilmen Boyer, Robinson and Williamson, Councilwoman Dixon. Also present were Interim Manager Seaman and Solicitor Scott. Councilwoman L. Johnson was not present.

President Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

President Hall mentioned that public comment can be made via email comments@mediaborough.com and/or phone 610-566-5210 x243.

Public Comment & Privilege of the Floor

Karen Repino read the following public comments:

Laura Graham of Manchester Avenue would like to encourage Council to begin holding in person meetings again. This is the best way for you to represent the public.

Mary Hannigan no address provided asked why we are no longer holding public meetings?

President Hall mentioned that Council would prefer to meet in person; however, the local and regional Covid-19 case numbers are not allowing this at this time. Council is hopeful that we can meet in person next month.

Hillary Fletcher of E. Jefferson Street thanked Council for their efforts regarding COVID. She is concerned about the number of people not wearing masks on State Street and suggested more prominent signage could help.

President Hall mentioned that the Pandemic Sub-committee has discussed this and have made a recommendation that will be part of his agenda tonight.

Michael Straw of W. Jefferson Street asked if the tax certification increase revenue would be earmarked for a specific budget item. He also asked if Council has received any notice of litigation regarding the demotion and termination of Officer Carroll.

President Hall mentioned that Councilman Williamson will address the tax certification increase as part of his agenda. Solicitor Scott mentioned the Borough has not received any notice of litigation.

President Hall mentioned that Council met in Executive Session last week to discuss a property matter.

Interim Borough Manager's Report

Jim Seaman had no report.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Matson provided a written engineer's report. Council had no questions regarding the report.

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 the retirement of Ralph DeRosa. The Personnel Committee met and recommend Mike Green as interim Public Works Director.

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

Bryan Messick from the MBA board mentioned an amended mass gathering permit application for open air dining to be held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings with Saturday as a rain date. The setup time will be at 5pm with road closure at 4:30 p.m. The MBA would like to offer free parking in the lots starting at 4pm for customers using services other than restaurants. President Hall asked for a sense of Council regarding adding Thursday, Council is in favor.

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

Vice President A. Johnson mentioned Fair Trade has requested that they host their awards ceremony at the September Council meeting.

Councilman Williamson mentioned that the pilot program spearheaded by Vice President Johnson was recognized in this month's edition of the PSAB magazine, *Borough News*.

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

President Hall mentioned the preliminary/final land development application at 813 N. Providence Road which will be a hair salon. The application is fully compliant with a request of administrative waivers. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve.

President Hall mentioned authorizing McMahon Engineering to contact residents regarding the Borough right of way requests for the CMAQ Sidewalk Project.

President Hall mentioned the Mask Up Media campaign, which will educate and encourage people to wear their masks while on State Street include signage. The COVID sub-committee reviewed the idea and is in favor. The estimated cost of the project will be \$3,000. Council is in favor.

Recreation and Board of Health – Mr. Boyer

Councilman Boyer mentioned the Recreation Board is planning a Zoom Bingo night. Recreation will purchase a Zoom license.

Finance and Library – Mr. Williamson

Councilman Williamson mentioned the book sale at the Library cannot be held and encouraged residents to make a donation.

Councilman Williamson mentioned the successor cable franchise agreement with Comcast. Solicitor Scott mentioned that there are some economic increases because they have rolled back some of the free options such as cable drops and internet for the Borough.

Councilman Williamson mentioned the Mid-Year Budget Update, and noted that in past years the update included minor changes; however, due to the pandemic some revenues are down.

Councilman Williamson mentioned a request from the tax collector to increase the fee for tax certifications from \$25.00 to \$30.00. This fee is paid directly to the tax collector.

Councilman Williamson mentioned borrowing an additional \$3 million for capital projects. The Borough financial advisor has recommended this due to the low cost of borrowing at approximately 1.5%.

Councilman Williamson mentioned the DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant application for Plum Street Mall enhancements.

Personnel, Public Relations and Historical Archives – Ms. Dixon

Councilwoman Dixon mentioned the Personnel Committee has recommended granting 5 additional days off for the 3 sanitation workers who worked through the pandemic.

Public Comment and Privilege of the Floor

There were none.

Adjournment

President Hall made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting at 8:54 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Repino
Recording Secretary