

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
September 17, 2020

Media Borough Council met in the Community Center 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 Jim Seaman, Solicitor Scott and Engineer Matson. Councilwoman L. Johnson joined via conference call.

President Hall called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

President Hall made a motion to approve the August 6, 2020 Workshop meeting minutes. Councilwoman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Hall made a motion to approve the August 20, 2020 Council meeting minutes. Councilwoman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Hall mentioned that following this meeting, Council will meet in executive session to discuss a potential real estate matter and that after their last workshop meeting they met in executive session to discuss a personnel and litigation matter.

Public Comment

President Hall asked if there was any public comment related to the items on the tonight's agenda. There were none.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Scott had no report.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Matson mentioned he has submitted a written report. The 2020 road resurfacing program is underway and reminded residents to move vehicles where signs are posted to avoid being towed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor McMahon gave the police incident report.

Mayor McMahon read proclamations for Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters and Korean American Citizenship Day.

Council/Committee Reports

Properties, Public Works and Fire – Mr. Robinson

Councilman Robinson made a motion to enter into a license agreement with the County of Delaware for placement of a ballot drop box outside of Borough Hall. Councilwoman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Robinson made a motion for placement of a ballot drop box to be outside of Borough Hall near the rear parking lot. Councilwoman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilwoman L. Johnson made a motion to accept the resignation of Warren Kuo from the Media Business Authority. Councilman Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Vice President A. Johnson made a motion to accept the resignation of Scott Whittman from the Environmental Advisory Council. Councilman Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

President Hall made a motion to approve Resolution #2020-42 to update the unified fee schedule to include electrical code review and inspection services fees. Councilman Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Hall made a motion to approve a request to replace a brick sidewalk with stamped concrete at 320 W. Front Street subject to the engineer's approval and review by the CDC. Councilman Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Recreation and Board of Health – Mr. Boyer

Councilman Boyer mentioned a tennis ball recycling container will be placed at the tennis courts.

Councilman Boyer mentioned new shade sails are being purchased for the Tot Lot.

Finance and Library – Mr. Williamson

Councilman Williamson mentioned that the Borough is refinancing \$3.5 million and adding an additional \$3 million that will be used for capital projects. Current low interest rates allow the Borough to borrow at a rate of 1.15% which will result in a savings of approximately \$400,00 over the term of the loan. Councilman Williamson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1142 authorizing the sale and issuance of a General Obligation Note in the amount of \$6.5 million. Councilwoman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Williamson mentioned the annual audit report had no issues.

Councilman Williamson made a motion to adopt the 2021 MMO for Police in the amount of \$715,830 and Non-Uniformed employees in the amount of \$71,168. Councilwoman Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Williamson made a motion to ratify the payment of bills. The Finance Committee reported checks drawn on the Central Disbursement account for the following funds:

General Fund	\$ 227,327.30
Recreation Fund	63.01
Liquid Fuels Fund	94,930.00
Capital Fund	<u>94,824.39</u>
Total	\$ 417,144.70

Councilman Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Williamson urged residents to consider a donation to the Media Upper Providence Free Library. Their biggest fundraiser is the book sale which they are unable to hold this year.

Personnel, Public Relations and Historical Archives – Ms. Dixon

Councilwoman Dixon had no legislative items.

Public Comment and Privilege of the Floor

Susan Palmer of N. Olive Street representing the police coalition in support of Council’s decision to terminate Sergeant Carroll mentioned the affiliation of people in their group.

Tamara Graham of 4th & Olive Streets read the group statement.

Carol Glover of South Avenue mentioned she is in support of Council’s decision and read Episodes of a Shallow Reader.

Michelle Fizzano of E. Jefferson Street mentioned a stolen political sign and questioned if that means that ballots will also be stolen if someone does not agree with your political views.

Kelly Sides of Monroe Street spoke on behalf of Sgt. Carroll and all police officers who are being targeted by having their food and beverages tampered with at various eating establishments. She reminded everyone that police officers are people too and make mistakes. Police officers and their families are being threatened. Council did not see fit to read through all the public comment in support of Sgt. Carroll which was unfair. The petition that was presented in favor of Council's decision included non-residents. There will be a larger cost to taxpayers for this decision than allowing this officer to continue his service to the community.

Michael Straw of W. Jefferson Street mentioned that he feels that all public comment should be read and recommends that all comments received via email or phone should be read out loud. President Hall mentioned that there is not time to read all the comments. The comments are available as part of the official minutes. Mr. Straw mentioned that the County recently read more than 1,000 comments at their meeting and the comments should have been read.

Evan Zaremba of Jefferson Street mentioned that he is shocked that the Borough would fine a person for not wearing a mask. Councilman Robinson mentioned that a citation would be issued for not wearing a mask and a district judge would determine the cost of a fine. Mr. Zaremba doesn't feel that anyone should have the right to fine anyone for not wearing a mask. Councilman Robinson stated there are certain rules and regulations in place under Ordinance 1141. The Ordinance was put in place to protect the residents and visitors.

Nicole Missino business owner on S. Olive Street mentioned she doesn't agree with wearing masks and doesn't require her clients to wear masks. People should be allowed to walk down the street without a mask.

President Hall mentioned that as a local government we are doing the best to protect our residents and are following the CDC guidelines. Wearing a mask is a consideration for your neighbors, residents and neighbors.

Michael Straw of W. Jefferson Street mentioned he believes the ordinance scared business and restaurants and the fine of up to \$1,000 is excessive.

Adjournment

President Hall made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 9:05 p.m. Councilman Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Repino

Recording Secretary