April 14, 2020

MILLERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The MILLERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 in the Millersville Borough Public Meeting Room located at 100 Municipal Drive, Millersville, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Carrie Smith followed by the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence was then observed. She noted those in physical attendance and reminded everyone communicating by telephone how to mute and unmute themselves.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Carrie L. Smith
Lauren E. Hauck (via teleconference)
Linda L. Bellile (via teleconference)
Daniel P. Ostrowski (via teleconference)

David T. Aichele, Mayor
Brooke G. Magni (via teleconference)
Mary Ann Gerber (via teleconference)
Jenna L. Erb (via teleconference)

OTHERS PRESENT

John D. Rochat, Borough Manager & Millersville Borough Chief of Police
Lucas Charles, Penn Manor High School Student Advisor (via teleconference)
Steven A. DiGuiseppe, Millersville University (via teleconference)
Mamie Covell, Millersville University (via teleconference)
Elaine Jones, LNP

CITIZENS’ REQUESTS OR CONCERNS

None

MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes for the March 24, 2020 Council meeting was made by Ms. Bellile and seconded by Mrs. Gerber. With no discussions the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Ostrowski made a motion out of committee to appoint Mamie Covell as Millersville University’s Student Advisor. It was noted that she will also sit on the Public Welfare and Public Works Advisory Committee as a non-voting member. Ms. Covell was asked to introduce herself. She stated she is a Junior, a Communications major with a minor in Sociology and stated that she looks forward to learning more about Millersville. With no discussions the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. There was discussion of when and where we would be able to have Ms. Covell sworn in. She is currently under the Stay-at-home order in Reading. She mentioned she would be willing to work with meeting the Mayor and/or wait until the May 26th Council meeting.
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MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Aichele mentioned that the Police Department received eight face shields from a resident tonight before the meeting. They were made by Electron Energy Corporation in Landisville on 3D printers. He mentioned he is working closely with the PA Mayors Association to try to get information from the Governor, specifically where the confirmed active cases are located, as it is vital to our first responders. The Mayor was asked how the current month statistics on police activity compares with the Stay-at-home order being in place. He stated that crime rates have generally dropped off. Unfortunately, what is up are domestic calls. Chief Rochat also stated that fraud has not decreased. Mrs. Magni requested this type of information be posted on social media. Chief was asked if his department has taken any action regarding the State’s restrictions, such as people being out and about. Chief replied that they have taken some action on businesses that were not supposed to be open. However, when they met with them, they complied.

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY REPORT

Mr. DiGuisepppe stated that MU continues to operate, despite many of the campus buildings remaining closed. As you know, the University is operating on a special plan, whereas only essential employees who perform life sustaining functions are reporting to the main campus. Remote operations will continue for administrative services and to ensure business continuity. On-site, face-to-face classes are not being held through the end of the spring semester in May. All classes are being taught via online/remotely. And all Summer session classes will be held remotely, as well. The annual May spring Commencement has been postponed. A discussion is currently ongoing with a possible alternative event, late in the Summer or Fall. All University campus events, and meetings have been cancelled through mid-May, and may extend further, pending State and/or Federal regulations. We continue to house a small number of MU students on campus, namely about 35-40, mostly international students but they will be leaving shortly. On April 3, a Millersville University student tested positive for COVID-19. The student is doing well and is under medical supervision. The student lives within the Borough of Millersville and does not live in campus housing or affiliate housing. The student’s housemates are also self-quarantining. To support our students who have critical needs during this crisis, the EPPIC Student Compassion Fund has raised over $19,000 from employees, alumni, students, and friends. Student who have needs brought on by the pandemic may apply for assistance. Our campus is also supporting the community through the collection of personal protective equipment and other emergency supplies for our local emergency responders and health professionals.

PENN MANOR REPORT

Mr. Charles stated as you know on April 9th the Governor has closed all schools. Graduation is set for May 28th with a virtual commencement. The May 8th Prom has also been officially postponed due to the venue closing. Penn Manor will not be able to host the event after Seniors are no longer students. In response to President Smith’s request, the Climate Committee Report to Council will not be available until early next year when the school comes up with an action plan.
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Smith mentioned she will continue to email everyone at least once a week to keep everyone up to date and informed. She extended her applause and gratitude to the borough staff and law enforcement officers, who are doing their job under extreme circumstances. Chief stated the staff is very supportive and he is appreciative of the contact and support with the Mayor and Madam President.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Magni reported on a new borough Facebook page. She will be posting weekly on things sent to her by email, introductions of Council to the community, and get everyone involved. President Smith mentioned she has been researching social media policies that list very carefully what is permissible and what is not. She went on to mention that this Borough Facebook feed is just the first piece of a more coherent communication plan and none of us our rushing this. We want to make sure everything is in place and that we abide by the legal requirements, so we are rolling this out slowly. She thanked Mrs. Magni and Mrs. Erb for taking this all on.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Bellile made a motion to advertise the ordinance to authorize Council to establish penalties for payment of delinquent real estate taxes by Resolution or Ordinance. Mrs. Gerber seconded the motion. With no discussions the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Gerber made a motion to authorize President Smith to sign the petition to postpone the 2020 Upset Sale for properties with unpaid 2019 Real Estate taxes. Ms. Bellile seconded the motion. With no discussions the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Gerber made a motion to approve the March 2020 monthly financial statements as presented. Mrs. Magni seconded the motion. With no discussions the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Bellile motion to award the asphalt paving bid to the lowest bidder, Highway Materials Inc. in the amount of $148,358 pending approval of the performance bond by the Borough’s Solicitor. Mrs. Hauck seconded the motion. Mrs. Magni voiced a concern for the costs to certain residents for required curb repairs before the paving project. Mr. Ostrowski asked, due to resident’s financial concerns due to COVID-19 if the paving project could be delayed until next year. Ms. Bellile asked if we could continue with the project but delay the billing to the residents that do not do the work themselves. Chief Rochat called Mr. Boxleitner to discuss putting it off to next spring and whether we would need to re-bid the project. He stated it would need to be re-bid. Mr. Boxleitner also stated that the Borough would prefer to not do the curb work, however he would provide names of contractors for residents to consider for cheaper rates. After further discussions, a motion by Mrs. Magni and a second by Mrs. Erb to table the motion to award the bid until the May 26th Council meeting. With no further discussions the motion to delay passed by a unanimous voice vote.
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Ms. Bellile made a motion to allow the street closure and detour for a tree removal at 113 East Charlotte Street. Mrs. Gerber seconded the motion. With no discussions the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Gerber made a motion to pay the registration fee and allow any elected official to attend the Annual PSAB Conference currently scheduled for June 7-10, 2020 in Hershey. Mr. Ostrowski seconded the motion. With no discussions the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Bellile made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gerber to designate the Borough’s Delegate as President Smith, and an Alternate Delegate as Mayor Aichele. With no discussions the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Ostrowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Ms. Bellile.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
John D. Rochat
Borough Secretary

JDR/jle