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STRASBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018
MINUTES

Members Present: Mike Chiodo Jim Rice
 Dale Spaulding Bob Bennethum
 Dave Dunn Will Hutchinson

Others Present:

 Bruce Ryder, Mayor Lisa M. Boyd, Borough Manager
 F. Steven Echternach, Police Chief Lynn Commero, LNP

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Council President Mike Chiodo called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., followed by the salute to the flag. President Chiodo asked everyone in attendance to remain standing and observe a moment of silence in observance of 9/11. President Chiodo announced that the meeting is being audiotaped and maintained until the minutes are approved. The Borough Manager took the roll call.

REQUESTS TO BE HEARD:

MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2018: A motion was made by Jim Rice, seconded by Bob Bennethum, to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2018 meeting as printed. Motion carried with members Chiodo, Rice, Spaulding, and Bennethum casting assenting votes. Members Dunn and Hutchinson abstained from voting because they were not in attendance for the meeting.

REPORTS:

MAYOR – Mayor Ryder reported that a meeting was held yesterday with Cliff Carter and that 8-10 East Main Street is getting close to having repaired the structural issues that led to the condemnation. At that meeting, Cliff Carter stated that after the condemnation is lifted, he intends to have the property appraised for a fair market value and consider selling it. Mayor Ryder also stated that at that meeting, Cliff Carter was advised that the Borough will be meeting with the Vacant Property Reinvestment Board through the Lancaster County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, whose purpose is to help municipalities address blighted and vacant properties.

PRESIDENT – President Chiodo stated that he received a call from a neighboring property owner questioning if the fence at 12 West Main Street was being installed over the property line. The Borough Manager stated that the Zoning Officer is requesting a written request to investigate this matter.

MANAGER – The Borough Manager’s written report for August 2018 was received and accepted. She added that Beiler Painting is repainting the Borough Office and it looks very good.

POLICE – The Police Department’s report for August 2018 was received and accepted.

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PUBLIC WORKS – The Public Works report for August 2018 was received and accepted.

ZONING OFFICER – The Zoning Officer's report for August 2018 was received and accepted.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Dave Dunn, seconded by Jim Rice, and passed unanimously to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$61,873.20

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD CERTIFICATES OF
APPROPRIATENESS – 12 WEST MAIN STREET AND 60 WEST MAIN
STREET

EPHRATA NATIONAL BANK – REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN LETTER OF
CREDIT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF 2019 PENSION MINIMUM MUNICIPAL
OBLIGATIONS (POLICE \$93,782 AND NON-UNIFORMED \$57,150)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

SIDEWALK REPAIR/REPLACEMENT PROGRAM DISCUSSION: The Borough Manager stated that she receives concerns from citizens regarding the condition of some of the curb and sidewalks throughout town. The current policy is that if a complaint is received and there is a serious issue with the curb and/or sidewalk, she contacts the homeowner and informally requests they be repaired. She is asking if this should be continued to be addressed on a complaint basis or if a formal curb and/or sidewalk replacement program and inspection should be implemented? The Borough Manager will provide the current ordinance to the members for their review.

Bruce Ryder stated that that the current Street Tree Committee regulations provide trees within six feet from the back edge of the sidewalk and expressed his concern that in the newer developments, that is where the utilities are located and suggested the possibility that the regulations be modified to increase the distance from the curb. The Borough Manager stated that the six foot regulation was included because that was one of the requirements for a program that we used to obtain grant funds for the tree program. It was the consensus to allow Bruce Ryder to work with the Borough Manager to develop Tree Committee revision suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER BUSINESS: Mike Chiodo stated that he was contacted by Trevis Nickel, the owner of 2 Miller Street, regarding the repointing of the building. Mr. Nickel stated that he has been working with a HARB Representative, Chris Lainhoff, and HARB has the authority to approve the color of the mortar. President Chiodo stated that the owner wants to repoint the entire building and Chris Lainhoff only wants to allow him to repoint only a portion of the building. President Chiodo stated that Mr. Nickel was unable to attend the meeting and asked him to ask Borough Council for permission to move forward with repointing of the entire building, noting that the owner and Chris Lainhoff were close with coming to an agreement on the mortar color and if the entire building is repointed, the mortar will all match and he would like to start the

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mortar work this week. Mike Chiodo stated that Mr. Nickel stated that the two items that he and Chris Lainhoff did not come to an agreement on were the mortar color and repointing the entire building verses only the sections that were in need of being repointed at this time. Mr. Nickel does not want to repoint only a portion of the building and then have to come back to repoint the remainder of the building within a few years. Dale Spaulding noted that the HARB minutes indicated that Chris Lainhoff reported that they were close to coming to an agreement on the mortar color. Bruce Ryder stated that the current Historic District Ordinance states that repointing is a pre-approved activity once the color of the mortar is agreed upon and a sample area is prepared, so there is no regulation regulating the amount of repointing that can be done on the building. Mike Chiodo stated that the owner left a message last week for Chris Lainhoff to obtain approval for the final color sample and has not yet heard back from him.

A motion was made Dale Spaulding, seconded by Will Hutchinson and passed unanimously to grant approval for the owner of 2 Miller Street to proceed with the repointing of the building, using the last closely-matched color sample area provided.

Police Chief Echternach stated that the police records management system that they currently use is owned and operated by the County of Lancaster. The County advised them that, due to several reasons, they will stop providing that system in October 2020 and departments should investigate replacement records management systems. Chief Echternach hosted an event where vendors came and demonstrated their products and he believes the product that is the best fit for our department is a product called CSI InfoShare. He reported that he delayed hiring the full-time officer to save money to put towards a downpayment for the system, which includes a 20% discount if paid for within two years of a five-year program, and he wants to obtain Council's approval. It was the consensus that he is proposing to use funds from his existing budget and that he should proceed with the purchase.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Dale Spaulding, seconded by Dave Dunn and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Boyd
Borough Manager