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STRASBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
OCTOBER 12, 2021
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Mike Chiodo Ray Garraffa
 Jim Rice Dave Carson
 Bob Bennethum (via Zoom)

Others Present:

Bruce Ryder, Mayor	John Mroz
F. Steven Echternach, Borough Manager	David Esh
Nick Ferretti, Police Chief	Richard Waller
Lynn Commero, Lancaster Newspaper	Diane Krout
Dave Felpel	Dean Krout

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Mike Chiodo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the salute to the flag. President Chiodo announced that the meeting is being audiotaped and maintained until the minutes are approved. The Borough Manager took the roll call. The Borough Manager stated that a liquor license transfer public hearing for this meeting was partially advertised and stated that public hearing will not take place until the November 9, 2021 meeting because Lancaster Newspapers did not correctly advertise the legal ads.

REQUESTS TO BE HEARD:

Diane Krout – Speckled Hen parking issues – Item will be discussed: Diane Krout, owner of 129 East Main Street, was in attendance and stated that Speckled Hen had employees and customers parked in front of her property when the Borough cleaned the streets. She stated that the business owner should advise his employees of the street cleanings and have them not park along the road. President Chiodo stated that Speckled Hen is working on their parking lot project, reminded her that street parking is public parking, and we can ask them to abide by our request to not park on the street when we are street sweeping. Mayor Ryder stated that it is our desire to have buildings occupied and we have allowed variances for parking. He stated that he will work with the Borough Manager and possibly the police could post no parking signs in certain areas prior to street sweeping.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2021: A motion was made by Jim Rice and seconded by Ray Garraffa to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting as printed. Motion carried with members Chiodo, Garraffa, Rice, and Carson casting assenting votes. Member Bennethum abstained from voting because he was not in attendance for the meeting.

REPORTS:

Mayor – Mayor Ryder stated that the Manager forwarded an invitation for an elected officials Breakfast Roundtable meeting that is hosted by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. He stated that he is unable to attend and encouraged others to consider attending. He also stated that he attended the Strasburg Township Supervisor’s meeting on October 4, 2021 and discussed the contracted police service that we have been providing. He stated that Strasburg Township is very happy with the service that we provide them. He added that Strasburg Township would like to increase the amount of service and are budgeting in 2022 to fund one half of a full-time officer

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and would eventually like the services that we provide go beyond routine traffic enforcement. He stated that the Borough Manager did include this in the Draft Budget that will be reviewed tonight.

President – President Chiodo had nothing additional to report.

Manager – The Borough Manager’s report for September was received and reviewed. The Borough Manager stated that in addition to the liquor license transfer hearing that was postponed tonight, the three ordinances that were discussed at last month’s meeting also had to be delayed due to the Lancaster Newspaper printing issue. He stated that since he did not hear any objection, he will proceed with planning for the annual Borough Recognition Banquet.

Police – The Police Department’s report for September 2021 was received and accepted. Chief Ferretti stated that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Police Department is participating in the Pink Patch Program and will wear them on their uniform in October. The Department is also selling the Pink Patches and all proceeds are donated to Breast Cancer Awareness. The Borough Manager stated that a previous Police Secretary, Diana Hallman, was a breast cancer victim.

Public Works – The Public Works report for September 2021 was received and accepted.

Zoning Officer – The Zoning Officer’s report for September 2021 was received and accepted.

Engineer – The Engineer’s report for September 2021 was received and accepted.

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

Payment of bills in the amount of \$320,889.82

Historical Architectural Review Board Certificates of Appropriateness – 135 East Main Street, 129 Miller Street, and 10 Miller Street

Resolution 2021-10, Adoption of the LIMC (Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee)

Trick-or-Treat Policy

Trick-or-Treat Date – Friday, October 29, 2021 from 6-8 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider a motion to accept resignations of Council Member David Dunn and Planning Commission Member Dominick Di Bella: A motion was made by Jim Rice, seconded by Dave Carson and passed unanimously to accept the resignations of Council Member David Dunn and Planning Commission Member Dominick Di Bella with regret.

Consider a motion to appoint Dave Felpel to Borough Council and Murl Clark to Planning Commission: A motion was made by Dave Carson, seconded by Ray Garraffa and passed unanimously to appoint Dave Felpel to Borough Council and Murl Clark to Planning Commission.

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Mayor Ryder administered the Oath of Office and swore in Dave Felpel to the position of Borough Council Member and he took his seat at the Council table.

Review of 2022 Draft Budget and Capital Improvements Program: The Borough Manager reviewed his 2022 Draft Budget and Memorandum in detail. He added that in addition to the items detailed in his memo, the MS4 allocation was increased to \$125,000 because we were just notified that we were not awarded the grant and streambank restoration is required to be completed by March 20, 2023. He added that ARA Funds could be used for this project. He provided a 2021 tax rate sheet showing that Strasburg Borough's tax rate is the 13th lowest of 19 Boroughs in Lancaster County.

The Borough Manager provided information regarding the Local Services Tax (LST), a General Fund revenue generator, which is \$52.00 per person who makes \$12,000 or more per year who is employed in Strasburg Borough. He stated that the employers in Strasburg Borough have increased over the years since we last researched this tax and the tax can be collected by the Lancaster County Tax Collection Bureau for a very small percentage fee. The Borough Manager was provided with sample documents by the LCTCB and it was the consensus for the Manager to work with the Borough Solicitor to proceed with the LST Ordinance.

The Borough Manager reviewed the donation requests. He stated that we have been contributing \$35,000 per year to the Strasburg Fire Company since 2009 without an increase. He is recommending Borough Council consider increasing their donation to \$40,000 for 2022 as they requested. He is recommending to keep the Fire Company's Equipment Reserve donation the same calculation method, which is a percentage of the assessment that matches the conversion for our tax millage rate due to the 2018 Reassessment. The Borough Manager is also recommending a \$1,000 increase to LEMSA's 2022 donation based on their request. He is not recommending an increase to the Library's 2022 donation, noting that we have kept their rent the same since 1995 even though the lease allowed for increases, stating that that difference is an in-kind donation. It was the consensus of Council for the Manager to proceed with the donation increases as proposed above.

The Borough Manager reviewed the Capital Improvements Program documents and stated that Borough Council will be asked to approve the 2022 projects at the next meeting. He stated that we did pay a downpayment to have the municipal building roof replaced but it is not expected to be replaced until late second quarter 2022 due to supply shortages. He reviewed the fog sealing proposal to fog seal the municipal parking lot and if it is acceptable to fog seal four streets in 2022.

The Borough Manager discussed the 2022 OPEB contribution and he stated that he has been working with the Pension Actuary and there is a possibility it can be reduced.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Dean Krout asked about Police jurisdiction and Chief Ferretti stated that Strasburg Police has full jurisdiction over Strasburg Borough and does traffic enforcement in Strasburg Township. Mayor Ryder also stated that the Strasburg Police also

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patrols properties owned by the Borough, which include the reservoir, wells, springs, and sewage pump stations.

Dave Felpel asked about the speed display sign. Chief Ferretti stated that Strasburg Borough and Strasburg Township each have one and the signs are moved around to different locations to increase awareness.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel/Contract: At 7:47 p.m., Mike Chiodo adjourned the regular meeting into an Executive Session for personnel and contract matters. The regular meeting was reconvened at 8:31 p.m. at which time Council moved onto the next item on the agenda to approve the 2022-2025 Police Contract.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Consider a motion to approve the 2022-2025 Police Contract: A motion was made by Jim Rice, seconded by Ray Garraffa and passed unanimously to approve the 2022-2025 Police Contract as negotiated which includes:

- * Annual raises over the term of the contract of 2.5% per year
- * Modification to Article III Hours of Work and Pay from 40 hours to 80 hours per period
- * Modification to Article XVII Hospitalization and Major Medical to:
 1. Increase the Medicare supplement in 2022 to \$1,500, 2023 \$1,750 and 2024 \$2,000
 2. In accordance with current Federal law, coverage for dependents will be available until such dependent attains age 26, except for such periods of time that the dependent receives coverage as an active-duty service member of the United States Armed Forces. If coverage from the United States Armed Forces should cease prior to the dependent attaining age 26, coverage under the Borough's health plan will be available until such dependent attains age 26.
- * Article XVIII Pensions to modify the Pension Ordinance under Act 600 to allow an officer who has reached 55 years of age to retire early based on Act 600 calculated reduced pension benefits
- * Article XXII to change the shoe reimbursement to equipment reimbursement for up to \$300 upon the approval by the Chief of Police

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Jim Rice, seconded by Ray Garraffa and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

F. Steven Echternach
Borough Manager