

Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council Meeting Minutes-September 11, 2023

Call to Order – Mr. Collins called the September 11, 2023, meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance– The following members of the Borough Council were present; James Collins II, Gay Bowman, Lois Stoner, Debra Halpin-Brophy, Cindy Goshorn, Sherry Boyles and Cathy Neff. Also present, Mayor Dr. Brian Robertson and Borough Manager, Thomas Day.

Pledge of Allegiance – Jim Collins II led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the Borough Committee on August 31, 2023 were approved as presented. The motion was made by Mrs. Brophy and seconded by Mrs. Goshorn. The motion passed unanimously

Approval of August 2023 Bill List and Payment - Approval and payment of the bills for August as presented. Motion was made Mrs. Stoner and seconded by Mrs. Boyles. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment – Cindy Thompson and Carmen James, from the Amelia Given Library came before council to thank them for their continued support and asking if we would continue. Ms. Thompson also wanted to let council know that there will be two more programs celebrating the 150th history. Carmen James is giving a talk in a couple weeks and one of our former board members, Paul Tucker will talk about the library architecture and the history of it. We had a good summer we had ten weeks of events for our summer reading programs. We are having a poke cake fundraiser that started today, so we will see how that goes. Our biggest fundraiser is our on-line auction that we have the last couple weeks of October. We are looking forward to raising funds. Mrs. Brophy asked about the bird house fundraiser. Ms. Thompson said we have done this a couple times. It might be revisited.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Robertson informed council that we had 22 citations for the month, including a retail theft charge by officer Pague. Mayor Robertson announced that we are ordering 750 2nd edition Susquecentennial books. We have 250 pre-orders. They will be having some distributions on September 21 from 5:30-7:00, September 25, and September 27th at the library. Mount Tabor talk by Carmen James will be September 21 @ 6:30, also, Jim Burgess will be doing two tours of the cemetery October 21st, and October 28th.

Ms. Bowman asked if we could hold a moment of silence in observance of 911. Mr. Collins said that we will now observe a moment of silence for those injured and the aftermath thereof.

Committee Reports – Mrs. Boyles made a motion to approve the 2024 MMO for the uniformed pension and it was seconded by Mrs. Stoner. Mrs. Boyles also made a motion to approve the 2024 MMO for the non-uniformed pension and that was seconded by Mrs. Brophy and all are in favor.

Mrs. Boyles announced that the 30th of September is the cleanup here in town with mulching of the trees downtown and painting the fire hydrants. The Church has an event that morning so we will start everything at lunch and have lunch here and then go to clean up.

Mrs. Neff had mentioned that we have 104 spots so far for Holly fest. Mrs. Stoner said next week we will have a meeting to talk about the Halloween Parade and Christmas.

Borough Manager's Report – Chief Day mentioned that next week you will probably see a lot of trucks going down W. Pine Street the railroad will be working on the tracks crossing Mountainview. We will have all the trucks from Pennsy coming in and out of the quarry. Ed and Steve got all the curbs painted. The spray machine did a great job instead of the rollers. We have received a lot of compliments. Ed and Steve are up fixing the pickle ball courts they cut out the poles and reset them with cement. Chief Day mentioned that he is working on the 2024 budget and hopes to have it ready by the end of September beginning of October. Chief Day asked council about which way to go with the EMS. They are asking for \$30,000 every year to help budget their funds and they are asking for a one-time \$15,000 for the P25 system. The County is putting in a grant for a certain percentage. The grant is only allotted for the line-up officers. They will have to come up with for the new ones coming in. The portables are not cheap. I believe our portables are close to \$6,000 each. I think our 3 portables are about \$17,000 and the County will cover \$12,000 of that. When it comes to our car units, I have upgraded the radios to be P25 compatible so we will have minimal cost to upgrade to the P25 system. With the P25s, we will be able to communicate state wide. Mr. Collins asked if there is a time frame to start the P25. Chief Day said they are expecting late 2024. I have ordered our portables for our department, because Motorola is giving us a certain percentage off. Now, the question is what is South Middleton going to give them. We are giving \$15,000 and South Middleton was giving \$50,000. Chief Day said we will need to decide so that he can do the budget. What are we going to give the ambulance company, how much money, and if we do, how do we want to do that. Should we do an EMS tax, or do a line item and take it out of general fund where we would have to collect it to pay the Ambulance company. Similar to the Library tax

and the fire tax. We collect .35 mills and it generates around \$39,000. We would have to collect almost the same amount for EMS that would be .39 mills for \$39,000 based off of our millage. That rate would be approximately \$22.50 per assessed property. If Council wants to go that route, Chief Day would have to talk to our solicitor and have him draft an ordinance and have it advertised. Mr. Collins mentioned that there will not be a tax increase on the general budget for 2024. Mrs. Goshorn made a motion to approve creating an ordinance for an EMS tax beginning 2024 and it was seconded by Mrs. Brophy all in favor.

Planning & Zoning Report – Chief Day mentioned that Keystone Signs turned in a subdivision plan. They are looking at taking some of the parking from the old Pennsylvania Dutch building and adding it to his parcel and eventually if the plan is approved, he is going to expand the size of his building. His building will go over behind the old Dollar General. Chief Day is concerned that he will be going through a lot of hoops. He will have to apply for a variance because he has almost 100% peripheral coverage. We will have to start looking at the MS4 because of the growth coming into the area.

Chief Day stated that under the Zoning, we have the property at 50 Mill Street, a gentleman and his wife want to ask for a variance to build a garage to put his landscaping equipment in, if it's approved, he will then purchase the property.

Any Other Business to Come Before Council: There was no other business to be Brought to council.

Adjourn – Mrs. Brophy made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Ms. Bowman. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nanette Dusharm
Borough Secretary/Treasurer