

Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council Meeting Minutes-January 8, 2024

Call to Order – Sherry Boyles called the January 8, 2024, meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance– The following members of the Borough Council were present; Gay Bowman, Lois Stoner, Sherry Boyles, Kyle Schnitzer, and Cathy Neff. Also present, Mayor Deborah Halpin-Brophy and Borough Manager, Thomas Day. Cindy Goshorn was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance – Sherry Boyles led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the Borough Committee on December 28, 2023 were approved as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Schnitzer and seconded by Mrs. Stoner. The motion passed unanimously

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the Borough Council on January 2, 2024 were approved as presented. The motion was made by Ms. Bowman and seconded by Mrs. Neff. The motion passed unanimously

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

Public Comment – Josh from Wadel-Mell was present to get approval on the Letort Warehouse Plan for Keystone Signs. The Planning Commission had already given their approval with the two conditions that HRG approve the changes and the addition of the flood plain ordinance being added to the plan. Mr. Schnitzer made a motion to approve the plan and it was seconded by Mrs. Stoner. All were in favor and the plan was approved.

Anne Hawbaker of 509 N. Walnut Street, Mount Holly Springs presented council about seniors of the borough looking into some kind of senior center or senior lunch program or something of that aspect. She has been a resident of Mount Holly Springs since 2012 and there has been quite an interest. Lois Stoner had mentioned that the Golden Age Club at the Church of God hold a meeting once a month on a Thursday. Mrs. Stoner will get the phone number for Ms. Hawbaker to reach out.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Halpin-Brophy presented the monthly police stats. We had 49 parking tickets and a citation for conditions of keeping small livestock. That person was cited and the issued has been taken care of. The mayor said she would like to hold an executive session at the end of the meeting with action to be taken.

Mayor Halpin-Brophy also wanted to thank the public works crew for doing a great job with the snow that we received over the weekend. Borough Manager Day had mentioned that the public works guys worked all day on making sure the drains were cleared for the next storm that is to be all rain. We had a problem with the red dump truck the plow had broken and we had to get a part for it. Borough Manager Day had mentioned to council that we might want to look at purchasing a new dump truck next year. It's getting pretty old; I believe it is a 2011 it only has about 50,000 miles on it but it is starting to nickel and dime us. We also had a big problem with the mountain. We had tractor trailers all over the place off the road. We should maybe look into maybe a snow emergency. I would have to look into it with the state. We also had numerous accidents. We called PennDOT back out there to clear it and open up the road again. We had it closed three times.

Planning & Zoning Report - Mrs. Boyles asked Pam Still if there was anything that she would like to report. Ms. Still had mentioned that they are still working on the comprehensive plan and with the elementary school in question of what is going to transpire, the Comp plan will be put on hold for a while until we hear more from the Carlisle School District as to what is going to happen.

Borough Manager's Report – I had a meeting with the school district on Friday and it was very disappointing. There is nothing carved in stone until March's meeting. The superintendent made it very clear that they would not gift the property to the borough. I think their intentions are to sell it. I did address some public concerns would be the fact the public would be losing the Butler Street Park with the three ballfields, the walking trail, the pavilion and such. Losing that asset to the community would be bad for us. Our biggest concern would be that the school building sits empty or vacant like they did with South Dickinson school for twenty years before they tore it down. Our community has enough vacant properties in it, that we do not need the Carlisle School district to add to that problem. She assured me that they would take that into consideration. They had talked about leasing the building. Nothing is going to be finalized until March's meeting. That is where she left it. We would have numerous meetings until that time. They don't project the last students to leave there until the school year 2027-2028. She did assure me that they would keep the maintenance up on the building just because they plan on vacating it, they would still keep it up as long as the students are there. Jason, who runs the little league had been approached by the director of the grounds and Jason was concerned about the grants that they had applied for to replace the fence for the ball fields. I do believe it is going to be a done deal. It is ultimately up to the school district

Borough Manager Day stated that we had received the letters of commitment from the County Conservation District along with their pledge of \$100,000 and \$250,000 from DCNR. Solicitor Allshouse is working on getting the easement agreements

signed and then they will have to be notarized. Borough Manager Day had stated that he also had a conversation with our attorney in regards to the sewer plant and the nonpayment from South Middleton. He advised me to send a revised invoice with interest owed. They owe us over \$100,000 which goes back to 2021 all of 2022 and all of 2023 with treating their waste water plant minus the \$100,000 they gave us in August which they claim they gave us in good faith. I sent a letter on November 20, 2023 with the balance and the interest and Josie the manager had sent me back a response she received it on November 27, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. and we still hadn't received payment so I was advised to send a new invoice with additional interest to South Middleton and if that doesn't spark a response then they will get together with South Middleton's attorneys.

Borough Manager had received quotes for our flow meters. This is going to go before the Authority Board but I also want to run it by council. One of our biggest issues that we have why we are paying such a high portion to the sewer plant is that last year we put 144 million gallons into the sewer plant (our portion of it). The payment is based the percentage of flow on what South Middleton puts in and what we put in, but we only billed for 31 million gallons of water. You would assume that water coming in is sewage going out. But that's not the case. I think our biggest downfall there is a sewer line that runs parallel between the ponds and the creek and I believe that is where we are getting all of our I and I from the system. There is 75 feet that we had used the camera that is totally under water, based off of the piping that was used back when that was put in. The engineer had estimated that it is about \$150 a foot to have it dug out and there is 1600 feet that runs that length there. I think that the borough crew can do it ourselves for about \$45-50 a foot instead of contracting it out. What we want to do is purchase these meters to own is \$15,000. To rent them for thirty days is \$8700. If we buy them and have them then we can use them to see where our extra flow is coming from. I am going to make the recommendation that we start investing in our system, our infrastructure and the start is going to be with the flow meters.

Committee Reports – Mrs. Stoner mentioned that Parks and Rec has a meeting next week and we are discussing maybe having a scavenger hunt and maybe a movie night in June and August. There is a lot to work out like licensing fees and such. Mrs. Stoner also mentioned that the owner of Family Dollar asked about putting up a Christmas Tree next year and do a tree lighting.

Mrs. Boyles asked to go into an executive session at 7:55 p.m.

Mrs. Boyles announced that we are back in session at 8:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Stoner to accept the contract for Corporal Rachel Carver as submitted, the motion was seconded by Ms. Bowman and all are in favor.

A motion was made by Mrs. Stoner to accept the contract for Officer Dustin Pague as submitted, the motion was seconded by Mr. Schnitzer and all are in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Schnitzer to accept the contract for Chief/Borough Manager Thomas L. Day, Jr. as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Bowman and all are in favor.

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

Adjourn – Mrs. Neff made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mrs. Stoner. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nanette Dusharm
Borough Secretary/Treasurer