

**Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council
Meeting Minutes-March 10, 2025**

Call to Order – Mrs. Boyles called the meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Attendance– The following members of the Borough Council were present; Sherry Boyles, President, Cathy Neff, Gay Bowman, Lois Stoner, Andrew Tate, Pam Still, and Gus Ginter. Also, present Deborah Halpin-Brophy, Mayor, Thomas Day, Jr. Borough Manager/Chief of Police.

Approval for Payment of Bills and Financial Reports –February 10, 2025 to March 7, 2025 Mrs. Stoner motioned for the approval of the payment of bills (\$191,858.83) and approval of financial reports (deposits \$166,845.57 with total account balances of \$661,109.60). Mr. Ginter seconded the motion, vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes –The minutes of the Borough Council meeting from February 10, 2025 were reviewed. Ms. Bowman motioned for the approval of the minutes which was seconded by Mrs. Neff. The vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

Public Opinion-none

Business Before Council-

--Cooke Township Letter: Mr. Ginter made a motion to approve Cooke Township's request for Citizen's Fire Co. coverage on April 6, 2025. Mr. Tate seconded the motion and the vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Resolution 2025-03-Burning Ordinance- Mr. Ginter made a motion to approve the ordinance as previously advertised, with a second by Mrs. Stoner. Correction noted to change Article 11 from Penn Township Board of Supervisors to Mount Holly Springs Borough Council. No other discussion and the vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Resolution 2025-04-Garbage Rate Increase- (Rate increase to 85.00 was approved at the December 9, 2024 Council Meeting). Mrs. Stoner made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-04, and was seconded by Mr. Ginter. The vote to approve passed unanimously.

Council Members Reports–

--Ms. Bowman—Reported on "pushing for pollinators", with the focus of possibly establishing something in the borough to educate the importance of pollination. Birds, insects, bees, etc. transport pollen, and are critical to our food source. Ms.

Bowman stated as an example; the monarch migration has reduced significantly in the number of butterflies returning (approximately 100,000 are not returning). Members suggested she contact the school or library on giving a presentation on the subject, especially to educate children in the importance of pollinators. Group discussed the Eagle Scout projects currently in the works for a pollinating garden at Trine Park.

--Ms. Still—Mentioned on March 11, 2025 there will be a zoning hearing meeting regarding Hunter Perez and his request to sell mulch.

Ms. Still and Jason Bonawitz are scheduled to attend the Cumberland County Outreach meeting on growth and protection of waterways through zoning.

She also discussed they are at the next step on the comprehensive plan and will be meeting with Kirk Stoner.

She wished to thank Jason, Dylan, Ed, Steve and Tom with painting the Borough Office. Tom stated Jason and Dylan did the painting, Steve did the putty work and the total of the project was around \$1100 in materials.

Ms. Still discussed possibly having a QR code on trees and in the pollinating garden as a way to explain about the plants and trees. This would be addressed in the eagle scout projects approval process.

--Mrs. Stoner—Mentioned Park & Rec updates: Next monthly Facebook event March 22 will be a card making class at the Church of God. Cost of 15.00

--38 Vendors have pre-registered for Holly Festival

--Trine Park has been packed with people enjoying the park. Dog Park had about 15 Dogs, and plenty of kids on the playground.

Mayor's Report- Mayor, Deborah Halpin-Brophy

Mayor Brophy gave the stat report for MHS Police Department for February 10 to March 7, 2025.

She also wanted to discuss the article by Joe Cress about the Heart & Soul report with his focus on Mr. Rickert's vacant properties. Council is a bit concerned that the Heart & Soul report was conducted without being involved at council meetings in gathering information pertinent to their survey/reporting. Council will not meet in "side bar meetings" outside of regular council meetings, reserving all discussions, concerns, and questions to be addressed at that time. Addressing issues outside a council meeting will be a violation of the Sunshine Act. Council-president Mrs. Boyles will address this in a letter to the Heart & Soul committee.

Zoning/Codes Report- Zoning/Codes Officer Bonawitz gave the following updates:
--Flood Plain Class—Mr. Bonawitz will be attending a FEMA NFIP CRS class July 21 to 24, 2025. Once completed he will acquire credits through FEMA to PEMA and will save residents with flood insurance 5 to 45 percent on their premiums. (The borough residents have 31 policies costing \$20,322.00 for 4 million + property coverage.) Not only will this be a break on premiums, but the borough would also be eligible for grants and loans. Certification will last as long as he is in zoning position. Ms. Bowman made a motion to approve lodging and meals for Mr. Bonawitz to attend the class July 21-24, with a second by Mr. Ginter. The vote to approve passed unanimously.
Mr. Bonawitz also mentioned that starting July 2026, FEMA will start audits for flood zones every 1-3 years.

Borough Manager's Report- Thomas Day

--New Police vehicle is outside the borough office if any council members wished to see it.
--Stats -truck weight restriction cited violations were 24 for the month (they weighed a total of 74 trucks since beginning of 2025). One truck in particular that was cited weighed 90,000 pounds on a 6,000 max pound road. Cpl. Carver, Ptl. Pague and Ptl. Baur are all doing a great job.
--Mr. Day requested Council's permission to renew expired CD's (for best rate) which expired the end of January 2025. He has a meeting scheduled with Kyle Petty at Orrstown to discuss. Mrs. Stoner made a motion for Mr. Day to renew the CD's which was seconded by Mrs. Neff. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Other Business Before Council: none

Adjourn –Mrs. Boyles asked for a motion to adjourn, Ms. Bowman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ginter. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Johnson
Interim Secretary/Treasurer