

**Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council
Meeting Minutes-February 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, and Karen Johnson, Interim Secretary/ Treasurer.

Approval for Payment of Bills and Financial Reports –January 2, 2025 –February 10, 2025 Mrs. Stoner motioned for the approval of the payment of bills (\$258,374.72) and approval of financial reports (deposits \$370,595.47 with Total account balances of \$686,122.96). Mr. Ginter seconded the motion, vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes –The minutes of the Borough Council meeting from January 13, 2025 were reviewed. Mrs. Neff motioned for the approval of the minutes which was seconded by Ms. Still. The vote to approve the motion passed unanimously.

Public Opinion-none

Business Before Council-

--Tristan Cyree – Ms. Still made a motion to approve Tristan Cyree to the Planning Commission which was seconded by Ms. Bowman. After the vote to approve, Mayor Halpin-Brophy swore in Tristan to his position.

--Reappointments to Zoning Hearing Board and Park & Recreation Motion by Mrs. Stoner and second by Mr. Ginter to reappoint for another term, Suzanne White and Gwen Robbins (alternate) to Zoning Hearing Board. After vote to approve, both were sworn in by Mayor Halpin-Brophy.
Motion by Ms. Bowman and second by Mrs. Neff to reappoint for another term, Lois Stoner and Gus Ginter to Park & Recreation Committee. After vote to approve, both were sworn in by Mayor Halpin-Brophy.

--Tracey Winton- Ms. Winton made a prior request to approve a rate increase for preparing tax certification copies from \$10.00 to \$20.00 (standard rate with municipalities). Mrs. Neff made the motion and Mrs. Stoner seconded, with a vote to approve passing unanimously.

--Carlisle Area School District Resolution-Board of School Directors established the resolution to increase real estate taxes setting the rate of compensation for the Office of Tax Collector including Mt Holly Springs Borough. The resolution was adopted by the school district on January 23, 2025 after our budget was enacted. This may mean a rate increase to real estate taxes for our residents, to allot additional compensation for our tax collector. Mr. Ginter made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Ms. Still. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Resolution 2025-01-The Resolution to amend Rental Occupancy Requirements 412.5 adding item (f), which was advertised last month. Council discussed the necessity of knowing who the renters are from the landlords in case of an emergency. The renter information would be for adults only, no children will need to be listed on the

occupancy report. Mr. Ginter made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-01, with a second by Mrs. Stoner. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Ordinance 2025-02-The Ordinance for Establishing Procedures for Remediation and Prevention of Deteriorated and Blighted Properties in the Borough, which was previously advertised last month. Council discussed; "what exactly an empty building would mean to the owner, and being empty for a length of time". Also, what about rental properties being vacant. Borough Manager Day explained, rental units are inspected once a year and usually do not remain vacant very long. This ordinance would require owners of vacant buildings to maintain their properties or be cited under the new ordinance. Mr. Ginter made the motion to approve Ordinance 2025-02, with a second by Mr. Tate. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Advertisement of Ordinance 2025-03- Regulating Outdoor Burning and Open Burning. This is an established ordinance for no outdoor burning or open burning of brush/tree debris, or trash in the borough. Chimeneas and fire pits for recreation is still permitted. Borough Manager Day explained that people were burning trash, lumber, leaves and large brush causing smoke for their neighbors. The borough implements brush and leaf pick-ups a couple of times a year, so burning should not be an option. Large limbs and trees would be the responsibility of the homeowner to pay for removal. Ms. Bowman asked about spring clean-up in the borough to help with limbs and brush. Borough Manager Day stated that the borough's public works establishes dates for limb and brush pick-up. Mr. Ginter made the motion to approve advertising of Ordinance 2025-03 and was seconded by Ms. Still. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan Consistency Determinations – Section 304 of the plan requires consistency between Cumberland County and Municipalities with Cumberland County's principals when undertaking certain actions. Council discussed the report which was presented by Ms. Still.

--Heart & Soul Community Report – Community Action Ideas Public Opinion Report (Revised)- First Council wanted clarity that This opinion is not the opinion of Council, but is the opinion of a private entity. After reviewing the report, Ms. Still mentioned to Council, that in the past 10 years (starting in 2014) the Borough has made great strides in revitalization, supported by the Borough and the people of the community. Even with Covid and shut-downs the community has worked hard with property improvements, Trine & Tichy Park improvements, Water Restoration Project, Ridge Road improvement and planned community/family events (to name a few). All supported through grant monies, business donations, Borough support, and Park & Recreation funding. Even for a small residential borough we are achieving revitalization efforts for our residents. This opinion report was not well researched and there should have been better guidance to the public during the Heart & Soul meetings, as some items they suggested to be implemented may have legal ramifications. The report was also taken to the press without validating its contents, or asking Borough Council to be involved. Anyone can attend (without an invitation) to Borough Council Meetings, Planning Commission Meetings, or Park & Recreation Meetings, everyone is welcome to attend and give their voice. (The meetings and their times are posted on the website or in the bulletin board outside the borough building). Borough Council is always seeking individuals to become involved and consensus is that this opinion report does not reflect Mt Holly Springs as a whole.

Council Members Reports—

Gus Ginter—Planning Commission, still working on Comp Plan

Gay Bowman, Andrew Tate, Pam Still --nothing to report

Cathy Neff and Lois Stoner - Park & Rec

– working on 2025 events-may plan for something at end of March beginning of April, then Egg Hunt.

-So far 25 vendors for Holly Festival Day with 3 more as of today, this is a very good number for pre-registrations this time of year.

Mayor's Report- Mayor, Deborah Halpin-Brophy

Mayor Brophy gave the stat report for MHS Police Department for January 13, 2025 to February 9, 2025. Chief Day discussed child endangerment case being handled by Cpl. Carver. He also mentioned continuing problem on East and West Pine Streets with trucks, on restricted roadway.

Borough Manager's Report- Thomas Day

--Eagle Scout Projects- Mr. Day said the Eagle Scouts are looking for projects with possible joint efforts with the Borough. Several projects were mentioned: Pollinating Garden at Trine Park (Borough could assist with digging)- presenting project to Council, with requirements, layout, and funding. Flag post on Bulter, tree replacement throughout borough, and any other ideas are welcome.

--New dog signs—Borough has received complaints about unleashed dogs on walking trail at Trine. Even on the trails, all dogs are to be leashed, that is why we have a dog park for letting them run freely, but supervised. Ordered a dozen new signs to be placed, stating all dogs must be on a leash.

--Grants-Looking to apply for a couple of grants to help with projects.

First: is for the sewer project from PA Small Water/Sewer Fund to be used at creek and small ponds to stop water into sewer system. Grant amount \$500,000 with 15% match.

Second: Bridge Replacement for the 109-year-old bridge, curb, drainage, and sidewalks.

This would be roughly around a \$750,000 project; Mr. Day is also planning to contact Senator Rothman and Representative Kutz to help with funding. Mr. Day is asking for Council approval to proceed with seeking funding. Mrs. Stoner made a motion to approve Borough Manager Day to seek funding, with a second by Mr. Ginter. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

He will ask HRG to submit grant by revising original grant estimates and updating with current fees (for both projects). Mr. Ginter made a motion and seconded by Ms. Still to allow HRG to submit grant, vote to approve passed unanimously.

--East Street Project-Ed and Tom will start ordering supplies starting next week so they will be ready to go when the weather breaks.

--New police truck with scales will have lights and decals in approximately 6 weeks.

--2016 Van (11,000 miles)—After speaking with Josh and Ed, the decision is not to sell. The radio will go into new vehicle, shelving will be added inside the van for equipment to be used by both the Authority and Public Works. This will eliminate trips back and forth getting supplies when needed at a work site.

--Mr. Day asked approval from Council to spend \$1000 to \$1500 to repaint the Borough offices and restrooms. It has been 11 years since the building had a "face lift" and it is looking shabby. Mrs. Neff made a motion to approve the amount requested for paint and supplies. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

- Mr. Day updated Council on the electric contract which expired the end of January. He signed a new contract with IGS for only 12 months at a rate of .0733 (Met Ed is at .11).
- Mr. Day will be in contact with Rick Levin regarding streets not on our liquid fuels list. The streets missing are South St., Peach St., Lakeside Dr., and Ridge Rd. The listing effects our liquid fuels monies allotted yearly, so it is important to get them added to our list.
- Shout out to Ed and his guys for an excellent job keeping the streets cleared during the recent winter ice storms.
- Meeting with school—Lois and Tom recently had a meeting with the Superintendent of Carlisle School District. Plan for closure is for 2028-2029 year. 2 years prior they will merge PTA's with North Dickinson. They still will not commit to what they will do with the building once empty. Discussed the borough buying the building, if not maybe suggest subdividing the school and park (ball fields) and give that to the borough.
- Financially the Borough is doing well in the accounts.
- County Commissioners approved a 9% rate increase.

Zoning/Codes Report- Zoning/Codes Officer Bonawitz gave the following updates:

- March 11-Zoning Hearing scheduled for Mill Street storage building owned by Hunter Perez. He wants to sell mulch (Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat. 8-noon).
- 26 Orange Street has been sold and will be remodeled.
- Blue house on Church St (across from firehouse) is going to Sheriff's Sale
- Trinity Solar is the only permit (1 year) in the Borough currently. Biggest request for permits is solar panel companies. Anyone else soliciting is in violation.

Other Business Before Council:

- Mrs. Boyles asked if we wish to send our Hometown Heroes into PSAB to acknowledge our Heroes. Karen will see what is involved and will report back to council at next meeting.
- Council members reporting changes: Planning Commission -Pam Still, Gus Ginter may still be involved, but Ms. Still will report on meetings. Gus Ginter will move to Health, Safety, and Welfare-meeting when needed and will sit in on hiring for the Borough.

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 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Johnson
Interim Secretary/Treasurer