

## **Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council Meeting Minutes-August 11, 2025**

**Call to Order** – Mrs. Stoner 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; Lois Stoner, Gay Bowman, Gus Ginter, Andrew Tate, Cathy Neff, and Pam Still. Also, present Deborah Halpin-Brophy, Mayor, Thomas Day, Police Chief/ Borough Manager, and Karen Johnson Secretary/Treasurer. Sherry Boyles was absent.

**Approval of Payment of Bills and Financial Reports:** Financial report for July 13, 2025 to August 11, 2025 were reviewed. Account Balances -\$897,597.33 (Deposits \$253,008.31 Bills Paid \$258,556.13). Ms. Bowman made a motion to approve payment of bills and financial report, with Mr. Tate seconding the motion. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes** –The minutes of the Borough Council meeting for July 14, 2025 were reviewed. Mr. Ginter made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mrs. Neff. After a correction was noted, the vote to approve passed unanimously.

### **Public Comments-**

#### Rick Copen- Carlisle

Professor Copen passed copies of Central Penn College Partnership program updates for Council to review. He touched on his student's current coursework, with some students focusing on the Marsh Preserve, others on new business, and museum ideas. Professor Copen extended invitations for Council members to join upcoming Zoom meetings with Jen Danifo and Amma Johnson.

#### Jim Burgess-York

Mr. Burgess started by complimenting Angie and Gus Ginter, along with Park & Rec for the well-attended National Night Out event held on Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>. He was there representing Heart & Soul, having the opportunity to talk with attendees. He also wanted to invite someone from the borough to come and speak at the October 4<sup>th</sup> community event, and is willing to sit down with council members to discuss their action plan with ideas for the community. Mr. Burgess commented what social media has accomplished with community awareness, (example: Holly Festival planned vendors lists).

#### No other Public Comments

### **Business Before Council:**

Robert L Moser- Mrs. Stoner read the obituary for Mr. Moser who passed on July 4, 2025. Mrs. Neff made a motion to dedicate a page in the minute book to Mr. Moser's obituary. Mr. Ginter seconded the motion and vote to approve passed unanimously.

Citizen's Fire Company Allocation Request. – Treasurer, Thomas Murray sent a letter requesting their 2024 allotment of \$30,000 plus an additional \$10,000 towards the ladder truck balance. Mrs. Neff made a motion for the allocation, seconded by Ms. Still, opening for discussion. After council members discussed the allocation, Ms. Still motioned to reject the current letter of allocation of \$30,000 and \$10,000 for ladder truck for 2024, making it unavailable since financial accounts are closed and audited. Thomas Murray will be contacted to submit a new letter requesting their 2025 allocation of \$30,000 and additional

\$20,000 towards their ladder truck balance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ginter and the vote to approve passed unanimously.

MHS Emergency Management Coordinator- Mr. Ginter made the motion to approve Jason Bonawitz to replace Jim Hoerner as our Emergency Management Coordinator. Ms. Still seconded the motion and after discussion, the vote to approve passed unanimously.

Phase II Crosswalk Project:

- A. HRG Retainer Agreement- Mr. Ginter made a motion to accept the retainer agreement with HRG for services and compensation of \$5750.00 as stated in the agreement. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion and vote to approve passed unanimously.
- B. Department of Transportation Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement: Mr. Ginter made a motion to accept the Penn Dot Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement. Ms. Still seconded with the vote to approve passing unanimously.
- C. Resolution 2025-05: Mrs. Neff made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-05 authorizing and directing Mt Holly Springs Borough to submit the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement, for submitting future modifications and future applications for Traffic Signal Approval, either in writing or by electronic signature to the Department of Transportation. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion with vote to approve passing unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer Salary: Council discussed current pay scale and what would be feasible for the qualified applicant seeking the open secretary/treasurer position. Mr. Ginter made a motion to increase the range of pay to \$24.00 to \$26.00 depending on experience and qualifications. Mrs. Neff seconded the motion and vote to approve passed unanimously.

**Council Members Reports:**

**Gus Ginter:** Wanted to express his thanks to others for the great job for the National Night Out event.

**Gay Bowman:** Any update on the purchase of sidewalk traffic cones? Mr. Day stated he had not looked into the purchase, with other things taking precedence. He did speak with Ed Ginter, and remembers that Cork Shields was our connection for them before. Ms. Still offered to look into it further.

**Andrew Tate:** nothing to report

**Cathy Neff/Lois Stoner:** 90 have signed up as Holly Festival Day vendors. National Night Out—nice crowd, serving around 125 hot dogs, face painting for kids. We received \$30 in donations. Next Park & Rec meeting is Tuesday August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Pam Still:** Planning:

Ms. Still wanted to touch base on our sign ordinance which they are still working on. Comp Plan has been paused so they can focus on our sign ordinance, which was last updated in 2017. Commissioned members have been asked to look around at other towns for consideration, since Mt Holly is challenged due to housing mixed with businesses throughout town.

Ms. Still wants to stress that the Comp Plan is equally important (even though it is paused) and was last done in 2008. It is important when writing a grant that you have a Comp Plan in place, they want to know your vision for the future. Cumberland County updated their Comp Plan with 8 principals, which they wish for others to align with for consistency. Discussion regarding the Marsh Preserve and the advantage to take care of it. Stephanie Williams with Cumberland County can help with funding, to incorporate at least, two interpretive signs (to educate on the Marsh Preserve) and kiosks (to promote businesses and give other information about the town of Mt. Holly).

Mr. Day stated that the restoration of Mountain Creek is also very important and should not be overlooked. Mark Stahl and the County Conservation District have done a beautiful job on Lakeside Drive area and he hopes this can continue to other areas along Mountain Creek.

Jim Burgess mentioned that Cumberland County Land Preservation Plan is seeking comments until September 5<sup>th</sup>. Under special places, they have the Marsh Preserve listed. He commented about Trine Park and Mt Tabor as Mt Holly Springs amenities.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Deborah Halpin-Brophy noted the Police Department monthly stat report for review. She also mentioned, while driving through town, she does not want to see flashing signs along the stretch of Mill Street. Codes/Zoning officer Bonawitz is on top of the flashing sign issue and stated, they are not permitted.

### **Codes/Zoning Report:** Jason Bonawitz

--FEMA Class passed—He suggested Council include the Flood Plan Coordinator as part of Codes/Zoning job duties for any future person holding the position.

--COG -no meeting this month

--202 Chestnut Street-great progress, overgrown vegetation has been removed

--Blighted properties:

28 Chestnut Street—slow progress, but getting there

20 Center Street—photos passed to show progress being made—will await County Blight Mediation Committee's decision—Owner may get more time to complete work; owner has failed to notify updates to Mr. Bonawitz.

--2 Stuart Street-Bretzman's Garage- July 31<sup>st</sup> a notice was served to Mr. Bretzman regarding the property being dangerous and condemning the structure. Notice also invited Mr. Bretzman to the council meeting addressing the issue of the structure.

Mr. Bonawitz made a request for council members making a vote to keep the property condemned. Mr. Ginter made a motion that due to 2 Stuart Street Property being in violation of Ordinance 211-3-Dangerous Buildings and Structures, the property will remain condemned. Mrs. Neff seconded the motion and vote to approve passed unanimously.

--15 S. Baltimore New Business (no official name yet) will be a sport, athletic, fitness training center. Not exactly sure what sports will be covered.

--Sign in back corner near Sheetz is being redone by Keystone Signs.

--As of Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, Codes/Zoning has exceeded last years totals in peddler and building permits. Rental inspections for the year are on track. 3 more dangerous structures are being addressed. 79 codes/zoning citations have been issued. Snow and Ice ordinance reminders will be in next newsletter.

Council members commended Jason on a great job he is doing for the Borough.

**Borough Manager's Report:** Thomas Day

--East Street Project has started-with County funds—an issue at the Diehl property with a broken lateral.

--New Police Truck—picked up today, lights, sirens, plus extras were installed. Looks really nice and is ready to be put in service. Once the scale box is added, the van will become obsolete.

--Items to be sold:

Small New Holland Tractor and Van –each to be sold through sealed bids.

Ms. Bowman made a motion to approve advertising for bidding, the New Holland Tractor and the Police Van. Mr. Ginter seconded the motion with vote to approve passing unanimously.

Military trailer—not typical trailer, very heavy and not worth putting out for sealed bidding. Mark Stahl offered to purchase.

Ms. Still made a motion to sell the trailer to Mark Stahl for under \$200. Ms. Bowman seconded and the vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Dead Trees at Trine-An Arborist removed around 9 trees from Trine Park along with the large oak tree across from the volleyball courts.

Eagle scout is ready to start the pollinating garden and it will be done by fall. The corner garden has also been started by another Eagle scout.

--Garage—The borough is in need of a new garage; the current layout is ineffective making a hardship for parking equipment. Mr. Day will talk with the Authority about possible building and sharing a garage with the Authority since Josh also has nowhere for storage. The Shetter property would be an ideal location. Mr. Day would like permission to speak with the Authority Board. Permission was granted by council members.

--Ed Ginter—Mr. Day would like to raise Ed's pay from \$26.00 to \$28.50. Ed is an exceptional roadmaster. He thinks and acts on borough issues even on his days off, as well as repairing most of our equipment. Mrs. Neff made the motion for Ed Ginter's pay to be increased to \$28.50 per hour effective immediately. Ms. Still seconded the motion. Gus Ginter abstained from the vote, with the rest of council voting to approve.

**No Other Business Before Council**

**Adjournment-** Mrs. Stoner called for adjournment, Ms. Bowman made the motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm with a second by Mr. Ginter. All approved, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Johnson  
Interim Secretary/Treasurer