

Eagles Mere Borough

AGENDA

November 7, 2022
Regular Monthly Meeting
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Borough Hall

William Feese, Louise Middleton, Dennis Craig, Tom Graff, Doug Smith, Jim Way, and Richard Liebert. Mayor John Brownback. Also present may be Secretary/Treasurer: Dave Carson, and Street Superintendent: Jeremy Moore.

(For those wishing to participate by phone, the Dial-in access number is 1 605 562 8400 and the Participant access code is 8026073#. Please let the Secretary know if you plan to dial in so the call can be set up.)

Per PA Statutes for Boroughs, a quorum consists of only those Council members in the room but Council members attending by Conference Phone may vote once a quorum is established.

In the Gallery:

Call to Order-Regular Monthly Meeting: (President of Council presiding)

Pledge of Allegiance:

Motion to Revise the Published Agenda: (if needed)

Public Issues & Comments:

Minutes: Approve the draft of the October 3, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes. A copy of document is included with the Agenda.

Treasurer's Report:

- Interim reports sent with agendas. Reports are through October 31, 2022.

Open Records/Right to Know Officer:

- The Borough has responded to the RTK request from resident Jay Wilkinson within the allowed extension period. Payment of \$26.00 for the copies of requested documents (130 pages) has been made and the package has been received by Mr. Wilkinson.

Zoning & Ordinance Officer report:

- The property at 422 Pennsylvania Ave presently owned by the Drs. Hayes is under contract with a settlement date in late November. The buyer is purchasing the lot with the residence plus the recently subdivided adjoining lot. The buyer is willing to affirm that there is no intent to build on the second lot. The issue of whether that lot is buildable remains with the Commonwealth Court in Laporte.

Street Superintendent Report:

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Mayor's Report:

Emergency Management Coordinator's report:

Points of Interest and Information from the Secretary:

- There were three Real Estate transfers in September generating \$7318.15 in transfer taxes. Coslett>Steck, Bernstein>Roy, and Miller>Mulford.
- A second computer has been installed in the Borough Office which will allow a second party to have access to Quick Books and other files while the Secretary Treasurer can continue to have access to all other Borough and Authority computer files. Purchase of a second user license would allow both workers to access Quick Books at the same time. This can be done at any time should the need become apparent. Remote access to the system has not been installed yet. Remote backup (cloud) is operational.
- Comcast has notified the Borough that the franchise fee income for the third quarter will be \$1570.73.
- The Liquid Fuels Tax Fund audit of the Borough for 2021 has been completed and accepted by the PA Department of the Auditor General.
- The Borough has been notified by JHA Companies which represents EMHVI in their application to DEP for the revision of their Public Water Supply Permit #2570402 to include chlorination and to include filtration to remove iron and manganese. This Public Water Supply Permit serves the stores and offices properties in the village from their on-site well.

Committees:

Finance-

- Interim financial reports through October 31, 2022, are attached to this Agenda.
- Draft budgets for 2023 have been developed with input from the Personnel and from the Infrastructure Committees.

Infrastructure-

- The Committee spoke by conference phone with the representative of the SulCo Conservation District who is encouraging the Borough to apply for more than \$45,000 in a grant for Phase 2 of the Clay Ave. project. These funds will be awarded soon and will allow the project to reach an appropriate interim stopping point. The amount of future year funds will not be determined until the state makes its 2023 allocation. The committee recommends submission of the needed application by Tuesday, November 8, 2022
- The Committee also discussed paving and drainage improvements on Sullivan Ave. between Jones and Geyelin Aves. Estimates prepared by our PennDOT representative showed drainage costs of about \$108,000. However, comparing unit prices with those of the recently bid Clay Ave Phase I would indicate a cost of about \$78,000. After discussion, the Committee voted to recommend that the Sullivan drainage project be part of the 2023 budget.

Museum-

- The Museum is now open each Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- The Museum Board wishes to submit that Jill Johnson to be reappointed to a second 3-year term ending December 31, 2025.

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Ordinance-

- Pennsylvania Act 57 which became effective October 10, 2022 mandated that municipalities and school districts adopt a resolution directing their tax collector to waive additional charges in certain situations. This resolution must be adopted before January 9, 2023. A proposed draft resolution is attached to these minutes.

Personnel-

- The Committee met to discuss salary adjustments for 2023. In accordance with past decisions, the Social Security COLA amount of 8.7% was considered. After discussion, the Committee voted to recommend a 9% salary increase for 2023 which would apply to all Borough employees, including those working with the Authority and the Museum.

Website- Updates continue to be made by Kase Moore as needed.

Continued Business:

- In accordance with a previously approved directive from Borough Council, a letter suggesting that reducing the number of Council members from 7 to 3 was ill advised has been sent to all registered voters in the borough. A reminder card was in mailboxes on November 3. In the meantime, the proponents of reducing council size mailed a letter with their arguments. Since those arguments included some misleading facts, a rebuttal document has been mailed. Council members have contributed to the costs of these mailings, so no taxpayer funds have been used.
- The auction, conducted by Municibid, to sell the 2009 dump truck has closed. The final price was an astounding \$27,200 for the Borough (and \$2,448 (9%) to Municibid plus \$1,632.00 sales tax to PA, both paid by the buyer). For the record, Council is requested to approve this sale at \$27,200 and to direct that the proceeds be placed in the reserve account for future equipment. Bu the way, the original purchase price of the truck, dump body, plow and spreader in 2009 was \$43,048.

New Business:

- Action is needed on the Franchise Agreement with Comcast for provision of cable service facilities for residents in the Borough for the period from July 1, 2023 through June30 2033 (ten years) at a franchise fee of 3% of revenue. Note that the franchise fee is a pass-through expense to Comcast customers. We can request a 5% fee but every resident customer will then see their rate go up by 2% while Comcast remains whole. Such an increase would generate about \$120 per year.

Payment of Bills- Approval to pay the bills (as reviewed) for the Borough and Museum (yellow paper) is requested.

Adjourn the meeting at _____ pm.