

Mount Pocono Borough Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 3, 2022
7:27 P.M.

The Mount Pocono Borough Council meeting held on Monday, January 3, 2022, was called to order at 7:27 P.M. by President Don Struckle after the closing of the Re-Organization Meeting.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Ann Marie Harris, present; Councilwoman Aida Montanez, present; Vice President Lori Noonan, present; Councilmember Fran O'Boyle, absent; Councilwoman Ella Santiago, present; President Don Struckle present; and, Councilwoman Claudette Williams, present.

In Attendance: Randy Altemose, Mayor; James Fareri, Solicitor; Joshua Walker, Borough Manager; Alexis Wilkinson, Zoning Officer; and, Danielle Hewitt, Treasurer.

Approval of Minutes – President D. Struckle asked for a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of December 28, 2021. Councilwoman A. Harris reviewed the minutes and stated the following corrections should be made: on page 2 under Vice President M. Oser comments change “discussing” to “reviewing”. She also noted that following comment from Mr. Oser be in quotes: “I have forwarded this separation agreement to the Scranton FBI office as well to the Office of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with only a question of extortion or cost of business”. Councilwoman A. Harris would like the following comment from Mr. Oser in quotes: “as we all know we are paid and receive a W-2”.

Councilwoman A. Montanez would like to add to the minutes that President F. O'Boyle denied her request to adjourn and proceeded to give his announcement. President D. Struckle asked Borough Manager J. Walker to make these corrections and to present these minutes at the next regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (agenda items only) – President D. Struckle explained that any member of the public who would like speak before Borough Council would have two (2) opportunities to speak and that they would need to give their name, address and could speak for three (3) minutes as long as the item is on the agenda.

Mr. Tom Neville, 209 Knob Road – Congratulated the newly elected Council and thanked the previous Council for their hard work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Designation of Bank Signatories – Councilwoman A. Harris moved to have President D. Struckle, Vice President L. Noonan and Borough Manager J. Walker as the bank signatories. Councilwoman E. Santiago seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Consideration of Fran O'Boyle's Resignation – Councilwoman C. Williams moved to accept Fran O'Boyle's resignation from Council. Councilwoman A. Montanez seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Authorization to Advertise Vacant Borough Council Seat – Councilwoman A. Montanez moved to advertise the vacant Borough Council seat. Vice President L. Noonan seconded. Councilwoman A. Montanez amended her motion to include that any interested parties must submit their letter of interest to the Borough Manager by January 14, 2022 and that they must be present at the next work session. Vice President L. Noonan seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

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Consideration of Reopening 2022 Adopted Budget – Vice President L. Noonan moved to reopen the 2022 adopted Budget. Councilwoman A. Montanez seconded. The following comments were made that the first meeting on January 5th will only be the Budget and Finance Committee, which doesn't need to be advertised. Meeting dates open to the public would be: January 10, 12 and 13. Vice President L. Noonan amended her motion to include to advertise the budget meetings for January 10, 12 and 13 at 6:00 P.M. at the Borough building. Councilwoman A. Harris seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Consideration of Building Access Privileges and Key Holder – There was discussion. Councilwoman A. Montanez moved to re-key four (4) main entrances and the main door to the office area. Vice President L. Noonan seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0. Borough Manager J. Walker was asked to look into how many codes our system can support.

Consideration of Letter from Matt Hensel for MPMA Renewal – Vice President L. Noonan moved to reappoint Matt Hensel to Mount Pocono Municipal Authority (MPMA) Board. Councilwoman C. Williams seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Consideration of Letter from Mike Oser for MPMA Renewal – Councilwoman A. Montanez moved to deny the reappointment of Mike Oser. Councilwoman A. Montanez restated her motion not to reappoint Mike Oser to the MPMA. Councilwoman C. Williams seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Consideration of Letter from Jeff Woehrle for MPMA Board Seat.– Councilwoman A. Montanez moved to appoint Jeff Woehrle to the MPMA Board. Vice President L. Noonan seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Consideration of Letter from Shirley Lansdowne for ZHB Renewal – Vice President L. Noonan moved to reappoint Shirley Lansdowne to the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB). Councilwoman C. Williams seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Consideration of Letter from Rich Dorkoski for Planning Commission Renewal – Vice President L. Noonan moved to reappoint Rich Dorkoski to the Planning Commission. Councilwoman A. Montanez seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Evaluation of Borough Website – Councilwoman C. Williams moved to review the Borough's website and to remove the current webmaster. Vice President L. Noonan seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Fire and Burglar Alarm System Overhaul – It was noted that the fire alarm is an urgent matter and that the upgrades need to be expedited, however there is no budget for this. Councilwoman A. Montanez moved to have the Borough Manager acquire quotes for the upgrades to the alarm system by the next meeting on January 18, 2022. Vice President L. Noonan seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Surveillance System Overhaul – Vice President L. Noonan moved to have the Borough Manager get quotes for upgrading the surveillance system by the next meeting on January 18, 2022. Councilwoman A. Harris seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Evaluation of Media Policy – President D. Struckle read the current media policy. Vice President L. Noonan moved to amend to media policy to include the Mayor, Borough Manager and Council President. Councilwoman E. Santiago seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

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Establishment of Public Participation Policy - Councilwoman A. Montanez moved to establish the public participation policy that only agenda items will be discussed with a limited speaking time of three (3) minutes. Vice President L. Noonan seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Clarification of Committee Meeting Agendas and Advertisements – Councilwoman C. Williams moved to table the clarification of committee meeting agendas and advertisements until Solicitor J. Fareri reports back to Council. Councilwoman A. Harris seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

OFFICER’S REPORTS

President’s Report – President D. Struckle stated that his goal is to keep order and to run smoothly.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor R. Altomose stated it was nice to see large participation of the public and reminded everyone that compromise is key.

Borough Manager/ Secretary’s Report – Borough Manager J. Walker thanked Council for his reappointment. He stated that he hopes to get back in the Borough building in the next two (2) weeks. He received the air quality report and the engineer’s report and will forward both to the council.

Vice President L. Noonan questioned if the MPMA been given notice. Borough Manager responded, no. President D. Struckle reminded everyone that they are not paying rent. Councilwoman A. Montanez suggested that the MPMA should be given a deadline on when all of their possessions need to be removed from the Borough building.

Solicitor – Solicitor J. Fareri stated that the summary judgement for 1 Summit Drive has been prepared and he will send it to the Zoning Officer for her review. He noted that regarding 10 Shelly Lane his request for additional information has been received.

Treasurer’s Report – Borough Treasurer D. Hewitt noted a mistake in the budget. She found that \$170,000.00 needs to be put in a line item on the expense side. However, this doesn’t change the bottom line of the budget.

Zoning Officer – Zoning Officer A. Wilkinson gave the following updates: 32 Brunswick Drive razing was completed. She recommended that we pay the money out of the escrow account and close that account. She informed that she had gone to court on 94 Winona Rd short-term rental violation and the judgement came back in favor of the Borough in the amount of \$3,000.00 not including the court fees. She reminded everyone that the Conditional Use Hearing for 39 Seneca Road Short-Term Rental is scheduled for January 18, 2022.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Schepp, 3 Deerfield Drive – asked for clarification on the short-term rentals updates.

Debbie Rath, 6 Heath Lane – questioned why the Budget was reopened. President D. Struckle responded that this Council wanted to make sure that everything was covered to justify the tax increase.

Shirley Lansdowne, 49 Center Avenue – as a member of the Historic Committee, she requested that Council restore the original hardwood flooring.

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Mike Oser, 39 Fairview Avenue – asked if the draft minutes are on the Borough’s website. Borough Manager responded they have never been posted. He asked if the Budget item that the Treasurer mentioned earlier was on the website. The response was no. He questioned if committee meetings be need to be advertise. It was noted that the Solicitor will confirm this.

Dennis Noonan, 12 Pointe Street – commented that when he was Zoning Officer he met with the police who inspected safety procedures of the Borough building and gave a report that physical security upgrades are needed. President D. Struckle asked the Borough Manager to reach out to Mr. D. Noonan for the report.

Mike Reardon, 14 Cedar Road – congratulated the new Mayor and Council and would like to see more of working together.

Tom Neville, 209 Knob Road – he questioned public notices of Budget meetings including the committee meeting. He also mentioned the motion regarding Mike Oser’s reappointment was a negative motion.

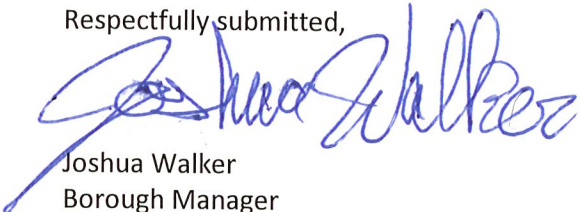
Mike Penn, 37 Knob Road – stated that at the last Council meeting there was a quorum established with two (2) previous votes, and noted that his appointment to Council was legal. He also stated that he took the oath office and he would like to have a judge decide this item.

Councilwoman C. Williams – questioned if the previous Council and Mayor’s emails have been closed out. Borough Manager J. Walker responded yes, however Mr. M. Penn deleted all of his emails. They have since been recovered.

Patty Bucco, 140 Winona Road – noted that there are three (3) Councilmembers who are not taxpayers.

There being no further business or public participation Councilwoman C. Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 P.M. Vice President L. Noonan seconded. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Joshua Walker
Borough Manager

