

Mount Pocono Borough Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 2021
7:10 P.M.

The Mount Pocono Borough Council meeting held on Monday, November 1, 2021, was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by President Fran O'Boyle.

Roll Call: Councilmember Ron Emilie via phone; Councilmember Patty Bucco, present; Vice-President Mike Oser, present; President Fran O'Boyle, present; Councilmember Aida Montanez, present; Councilmember Claudette Williams, present; Councilmember Stacy Stewart-Keeler, present.

In Attendance: Michael Penn, Mayor; James Fareri, Solicitor; Joshua Walker, Borough Manager; Alexis Wilkinson, Zoning/ Codes Enforcement Officer; and, Danielle Hewitt, Treasurer.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENTS – President F. O'Boyle stated that Borough Council held an Executive Session earlier this evening from 6:00 P.M. to 7:09 P.M. on legal matters with no action needed.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President's Report – President F. O'Boyle reminded everyone that tomorrow is Election Day and asked everyone to go out and vote.

Mayor's Report – Mayor M. Penn requested for prayers for a Municipal Authority employee who was injured at the plant. He commended President F. O'Boyle for performing a wedding for his grandchild.

Borough Manager/ Secretary's Report – Borough Manager J. Walker reported on the Fork Street signage, Smith Alley petition, decorative street lamps, renewed Blue Ridge contract that will provide a savings of \$1,300 - \$1,400 annually. Lastly, he explained that there was mold/ water in the basement of the Borough building.

Councilmember P. Bucco moved to task our engineer to evaluate and to determine how to eliminate the water. Councilmember C. Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Borough Treasurer D. Hewitt presented the bills list. Councilmember S. Stewart-Keeler moved to approve and pay the bills for Tuesday, November 1, 2021, as presented. Councilmember P. Bucco seconded.

BILLS TO BE APPROVED FROM THE NBT GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT:

ARGS Technology, LLC	(IT Service September Remote Service, Firewall, etc.)	\$ 549.50
AMTrust North America	(PREPAID: Fire Co. & Borough Workers Compensation)	2,614.00
Barry Isett & Associates	(Reimb. Taco Bell/Posh/Bizio & Sparkle)	2,659.01*
Berkheimer Associates	(Local Service Tax Operating Commission)	27.57
Campbell Durrant, PC	(General Labor & Employment Matter Oct)	867.20
Cintas Corporation	(PREPAID: Maintenance Uniform)	425.88
Department of Labor & Industry	(Boiler Certificate)	92.28
ESSA	(Building Loan November Payment)	\$ 2,309.20
Geisinger Health Plan	(PREPAID: Maintenance & Admin Manager Health Plan)	4,287.54
H. Clark Connor	(Reimb. Clarius & Bizio)	175.00
	(Planning Commission Legal – Meeting, etc.)	227.50
Highmark Blue Shield	(PREPAID: Maintenance/Admin Manager Vision & Dental)	149.54
Lowe's	(PREPAID: Highway Maintenance Supplies)	150.95
Medico Construction Equip. Inc.	(2004 Case Backhoe Loader Parts)	83.25
Met Life	(PREPAID: Highway Life & Disability Ins.)	135.00

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NAPA Auto Parts	(PREPAID: Pwr Steering Fl, Maintenance Supplies)	23.09
NBT Cardmember Service	(Office/Building/Highway/Zoning/Maint. Miscellaneous)	878.66
Newman, Williams, Mishkin	(Reimb. Clarius Warehouse Height)	490.00*
PA American Water Co.	(PREPAID: Fire Hydrants)	714.41
	(Maintenance & Borough Building Water)	60.76
PA One Call System, Inc.	(PREPAID: PA One Call – Sept.)	28.97
PA State Association of Boroughs	(PSAB: (2) Random Drug Testing)	169.36
Payroll Unlimited	(Payroll Oct 2021)	145.45
Pennoni Associates	(Reimb: Clarius – Finalized Traffic Impact)	486.50*
Plociniak Oil Co.	(Borough & Garage Heating Oil)	441.12
Pocono Mountain Public Library	(Dedicated Current RE Tax – Library)	122.45
Pocono Mtn. Regional Police Dept.	(November Loan Payment)	2,792.12
Pocono Mtn. Regional EMS	(Dedicated Current RE Taxes – EMS)	61.63
Pocono Mtn. Regional Police Dept.	(November Payment)	61,758.64
Pocono Mtn. Vol. Fire Co.	(Dedicated Current RE Taxes – Fire Company)	122.45
Pocono Record	(Advertisements)	64.68
PPL Electric Utilities	(PREPAID: Electric Decorative)	39.80
	(Boro Bldg./Garage/Concession Stand/etc.)	574.63
PSAB Pension Plan	(Employee Pension Benefits)	41,178.00
Purchase Power	(Meter Postage)	150.00
Selective Insurance	(PREPAID: Insurance Payment)	3,225.00
SPW Cleaning Services	(Borough Cleaning 10/12, 10/26 & Carpet Cleaning)	650.00
Sunoco Universal Fleet	(PREPAID VIA PHONE: Gas & Oil)	618.94
The Two Shields, LLC	(PREPAID: #3 2014 Kenworth PA State Inspection)	72.75
	(#3 2014 Kenworth Diagnostic – Check Engine Light)	95.00
The Verdin Company	(Clock Maintenance – Photocell)	37.80
TKE Elevator Corporation	(PREPAID: Elevator Service)	200.85
Tulpehocken Spring Water	(Bottled Water)	40.49
US Bank	(Copier Contract 10/1/21-10/31/21)	128.45
Verizon	(PREPAID: Highway – Telephone)	<u>80.24</u>

GRAND TOTAL: **\$130,205.57**

*Reimbursable Items

There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Officer – Zoning/ Codes Enforcement Officer A. Wilkinson, as per Borough Council’s request, gave a report of permits issued, executed and the funds collected were \$17,047.39 for permit fees. She noted that with the help of Solicitor J. Fareri the demolition notice was posted at 32 Brunswick however she has not had any response from the property owner. She added that she has filed with the District Magistrate a short-term violation and that the property owner has responded that they would like to defend against the violation, noting that the court date is December 23, 2021.

Solicitor – Solicitor J. Fareri gave updates on short-term rental litigation, slip and fall litigation, Lot #28 taxes, and the library millage rate.

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Minutes

Vice President M. Oser moved to accept the minutes for the October 4, 2021 and October 18, 2021, regular meetings as presented. Councilmember P. Bucco seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Mount Pocono Association – Ms. Jodi Bohdal announced that on December 5th there will be “Santa Through Town” from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Fork Street and the tree lighting and caroling will be at 4:30 P.M.

Safety Commission – Mr. Don Struckle, Chair of the Safety Commission, explained that only two (2) signs at each crosswalk are needed. He stated that at the next meeting they would like to get PennDOT and LTAP involved and that the next item to be addressed is traffic calming. He noted that the Safety Commission will meet next week.

Park & Recreation – Dog Park – Ms. Debra Fulton reported that they had a meeting with the engineer who quoted \$1,500 to prepare a sketch plan.

After some questions, Councilmember A. Montanez moved to allow the engineer to prepare sketch plan not to exceed \$1,500 for the dog park. Councilmember S. Stewart-Keeler seconded. Motion went to a roll call: Councilmember C. Williams, “Yes”; Councilmember S. Stewart-Keeler, “Yes”; Councilmember A. Montanez, “Yes”; Councilmember P. Bucco, “Yes”; Councilmember R. Emilie, “No”; Vice President M. Oser, “No”; and, President F. O’Boyle, “No”. Motion carried 4 – 3.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Expanding Planning Commission to Seven Members – Solicitor J. Fareri stated that the Ordinance to expand the Planning Commission to seven (7) members had been advertised.

Councilmember C. Williams moved to adopt Ordinance #6 of 2021 to increase the Planning Commission members from five (5) to seven (7) members. Councilmember P. Bucco seconded.

ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2021

An Ordinance increasing the size of the Mount Pocono Planning Commission

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mt. Pocono has previously established a Planning Commission in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipality Planning Code; and

WHEREAS, the size of the Planning Commission in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipality Planning Code may be consist of no less than three (3) nor more than nine (9) members; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council desires to increase the size of the Planning Commission from the present five (5) members to seven (7) members, to allow more participation by Borough residents in the planning process;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Borough Adopts the following Ordinance:

- 1. The Mt. Pocono Planning Commission shall henceforth have seven (7) members appointed by the Borough Council in accordance with Section 203 of the Pennsylvania Municipality Planning Code;*
- 2. All previous Ordinances establishing a Planning Commission of five (5) members are repealed as regards the number of members on the Planning Commission.*

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3. *This Ordinance shall be effective immediately.*

Motion went to a roll call vote: Councilmember C. Williams, "Yes"; Councilmember S. Stewart-Keeler, "Yes"; Councilmember A. Montanez, "No"; Vice President M. Oser, "Yes"; Councilmember P. Bucco, "Yes"; Councilmember R. Emilie, "Yes"; and, President F. O'Boyle, "Yes". Motion carried 6 – 1.

Councilmember P. Bucco moved to appoint Dakota Staples and Ann Marie Harris to the Planning Commission with terms to be determined that will be staggered. Vice President M. Oser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Security Camera/ Entry Alarm/ Fire Alarm Proposals – tabled until the November 15, 2021, meeting.

Hazard Mitigation Plan – Mayor M. Penn reported that we are still awaiting FEMA response.

Mount Pocono Municipal Authority Alternate Board Member Nominations – No update.

NEW BUSINESS

Reimbursement to Vincent April for Electricity Repairs – After some explanation, Councilmember C. Williams moved to reimburse Vincent April \$500.00 for downtown electricity repairs to come out of the decorative lighting fund. Councilmember P. Bucco seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2022 Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department (PMRPD) – Mayor M. Penn explained the 2022 PMRPD of \$846,121.00 to split the cost of twenty (20) hours with Coolbaugh Township. This is a 12.5 percent increase.

Schedule Budget Meetings – Councilmember A. Montanez moved to advertise the following Borough Council dates: November 19, 2021; November 30, 2021; December 3, 2021; December 10, 2021; and, December 13, 2021, all at 6:00 P.M. Councilmember P. Bucco seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

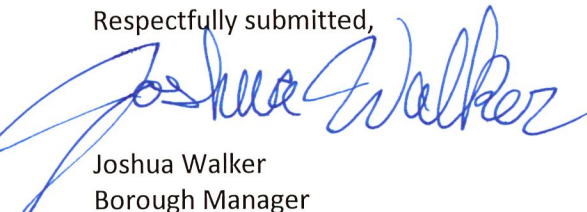
Borough Transparency – Vice Presented M. Oser requested additional copies for the public to include the agenda and treasurer's report. He also gave out copies of the settlement agreement between the Borough and Lori Yocum as a matter of transparency.

Borough Manager/ Position & Ordinance – this item was tabled.

Public Participation – Donna Bostany of Smith Alley spoke on the petition that was discussed earlier in the meeting.

There being no further business or public participation Vice President M. Oser moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 P.M. Councilmember A. Montanez seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Joshua Walker
Borough Manager