

**Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council
Meeting Minutes- July 13, 2020**

Call to Order – Mr. Collins called the July meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance– The following members of the Borough Council were present; James Collins II, Katie Daniels, Sherry Boyles, Gay Bowman, Lois Stoner, and Cindy Goshorn. Also present; Leroy "Cork" Shildt, Mayor; Mark Allshouse, Borough Solicitor; Thomas Day, Police Chief/ Borough Manager; and Sara Jarrett-Eaton, Borough Secretary/ Treasurer. Council person, Cathy Neff, was absent.

Approval of June Bill List and Payment- Mrs. Boyles motioned for the approval for the payment of bills. It was seconded by Ms. Daniels. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the Borough Council meeting on June 25, 2020 were approved as presented. The motion was made by Ms. Daniels and seconded by Mrs. Boyles. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard -

Name: Jody Fritz

Address: 34 Center Street, Mt. Holly Springs

Comments: Ms. Fritz offered appreciation for the helpfulness of the borough secretary. Ms. Fritz also had comments regarding the fireworks in the borough but chose to hold her comments until the discussion period later on the agenda.

Several other members of the audience chose to hold their comments on the fireworks until the period of discussion later on the agenda.

Solicitor's Report- Mr. Allshouse had nothing new to report.

Mayor's Report- Mayor Shildt and Chief Day presented Letters of Commendation Life Saving Awards to Sergeant Andrew Wolfe and Officer Deric Brazeal.

Mayor Shildt presented the police statistics for the month and offered an explanation for some items on the report.

WCOG Report– Troy Russell was unable to attend the WCCOG meeting.

Committee Reports– The following reports were discussed:

Health, Safety, and Welfare- Mrs. Boyles made a motion to advertise the proposed fireworks ordinance for action at the August meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stoner. Chief Day made the recommendation to council for consideration of the ordinance due to the close conditions of the homes within the borough. He noted a serious issue throughout the borough during the Fourth of July holiday. Mrs. Stoner shared her personal experience with the fireworks near her home in the borough. Mayor Shildt and Chief Day engaged in discussion about the current violations of the law. Ms. Daniels contributed that she believed the issue was the difficulty in enforcement. Chief Day expressed interest in further restriction of the state regulations. Mr. Allshouse clarified that the borough can only restrict the use but cannot stipulate to residents if they can possess them. He also expressed a difficulty to enforce, like the noise ordinance. Mrs. Boyles questioned if the ordinance should include the borough rights-of-way. Mr. Allshouse clarified that it is good to include as many details as possible and it would be beneficial to include the borough rights-of-way and cartways. Mrs. Goshorn expressed the need for the definition of the different kinds of fireworks and what is legal and illegal. Mayor Shildt expressed that he did not think that the ordinance will help the problem. Mr. Allshouse suggested that a good resolution to the problem is for the state to go back to its previous more restrictive law. Ms. Daniels recommended a letter be sent to the state sharing our concerns about the firework laws. She referenced a letter that was sent by Carlisle Borough. She suggested that we reach out to PSAB or WCCOG for guidance. Ms. Daniels suggested changes that were needed in Section 3 that referenced permits. Ms. Bowman presented a lantern with a sterno burner that was released from a neighboring property that landed in her neighbor's yard. Ms. Bowman expressed concern for safety regarding these types of lanterns that are released. Mr. Allshouse added that there are not regulations for those types of lanterns. Mrs. Stoner referenced a firework that was set off near her property into a dead pine tree that she felt was dangerous. Mr. Allshouse recommended that the borough rely on enforcement and the pursuit of a state law change. He felt that our ordinance could be redundant to the state law. Mayor Shildt asked if the borough could restrict the hours that they can be set off. Mr. Allshouse said he would review.

Public Comment on Fireworks Issues:

Jody Fritz

34 Center Street

Ms. Fritz addressed Chief Day about how many citations were written for fireworks on the Fourth of July holiday. Chief Day reported three citations issued. Ms. Fritz referenced other instances of firework misuse that she witnessed and expressed concern for the lack of police enforcement in those instances. She shared that she was concerned for the safety in locations where they are being set off. She engaged in discussion with Chief Day and Mayor Shildt.

Mackenzie Wycoff
22 E. Pine Street

Mrs. Wycoff shared her own concerns about the fireworks and relayed her personal situation which makes them a concern for her family. She shared that she had rescue animals and a child with autism who reacted poorly to the fireworks. She stated that she has experienced instances when the police respond to calls regarding fireworks. In those cases, the fireworks stop when the officers arrive and resume once they leave.

Mike Davis
312 Chestnut Street

Mr. Davis referenced that the same properties discharge fireworks every year. He recommended that enforcement be focused on areas with frequent firework use. Mr. Davis referenced a specific instance during the Fourth of July holiday during which people were setting off fireworks in the middle of the street, but there was no police enforcement for that specific instance. Mr. Davis shared his opinion that fireworks discharge within the neighborhood is disrespectful to veterans with PTSD. He also shared concerns about pets being upset by fireworks discharge. Mr. Davis expressed that there is no option to avoid fireworks when they are happening around his home instead of at a central location.

Jessie Davis
8 S. Hanover Street, Carlisle

Ms. Davis spoke to her personal experience with the incident Mr. Davis addressed. She recommended that more officers be on duty and that there be an increase in enforcement in the reported areas. Chief Day responded that officers were faced with other incidents on the night of the holiday. Chief Day also stated that the borough employed a part-time Police department and did not have the staff to have more than the normally scheduled officers on duty.

Ms. Daniels offered a short summary of the items addressed and reviewed the items needed for action to include a joint letter to the State representatives, ordinance enhancements, communication to residents regarding "legal" fireworks and safety, and staffing options for enforcement. She suggested an opportunity to provide a designated safe space for the discharge of fireworks like Trine Park. Chief Day stated that he felt that it was unlikely that our insurance carrier would take on that liability.

Mrs. Stoner withdrew her second to Mrs. Boyles motion. Mrs. Boyles withdrew her motion to advertise the proposed fireworks ordinance for action at the August meeting.

Ms. Daniels made a motion to table the fireworks ordinance to a later meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stoner and passed by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Boyles made a motion to approve Resolution #2020-01 for the submission of a grant for technology enhancements for the borough office and police department. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowman. Ms. Daniels asked for clarification on the enhancements to be performed. Chief Day and Mrs. Jarrett-Eaton offered insight on the financial obligation of the borough and the application due date. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative, Finance, and Budget– Mrs. Boyles made a motion to accept the resignation of Officer Dylan Kuhn as a part-time patrol officer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Daniels. Ms. Daniels asked how long Officer Kuhn had been employed. Chief Day reported one year of service. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Boyles made a motion to accept the resignation of Joshua Dorand as a part-time maintenance employee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stoner. Ms. Daniels asked if his tenure with the borough was good. Chief Day responded that it was. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Boyles made a motion to hire Steven Bloch at a rate of \$12.00 per hour for a part-time maintenance employee to replace the resigned employee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stoner. Jason Kennedy of 38 Mill Street asked if the position had been advertised. Chief Day stated that it had not been and the situation was the “right place at the right time” with Mr. Bloch’s inquiry for work coming right after Mr. Dorand’s resignation. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Boyles made a motion to release the Yellow Breeches Ambulance yearly budgeted allocation of \$14,000.00. The motion was seconded by Ms. Daniels and passed by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Boyles read a letter from the Amelia Givin Library in appreciation of the receipt of their yearly allocation.

Zoning/ Codes Officer– The Zoning and Codes officer report was included in the council packet.

Public Works- Chief Day offered an update on the East Pine Street drainage project. He also reported on damage to the new curbing that was inflicted by truck traffic.

Chief Day made a request to council to hire another part-time maintenance employee to work 32 hours per week through November at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. He explained that Public Works has many projects to accomplish and has not been able to have inmates released to assist. Ms. Daniels asked if the position would

be advertised. Chief Day responded that it would be with the individual to begin the end of July. Ms. Daniels made a motion to advertise the hire of a part-time maintenance employee to work 32 hours per week at a rate of \$15.00 to work through November. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Goshorn and passed by unanimous vote.

Jason Kennedy of 38 Mill Street thanked Chief Day and the Maintenance department for their quick response for a down tree after a storm.

Chief Day reported that the bids for the crosswalk project were submitted to C.S. Davidson. There were five total bids submitted with the lowest cost of \$186,912.00 by Farhat excavating. There is \$191,000.00 available from the grant. Chief Day reported that the bid can be awarded at the workshop meeting when the signed county contract is completed. The state is planning to repave Baltimore Avenue in 2021 but it is not expected to affect the crosswalk work. Ms. Daniels asked for the status of the work on the cameras in the intersections. Chief Day responded that the project was awarded last September but the contractor has not been out to replace or the radar in the intersections. Chief Day has several calls into the contractor for an update on the project but has not received a clear answer.

Borough Manager's Report- Chief Day reported that the borough has received restitution for damage that was done at Stoll Field and the Trine Park bathrooms.

Chief Day reported that the current Zoning Hearing Board alternate has moved and the position will need to be filled.

Planning and Zoning Board- Ms. Daniels reported that the Planning Commission meeting is this Wednesday. There is nothing new to report on the current subdivision plan submissions.

Ms. Daniels asked that vacancies go to her as the Zoning Hearing Board liaison.

Parks and Recreation- Mrs. Stoner provided the report for Parks and Recreation committee. She reported that a decision will be made at the next committee meeting regarding the potential cancellation of Holly Festival Day.

Mrs. Stoner made a motion to have the borough secretary gather information and schedule the Jurassic Wonder show to come to Trine Park. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Goshorn and passed by unanimous vote.

Any Other Business to Come Before Council: Ms. Bowman presented information on the Spotted Lantern Fly to council members and audience members. She described the harmfulness of the insect that is now invading Cumberland County.

Mayor Shildt reported that the Police department was looking to fill the open part-time officer position but is finding it difficult in the current social climate. Ms. Daniels asked if there was an opportunity to rework the job description. Chief Day stated that it was important that officers hold arrest powers.

Mr. Collins updated council members on the pension request for proposals that were sent out earlier this year. He reported that the borough received two proposals. Mr. Collins explained the findings of the wealth advisors and the borough association employee. He shared that his opinion was to stay with RJ Hall, the current provider, but to monitor carefully. He had hoped that some changes would benefit the borough's investments. Mr. Collins stated that he will take the responsibility to monitor the accounts. Mrs. Stoner asked if we would have to stay with RJ Hall for any specific duration. Mr. Allshouse clarified that we can switch at any time. The borough has no contractual obligation.

Adjourn – Mrs. Boyles made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Ms. Bowman. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara E. Jarrett - Eaton
Borough Secretary/ Treasurer