

MUNCY BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
December 19, 2016

The Muncy Borough Council met for its regular meeting at the Geringer Fire Hall with the following members present: President Richard Baker, Edward Feigles, Elaine McAlear, Karen Richards and Linda Stein. Matilda Noviello and Dana Bertin were absent.

Staff Present: Borough Manager, Bill Ramsey
Chief of Police, Jim Dorman

Guests: Numerous Muncy Borough Residents and others (see sign-in sheet)

President Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

L. Stein motioned to approve the minutes as presented. E. McAlear seconded and motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

1. Proposed Ordinance #538 Re: Adverse Impacts of Residual Waste Facilities and Air Pollution Facilities

K. Richards motioned to enact Ordinance #538. L. Stein seconded and motion passed 5-0.

2. 2017 Muncy Boough General Operating Budget

E. McAlear motioned to approve the 2017 Muncy Borough General Operating Budget. L. Stein seconded and motion passed 5-0.

3. Proposed Ordinance #539 Re: Muncy Borough Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2017.

E. McAlear motioned to approve Ordinance #539 which sets the real estate tax rate at 4.8mil and is a one-tenth of one mil increase over the 2016 tax rate. L. Stein seconded and motion passed 5-0.

4. Resolution 2016-14 Re: A Resolution of the Borough of Muncy to Endorse the Greater Muncy Area Resiliency

L. Stein motioned to approve Resolution 2016-14. E. McAlear seconded and discussion followed. K. Richards made suggested changes to the Resolution and following discussion, council agreed to the following revisions to the Resolution:

Fifth paragraph: Whereas, the Council agrees that there are stressors common to small river town communities and that there are initiatives and regulations that can be implemented to mitigate these stressors to become a model resilient community. These initiatives and/or regulations include, but are not limited to:

Flood Plain Management
Historic District Preservation
Business/Commercial/Industrial District Incentives
Infrastructure Upgrades
Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Under “RESOLVED that the COUNCIL” section:

Item# 1: Fully endorses the concept of the Greater Muncy Area becoming a model resilient community.

Item #2: This is a new item. Agrees to work with Muncy Creek Township to further the concept of a Greater Muncy Area Model Resiliency Plan and Community and garner their support from planning through implementation.

Item #3: Agrees to work with the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development to seek funds from the PA Department of Communities and Economic Development to develop a Greater Muncy Area Resiliency Plan.

Item #4: Agrees that the Greater Muncy Area Resiliency Plan is a recovery step to focus on implementing projects and securing additional resources to make Greater Muncy, PA “The Most Resilient Community” in the COMMONWEALTH.

Item #5: Agrees, that upon creation of a Greater Muncy Area Resiliency Plan, to seek funding (i.e., federal, state, county, non-profit, institutional) in conjunction with the Commonwealth, Lycoming County and Muncy Creek Township, as appropriate, to implement various components of the plan.

Item #7. Agrees to endorse and support the concept of a Resiliency Center of Excellence if the Commonwealth and its partners choose to operate such a center.

Following the discussion and concurrence on revisions to the Resolution, motion passed 5-0.

5. Meeting dates for 2017

Personnel Committee will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30.
Recreation Committee will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:00.
Zoning Advisory Team will meet on the third and fourth Thursdays of each month at 2:00.
Planning Commission will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00.

Council will consider changing its meeting dates to the first and third Wednesdays of each month. B. Ramsey will poll all council members and will report back to determine the schedule of council meetings for 2017.

New Business

E. McAlear motioned to purchase new equipment: 2017 Ford Interceptor for \$35,000 (which will replace the 2003 Crown Vic) and 2017 F-550 Truck for \$82,000. Both purchases will be made out of the General Fund. This is the recommendation of both the Finance and Equipment Committees. E. Feigles seconded and motion passed 5-0.

Correspondence

Council reviewed correspondence from Lecce Electric that described the completed traffic signal maintenance at Main & Water and Main & Penn Streets.

Borough Reports

Council reviewed the Muncy Area Volunteer Fire Company report which showed there were 18 responses (1 Box Alarm, 3 Still Alarms and 14 Ambulance) in the Borough during the month of November. The Fire Company also reported that it will have paid staff on duty from 7am to 7pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Public Participation

The public thanked Council for enacting Ordinance #538. The public also thanked Council for adopting Resolution 2016-16.

Individual Council Members

No comments

Mayor

The Mayor objected to the tax rate increase and the 2017 budget, stating that the Borough was reducing its police coverage by one-third (1/3). K. Richards stated that there hasn't been a reduction in police coverage but a shift in funds allocated for full and part-time officers which results in the ability of the Borough to provide police coverage in a more cost-effective manner. R. Baker mentioned that the police budget accounts for one-third of the total Borough Budget. E. McAlear stated that it is always possible to move funds from one category to another throughout the fiscal year. J. Dorman stated that he had not requested that a third full-time officer be hired to replace Officer Oeler after he resigned in July, 2016.

Numerous residents discussed their concerns about having adequate police coverage for the Borough. They requested that Council and the Chief of Police meet to discuss police coverage. As this discussion needs to occur in a public meeting, this topic will be placed on the agenda for the next council meeting.

Executive Session

R. Baker stated that Council had held an Executive Session on December 19, 2016 at 6pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Adjournment

Having no further business to conduct, E.McAlear motioned to adjourn the meeting. E. Feigles seconded and motioned passed 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen A. Richards
Assistant Secretary