

CALL TO ORDER

President Chris Becker called the April 15, 2019, meeting of Macungie Borough Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main Street, Macungie, PA.

ATTENDANCE

Council Members: Alma Akinjiola  
Chris Becker  
Barry Bloch  
Debra Cope  
Greg Hutchison  
Roseann Schleicher  
John Yerman  
Borough Manager: Chris L. Boehm  
Administrative Assistant: Selma Ritter  
Absent: Patrick Armstrong, Solicitor  
Ronald Conrad, Mayor

MACUNGIE POLICE DEPARTMENT (“MPD”). Updates and hearing of resident issues by Sergeant Travis Kocher.

- a. Macungie Police Department, February 2019 Monthly Report. The Macungie Police Department’s February 2019 Monthly Report included being dispatched to 155 incidents, 2 persons arrested, 14 traffic citations, 4 traffic warnings and 3 traffic accidents.
- b. Safe Internet Exchange Zone. Sgt. Kocher thanked Council Member Schleicher and Mayor Conrad for attending the news report segment on the internet exchange parking spots.
- c. Project Lifesaver. A policy will need to be adopted, prior to the wristbands being distributed. Sgt. Kocher will prepare the policy and distribute it to Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Prior Public Comments to Council.
  - i. Vehicles Speeding on S. Chestnut Street. President Becker gave a brief history on a resident’s complaint about vehicles speeding down Mountain Road and causing accidents. The resident requested MPD enforcement in the area. President Becker distributed photographs of the area and discussed how the accidents occur. Sgt. Kocher commented that many of the accidents are happening during wet road conditions; he then suggested anti-skid paving be used in the area. Borough Manager Boehm noted that S. Chestnut Street is a state road, which would require petitioning PennDOT. Council discussed devices other municipalities are using for traffic calming on state roads. Sgt. Kocher stated that due to laws and regulations, the MPD is limited on how they can enforce the speed limit. He commented that the MPD puts speed boards out and occasionally enforces, but he does not have the budget for constant traffic enforcement.

Council noted other traffic violations occurring in the Borough that residents complained about, including vehicles parking in front of the mailboxes on Village Walk Drive, drivers not stopping at the stop signs at Village Walk Drive and Brookfield Drive, speeding along S. Church Street and vehicles not stopping at the stop signs along Race Street. Council Member Cope reported the violations at the mailbox and Village Walk Drive and Brookfield Drive are still occurring. Sgt. Kocher gave several examples of complaints he received regarding speeding and vehicles not stopping at stop signs in the Borough, including a resident complaint of vehicles not stopping for the stop sign at Village Walk Drive and Brookfield Circle. Richard Stukas, 43 Locust Street, Macungie, commented that vehicles constantly run the stop signs at the corner of Locust and Race Streets. Sgt. Kocher commented that the MPD cannot be everywhere at the same time in the Borough, but when something comes up he puts a detail out.

Council Members stated the only way to get drivers to obey the traffic laws is by giving them citations. Council Member Bloch asked Sgt. Kocher how the MPD can move forward to resolve the issues. Sgt. Kocher stated by identify the areas with the highest issue and addressing the violations with enforcement. He stated it would be a never-ending revolving cycle and it is usually the same offenders.

ii. Hickory Street Repaving. President Becker gave a brief history on resident Maryanne Fegely's comment of Hickory Street deteriorating and in need of repairs. He distributed photographs he took of the area.

b. Comments from the Audience on non-agenda items - None.

#### COUNCIL COMPLIMENTS, COMPLAINTS, PETITIONS AND APPEALS.

a. President Becker briefly discussed the complaint Council received about the lifted sidewalk, at N. Poplar and Main Streets, near Salvatore's Pizza, that allegedly shifted due to tree roots. President Becker went to the area and took photographs of the sidewalk and tree, which he distributed to Council for review. Some Council Members stated that the lifted sidewalk was not near the tree. President Becker commented that the lift is under 1" which does not meet the criteria for repair. President Becker noted that sidewalk repairs and maintenance are the responsibility of the property owner.

b. Council Member Schleicher thanked everyone who came out for Borough cleanup day on Earth Day.

She also gave a brief report on the Painting with The Police event, at Out of Our Minds Art Studio. She commented that the police officers and children had a lot of fun.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. April 01, 2019 minutes. Council Member Akinjiola made a motion to approve the April 01, 2019 minutes, as written, second by Council Member Yerman. Motion carried: 7 ayes.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Payment of invoices as listed totaling \$157,323.25. After Council discussed the bills, Council Member Yerman made a motion to approve the invoices listed on the April 16, 2019 Consent Agenda, in the amount of \$157,323.25, second by Council Member Schleicher. Motion carried: 7 ayes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Macungie Volunteer Fire Department, re: March 2019 Training Report. Training included Truck Inventories, Review Brush Fire Equipment, a department meeting and advancing hand lines meeting.
- b. Macungie Volunteer Fire Department (“MVFD”), request for Borough to donate Police Department Dodge Charger. The MVFD requested Borough Council consider donating the Dodge Charger police car to the MVFD.
- c. Antique Truck Club of America, re: request for Macungie Fire Police on June 14 and 15, 2019. The organization requested Fire Police to direct traffic at their Antique Truck Show on June 14-15, 2019, at Macungie Memorial Park.
- d. County of Lehigh Emergency Services, re: L.V. Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Borough Manager Boehm reported this correspondence is a follow-up to inform Council that all 62 of the other municipalities, along with Lehigh and Northampton Counties, adopted the plan. The plan expires on October 14, 2023. An annual review meeting will be held to discuss plan updates; one is tentatively scheduled for August 15, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- e. Lehigh County Authority, re: 2018 Annual Sewer Capacity Assurance and Rehabilitation Program Report. Council discussed the report. No action was taken.
- f. Macungie Volunteer Fire Department, re: March 2019 Response Report. They responded to 3 calls in the reported month; all 3 calls were in the Borough of Macungie.
- g. Macungie Volunteer Fire Department, re: March 2019 certificates of classes. The report noted 4 certificates of classes and 1 new member.

Council Member Bloch questioned if all of the fire hydrants in the Borough were working. He stated Water Operator Doug McNair told him, when they were discussing exercising the hydrants, that some of the hydrants are in bad shape and he did not want to turn them on. He questioned if there was a list of hydrants that require repair, and where the repairs stand. President Becker commented that a new water map was discussed. Borough Manager Boehm stated she was unaware of hydrants that need repair. Council Member Hutchison commented that he heard there was concerns of the MVFD opening and closing the hydrants too fast to flush them. President Becker and Borough Manager Boehm both commented that the Borough Authority regularly replaces hydrants in the Borough. Borough Manager Boehm commented that Water Operator McNair expressed concerns

of having the MVFD do the flushing because turning them off and on a certain way slams the system. The hydrants will be discussed with Water Operator McNair and the Borough Authority.

Council discussed the repainting the top of the fire hydrants along Main Street, so they comply with the flow/pressure color code. Borough Manager Boehm stated they will be repainted.

President Becker commented that the MVFD put a plan in place to have a particular officer act as the lead officer in emergency situations. The lead officer will rotated on a weekly basis, for every week of the month. In an emergency, the lead person would be contacted first and would be the first person to respond. This plan will help the MVFD to always know who will be contacted and going first to an emergency.

h. Macungie Ambulance Corp, re: March 2019 Response Report. They responded to 334 calls during this service month; 27 of the calls were in the Borough of Macungie.

i. Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, re: BuildLV: 2018 Annual Development Report and MoveLV: Transportation Improvement Program 2017-2018 Accomplishments and Outlook. No action taken. President Becker commented that he attended the Chamber event and witnessed this presentation.

## REPORTS

a. Solicitor – None.

b. Mayor – None.

c. Borough Manager.

i. Streetscape Phase 2 – Schedule. President Becker and Borough Manager Boehm will meet with Engineer Ryan Kern and Bryan Smith, from Barry Isett & Associates, to discuss the Phase 2 Streetscape schedule, which will go from Race Street to Pine Street. President Becker explained that he wanted to meet with Engineers Kern and Smith for them to give him a general idea on what work would be done. Then, BIA would present the plan before Council for approval. After Council approves the plan, they would decide if a public meeting should be held, like they had for Phase 1, for public input. If so, the public meeting would be held before moving forward.

Council and Borough Manager Boehm discussed the grants that were received for the project and the Phase 1 and Phase 2 budgets.

ii. Bumpout Planting Meeting April 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m., Borough Hall. The meeting will be held with the volunteers that took care of the plantings in the bumpouts last year. Borough Manager Boehm invited anyone wishing to adopt a bumpout to attend the meeting.

iii. SWCP Committee Meeting April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7 p.m., Macungie Institute. Borough Manager Boehm and Council Members Yerman and Schleicher will attend this meeting.

iv. Easter Events.

- Easter Egg Decorating will take place at Macungie Memorial Park, downstairs in Memorial Hall, on Saturday, April 20, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Photos with the Easter Bunny will take place at the Flower Park on Saturday, April 20, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Participants will need to bring their own camera.

- Easter Egg Hunt will take place at Macungie Memorial Park, on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

v. Macungie Farmers Market ("MFM")– use of Macungie Institute. Borough Manager Boehm received a request from the MFM to hold the Market at the Macungie Institute ("MI") on June 13<sup>th</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and September 12<sup>th</sup>, because there are other events at the park and the MFM cannot be held there. In response to Borough Manager Boehm's email, Macungie Institute Manager, Tim Brown ("Manager Brown"), provided his comments on the request and stated that the MI cannot accommodate the Market due to other events being held at the MI on those dates and it would be unfair to limit parking space to a renter. He also noted that zoning prohibits outdoor events at the MI and other similar requests were denied.

Council suggested other areas in the Borough that the MFM could use on those dates, including the MVFD, VFW and softball field. After the matter was discussed further, there was a majority consensus among Council to deny the MFM use of the MI parking lot on those dates. Council Member Hutchison stated the decision did not matter to him either way.

d. Committees. President Becker commented that he will be looking to hold a meeting with the Teamsters, to correct a matter that would need to be discussed in executive session. He will let Council know when a date and time are set.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – PART I.

a. Ordinance Providing EIT Tax Credit to Volunteers of the Macungie Volunteer Fire Department and the Resolution establishing criteria and amount - 6/3/19 meeting. No action taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – PART II

a. Macungie Institute Trustee Vacancy, term expiring 3/31/2022. Borough Manager Boehm asked the East Penn reporter in attendance tonight to include the vacancy in the Borough Council article. Interested parties should send a letter of interest to Borough Hall for consideration. She noted that it is a board that meets during the daytime hours.

Richard Stukas, 43 Locust Street, Macungie, questioned what a Trustee does. Council Member Hutchison, who is also a Macungie Institute Trustee, discussed the position, requirements and why the position is available. He noted that the meetings are held on an as-needed basis. Administrative Assistant Ritter stated that the position description is available for viewing on the Borough website or at Borough Hall.

- b. Hartman Sidewalk Waiver Request - 5/6/19 Meeting. No action taken.
- c. Macungie Institute Plan. Council acknowledged they read and considered Tim Brown's written Plans (A and B) for the facility, which he had verbally presented to Council.

Council Member Yerman made a motion to approve rebranding the Macungie Institute as the Macungie Institute Performing Arts and Conference Center, second by Council Member Schleicher. Motion carried: 7 ayes.

Plan B eliminates private rentals, focusing on programing, performances, classes (such as art, music and dance), business rentals and community events. Groups that are currently using the facility, such as the Lions Club, local businesses, Boy Scouts and Historical Society will remain. Community use and Borough events, i.e., Macungie Holiday, Council meetings, Town Beautification, would also remain, fee free.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- a. Macungie Volunteer Fire Department Donation Request for MPD Dodge Charger. The vehicle would be used to drive to fire department trainings in Bucks County. After Chief Natysyn and Assistant Chief Todd Heffner looked at the vehicle and spoke with Public Works Mechanic Ryan Keiser about the mechanical history, they expressed to President Becker that they are still interested in requesting the vehicle as a donation.

Originally, the vehicle was to be sold for \$2,000.00. Council Member Hutchison asked if the \$2,000.00 that the vehicle would have been sold for would be deducted from the amount the Borough budgeted to give the MVFD in 2019 or if it would be gifted to them. President Becker noted that the MVFD was not asking to pay for it, they were asking for it to be donated. Borough Manager Boehm commented that Solicitor Armstrong would need to clarify if the Borough Code permitted the Borough to donate the vehicle to the MVFD, as she did not find anything in the code about making donations.

Council Member Hutchison made a motion to gift the MPD Dodge Charger to the MVFD, contingent upon Solicitor Armstrong's approval, second by Council Member Cope. Motion carried: 7 ayes.

Sgt. Kocher asked if the Borough would be responsible for the maintenance. Council stated that the Borough would not be responsible, as any potential vehicle repairs and maintenance would be the sole responsibility of the MVFD. President Becker commented that there are three mechanics that volunteer for the MVFD.

- b. Antique Truck Club Request for Fire Police to direct traffic. Council Member Yerman made a motion to approve the Macungie Volunteer Fire Police directing traffic on June 14-15, 2019, second by Council Member Bloch. Motion carried: 7 ayes.

ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA - None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, Real Estate – None.

President Becker expressed concern of holding the executive session without Solicitor Armstrong being present. He then commented that the session would be for fact-finding purposes only, at this time. Council Member Hutchison suggested holding the executive session tonight to see if Council would like to move forward or not. There was a consensus among Council to defer the executive session to a meeting when Solicitor Armstrong can attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to be brought before Borough Council, Council Member Yerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m., second by Council Member Akinjiola. Motion carried: 7 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Selma Ritter*

Selma Ritter  
Administrative Assistant