

CALL TO ORDER

President Chris Becker called the May 22, 2017, meeting of Macungie Borough Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at the Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main Street, Macungie, PA.

ATTENDANCE

Council Members:	Alma Akinjiola Chris Becker Roseann Schleicher John Yerman
Borough Manager:	Chris L. Boehm
Administrative Assistant:	Cynthia Hartzell
Absent:	David Boyko Greg Hutchison Marvin Moyer

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. Public Comments on non-agenda items only – No public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – PART II

- a. Main Street Streetscape Plan – This will be carried.
- b. SW Lehigh Comprehensive Plan – Council Member Schleicher reported a meeting has been scheduled with LVPC to meet jointly with Planning Commission and Council on June 13th at 7:30 p.m. at Borough Hall.
- c. Rental Inspection Program - President Becker commented the committee will be meeting Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall.
- d. LTD Capital Projects
 - 1. Church Street Traffic Light – This is being carried.
- e. Sewer Ordinance Amendment for sewer lateral inspections – This is being carried.
- f. Grace Lutheran Church Parking Request - President Becker reported Grace Lutheran Church will be changing their request to have certain size vehicles parking in front of the church. This will be carried.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Kalmbach Park Request to remove stop signs at bridge on Cotton Street – President Becker read the letter from Kalmbach Park requesting the stop signs at the Cotton Street bridge be changed to yield signs.

Thomas Kociuba, 93 S. Fairview Street, Macungie, remarked he was opposed to changing the stop signs because they are there for the pedestrians' safety walking across the bridge. Council remarked it is their intention to continue with the current condition.

b. Action on Recommendation of Safety and Risk Management Review – Selective Insurance did a review of the overall operations of the Borough. There was one recommendation of a fire detection system being installed in Borough Hall and Council is to respond to the recommendation. Borough Manager Boehm suggested informing Selective Insurance their recommendation will be considered during 2018 budget discussion. Council agreed.

c. Macungie Volunteer Fire Department Review

President Becker read a following statement – Fighting fires is one of the most hazardous professions, requiring extensive training, strength and endurance. Courage and a selfless concern for one's self welfare over the safety and welfare of our residents. On behalf of Council: Thank you to all the volunteer fire fighters here in our Borough and the surrounding municipalities who are not here this evening but know that you are appreciated. We truly respect and admire your level of commitment as a volunteer serving us all in our time of peril.

President Becker noted the topics of discussion for tonight. He commented the Fire Department is recognized as the official fire unit for the Borough under the Borough Codification. He referenced the Macungie Fire Department Articles of Incorporation, reading a few items in the document that was adopted June 14, 2006. President Becker commented the reason for the meeting is because the Fire Department requested an increase in their allocation. He reported a committee was set up to perform an overall review of the Fire Department and announced the members of the committee. He reported that the committee performed an extensive review of personnel, training, equipment, budget and fundraising. He listed some equipment the Fire Department has and commented they want to replace their tanker pumper. President Becker remarked the personnel certifications were received by the Borough but no certifications for equipment were received. Attorney James Kratz, counsel for the Fire Department, remarked he had certifications for some equipment that he will pass to the Borough. Attorney Kratz commented the Fire Department is working on a 5-year proposal. Attorney Kratz remarked the Fire Department submitted a Right To Know for the 2015 state certification that was submitted to the State Fire Commission. President Becker commented copies of the certifications for the current fire fighters were received on May 19th which he has not reviewed. Solicitor Armstrong remarked the certifications will be provided for the Right To Know. President Becker remarked on the condition of some of the fire fighter's equipment and certifications of the current fire fighters. He noted the special fire police do not exist. President Becker remarked the committee worked hard and gave comments and suggestions for the Fire Department. He reviewed the last firemen's relief audit for 2014-2016 which had 5 findings.

President Becker noted the topics for discussion tonight are manpower certifications, vehicle certifications, firemen's relief and budget. He commented the topics are items the Borough should be given information about because the Fire Department is the official fire unit. He remarked the Borough is only required to know how the fire department allocation is spent.

Public Comments

Tim Schantzenbach, 102 Locust Street, Macungie and on the Committee to Review the Fire Department started by saying no matter what the state of the fire department is today, when the fire alarm sounds, the help will come no matter what and all fire departments will work together. He read a statement on topics about how operation of a fire department has changed over the years due to safety of the fire fighters, about the fire tax, and the firemen's relief. He commented the committee will finalize their report.

Tom Kociuba asked what manpower is available during the day and night. Mr. Schantzenbach remarked the committee did not address the day and night availability but the department knows the availability and has an agreement with other departments for coverage.

Tim Romig, business owner of 50 Race Street, Macungie, clarified that the Borough had received the fire fighter certifications because he had submitted a Right To Know request to the Borough for the certifications. He remarked he heard the ladder truck was sold. Attorney James Kratz, attorney for the Macungie Fire Department, replied that the truck was put out of service and is in the process of being sold due to age.

Mr. Romig reiterated the Fire Department's certification application with the State Fire Commission had to be signed by a municipal official and who signed the application. President Becker is looking into the Fire Department's certification and remarked he did not remember signing the document if he did. During the discussion about the Fire Department certification, Council Member Yerman stated that he spoke with someone at the office of the State Fire Commission. The signature on the application was in block lettering and the person he spoke with at the Fire Commission did not know how it would have been approved without a signature. Council Member Yerman was informed that the person that accepted the application no longer works for the Commission. President Becker remarked recused himself from this issue since it involves him and asked Council Members Yerman and Schleicher to resolve this issue about the Fire Department certification.

Mr. Romig again questioned the sale of the ladder truck. President Becker remarked the committee is looking into the ladder truck and will reported on it in their final report.

Mr. Kratz clarified that the certificates for the fire fighters were given to the Borough. He remarked about the corrective action being done for the findings in the Firemen's Relief Audit. Tom Bailey, insurance agent for the Fire Department, remarked that monthly a portion of the Department's insurance premium was paid by the Fire Department and a portion was paid by the Firemen's Relief. The information was submitted to the State Firemen's Relief and is under review. President Becker asked to be updated on the issue.

Dorothy Kociuba, 93 S. Fairview Street, Macungie, thanked Tim Schantzenbach. She remarked she has great respect for him as a former fire chief. She thanked the committee for spending time to evaluate the Fire Department. She had concerns about the running of the Fire Department, the finances, the condition of the equipment that is used and the availability of the

fire fighters to answer calls. She researched the controls for the Firemen's Relief Association. She reviewed the 2014-2016 audit for the Macungie Fire Department and found it troubling. She appreciates that Council is looking into the audit.

Barbara Peters, Macungie Fire Department Treasurer, clarified funds of \$1,600 and \$25 for prior findings were paid back to the relief fund. She is working to get a breakdown for the insurance payments to comply with the finding and all the other findings on the audit were complied with.

Dennis Fritz, resident of the Borough noted he was a former fire chief. He commented on the low membership and fundraising of the Department. He suggested Council receive a breakdown of the use of the allocation before giving their allocation to the department and questioned where the funds for the attorney were coming from.

Attorney Kratz remarked he was in attendance to give legal guidance to the Fire Department and his fees are not paid by tax payer's funds. He commented the volunteerism and the funds received by the Fire Department are down. He noted the Fire Department was cooperating with the committee, but was not obligated to submit all documents requested.

Mark Miller, 222 Village Walk Drive, Macungie, thanked the Fire Department. His residence was next to the house that burned on Village Walk Drive. He thanked the Borough for looking into different things and wanted the Fire Department to be in the best possible situation. He thanked the Fire Department for their service.

Rob Sentner, Upper Milford Township Supervisor, commented it is a tough task for Council to make sure they are providing good fire protection. He wanted to clarify that Upper Milford Township Fire Department was taken off for the box alarms set up by Fire Chief Natysyn which Chief Natysyn noted was incorrect.

President Becker commented the Firemen's Relief Audit will be followed up on and Council Members Yerman and Schleicher will follow up on the Fire Department certification with the State Fire Commission.

ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

- a. Council Member Schleicher announced the Memorial Day events this weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to be brought before Borough Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hartzell
Administrative Assistant