

Borough of New Stanton
Borough Council
January 21, 2020
Minutes of Meeting

Attendance

Council members: Todd Bartlow, Art Cicero, Linda Echard, Ray Strosko, and Mayor Ronald Echard. Also: Borough Solicitor John Campfield, Borough Engineer Emil Bove and Borough Manager Jeffrey McLaughlin. Absent: Joshua Bennett, Scott Sistek and Tom Theis.

Call to Order

President Raymond Strosko called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM.

Prayer

Linda recited a prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Jeff pointed out that the draft January 6, 2020 meeting minutes included in the agenda packet had a couple of typographical errors and incomplete sentences. Council was provided with corrected copies and Jeff reviewed the changes.

Linda made a motion seconded by Art to approve the updated minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda to go into Executive Session at 5:40 PM for reasons of litigation. There were no objections.

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda to come out of Executive Session at 6:17 PM. There were no objections.

Opportunity for Public Comment – Items not on the Agenda

There were no comments.

Council Additions to Agenda

There were no additions.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only

There were no comments on the agenda items.

Agenda

1. M/V to Reaffirm Resolution 2019-918 Concerning the MAWC Campus Property Consolidation Plat

Jeff stated that the MAWC campus property consolidation plat needed reaffirmed because, although it was approved in April 2019, it was never recorded.

Todd made a motion seconded by Art reaffirming Resolution 2019-918 concerning the MAWC campus property consolidation plat. Motion passed unanimously.

2. M/V on Resolution 2020-941 MAWC Sewage Facilities Module

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda to adopt Resolution 2020-941 approving the MAWC Sewage Facilities Module. Motion passed unanimously.

3. M/V on Resolution 2020-942: MAWC Land Development Plan

Doug Silar, from Gibson-Thomas Engineering, whose firm is representing MAWC, reviewed the plan. The 35,000 square foot building will feature 10,000 square feet of office space and 25,000 square feet of garage space. Approximately 60 employees will work out of the building, with about 25 of them coming from the old Hempfield office and the rest coming from the existing building on campus. There will be 140 parking spaces. Mr. Silar said a landscaped buffer of trees will be planted between the site and adjacent properties.

Linda made a motion seconded by Todd to adopt Resolution 2020-942 approving the MAWC Land Development Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

4. M/V on Sheetz Lot Consolidation Plat

Ryan Wotus, counsel for Sheetz and Ron Herrington Sheetz's consulting engineer from McMillen Engineering, reviewed the proposed lot consolidation.

Linda made a motion seconded by Art to adopt Resolution 2020-943 approving the Sheetz lot consolidation plat contingent upon proper presentation of the consolidation plat. Motion passed unanimously.

5. M/V on Revised Sheetz Land Development Plan

Mr. Wotus and Mr. Herrington stated that the revised plan was presented to the Planning Commission. They reviewed the revised plan which calls for moving the truck parking to the middle of the site to mitigate any potential impacts on adjacent property owners, lowering the number of diesel pumps from 5 to 4, installing additional buffer landscaping on the northern part of the property, and redesigning the truck exit so that trucks will not have to go into the opposite lane of traffic when exiting West on Byers.

Council took action after discussion on Emil's comment letter and after receiving comments from Emil, David Wooster and Mr. Wotus.

Todd made a motion seconded by Art to table the Sheetz Land Development Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Linda made a motion seconded by Todd to set up a scoping meeting with PennDOT and Sheetz representatives regarding the Sheetz development. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Executive Session

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda to go into Executive Session at 7:37 PM for reasons of litigation. There were no objections.

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda to come out of Executive Session at 8:15 PM. There were no objections.

7. M/V on Animal Control

Art made a motion seconded by Linda to table the awarding of a 2020 Animal Control contract until the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

8. M/V to Send Art Cicero to Newly Elected Officials Course

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda to send Art to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Newly Elected Officials Boot Camp. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion Regarding Voting Machines

Linda stated that the county is required to purchase new voting machines that have a paper trail. The new machines are supposed to be online for the upcoming primary election. She stated that there is a concern that residents will have trouble learning how to use the new machines and that a training session before the election may be a good idea allowing people to familiarize themselves with the machines. She stated that when asked, county officials said that they do not have the money to staff or market a training session. However, they would be willing to set up the machines in New Stanton to have our Judge of Elections hold the training.

Linda made a motion seconded by Todd to sponsor a voting machine training for New Stanton and other area residents at the end of March at the firehall. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Ethics Forms Required

Jeff stated that the state ethics forms that were provided to council are due on May 1, 2020.

Reports

Administrative

Planning Commission

Jeff stated that the first session of the PMPEI was held on January 15th. There were over 30 people in attendance. There are two more sessions scheduled.

Borough Manager

Jeff stated that he and Ron will be giving presentations about borough government and the Junior Council Person Program to 140 Hempfield High School Project 18 students on January 22nd.

Linda asked that the students be invited to the voting machine training, since they will be helping to operate the machines on election day.

Code Enforcement

Jeff stated that the need for code enforcement has slowed down, particularly since there are no high grass complaints at this time of year. He stated that as a result, he has Scott Herrod only coming in 2 days a week as opposed to 3. Scott has been staying on top of a couple of lingering issues and continues to help with filing.

Solicitor's Report

John stated that aside from MAWC and Sheetz, there is not much else to report. He stated that nothing was really new with Broadview Estates.

Engineer's Report

Emil reported that he has a call into the Farlow's about meeting regarding the easement for the Arona Road culvert.

Fire Department Liaison

No report.

Council President

No report.

Mayor

No report.

Personnel

Linda stated that she has been having discussions with Jeff and will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss goal setting.

Public Works/MS4 & Parks

Ray stated that the guys have completed installing the laminated flooring in the ancillary rooms of the garage and will be jackhammering some areas of the garage floor so as to pour footers for the new truck lift.

Special Events

Linda said that the next event will be the Easter Egg Hunt.

Safety Committee

Jeff stated that the Public Works crew attended a PA One Call safety session at Youngwood Public Works.

Building and Real Estate

Linda suggested it may be a good time to have a follow-up conversation with Mr. Reese.

Financial Report

No report.

Additional Opportunities for Public Comment

Dawn Weichler from Sable Kennels

Ms. Weichler talked about her company and her interest in serving as the borough's animal control officer.

Mr. Tom Smith, Resident

Mr. Smith suggested that council make sure that candidates for the Junior Council Person Program are told what their responsibilities would be. Mr. Smith also asked who should be called about animal control. Linda stated that the previous animal control officer should be contacted.

Announcements

Ray stated that the next meeting would be held on February 4, 2020.

Adjournment

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. There were no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin
Secretary