

Millersburg Borough Council Committee of the Whole
Minutes
July 24, 2019
Millersburg Borough Council Chambers

Present: Committee Chairs Chris Dietz, Brent Boyer, Gary Ibberson, Nichole Hooper, Dave Rivera, and Brian Hoch. Borough Manager Chris McGann and Mayor Rick Ibberson were also present.

Guests: Skip Wingard; Solicitor Terry Kerwin (arrived at 8:10PM).

The meeting came to order at 7:22PM following the business meeting. The meeting focused on a number of ordinances that Council has been discussing in recent months. Mr. Wingard participated in much of the discussion.

Parking Restrictions Ordinance

Committee members reviewed an early draft of an ordinance to deal with on-street parking restrictions in certain areas of town. Discussions focused around the need to maximize available on-street parking while addressing concerns about parked cars blocking travel lanes. It was noted that the presence of driveways affects the available on-street parking. There is also a concern about school buses, snow plows and firetrucks navigating narrow streets where parking is permitted. Further study is necessary on this item. One possible idea is to restrict parking based on street width.

Property Maintenance Ordinance Amendment

Previously, some concerns were raised about the exact wording of the language regarding parking in front and back yards, particularly in grassy areas. Manager McGann developed some new language. The goal of the ordinance is to allow for off-street parking in grass areas where one could reasonably expect to see a driveway. Chairman Boyer requested some wording changes in the final draft. In addition to the parking provision, the proposed amendment also clarifies and simplifies language regarding prohibitions on standing water, which are found in another Borough ordinance.

Mr. Wingard brought several other property maintenance issues to the committee's attention and he then left the meeting.

Executive Session

Solicitor Kerwin joined committee members and Manager McGann for an executive session that was held for personnel and legal matters. Solicitor Kerwin left the meeting prior to the conclusion of the executive session.

Shade Tree Ordinance Revision

Manager McGann presented a proposed revision to the shade tree ordinance. Some changes to the definition of a "shade tree" were made. The Borough will need to find three residents who are interested in serving on the Commission.

Open Burning Ordinance

Manager McGann presented a proposed revision to the ordinance governing open burning in the Borough. Currently, there is a blanket burning ban in the Borough, though there has been discussion of loosening the restrictions to allow for activities such as cooking food. The proposed ordinance is based upon DEP's model ordinance for open burning. Several changes to the draft were made. The police department will be consulted as enforcement will likely fall to the police.

Ticketing Ordinance

Borough Council members have been interested in adopting an ordinance to allow tickets, rather than citations, to be issued for various property maintenance violations. Manager McGann participated in a webinar regarding the proposal and drafted ordinance language from a model ordinance. The proposed ordinance still needs some work. Two major items are 1) exactly which ordinance violations would be covered and 2) how appeals would work.

Pension Ordinance

PMRS has provided language to formalize the police and non-uniformed pensions. This language will replace the previous language in Ordinance No. 1-19, which was previously advertised, but not adopted. The Ordinance will need to be re-advertised with formal adoption in September. Manager McGann also noted that the revised pension plan documents have been received. He reviewed them and everything seems to be in order. He will ask for formal approval at the August Business Meeting.

Additional Items

Additional information items were included in the Manager's report/agenda. Committee meetings for the remainder of the year will need to be focused on establishing the 2020 budget.

The following items will be on the agenda for the August 14 Business Meeting:

Employee Relations – Pension Plan Revisions

Unfinished Business – Re-advertise Ordinance No. 1-19

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher M. McGann
Millersburg Borough Manager