

# MONT ALTO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER** – Council President Michael Gossard called the Regular meeting of July 7, 2008 of the Mont Alto Borough Council to order at 6:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** – Thomas Lawson, Debra Lee, Dennis Monn, Michael Gossard, Shannon Strizziere, Beverly Spicer and Rick Lee present.

**MAYOR** – Mayor John Esser absent.

**BOROUGH STAFF** – Maurice Gossert Nassaux-Hemsley, Inc., Jeff Evans Solicitor and Patricia A. Kocek Borough Secretary

**INVOCATION** – P. Kocek

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**VISITORS**

Karlton Smith – Burning in the Borough

Cheryl Sobun – Burning in the Borough

Allison Stains – Waynesboro Record Herald

Michael Hansen – Borough Zoning Officer

Council President M. Gossard recognized Cheryl Sobun. C. Sobun appeared before Council to register a complaint about open burning in the Borough of Mont Alto. She would like to see the Borough ban outdoor burning completely. C. Sobun presented an article to Council that discusses the risk factors for open burning.

C. Sobun told Council that she has an issue with a neighbor that was burning garbage and left the fire smoldering. C. Sobun could not sleep that night because she is highly allergic to smoke and her eyes watered and she could not breathe that night. C. Sobun presented a copy of a letter that she wrote to the neighbor and left on their door. She also had pictures that she passed around showing the burn pile.

There was a discussion between C. Sobun and Debra and Rick Lee. The open burning in question took place on the Lee property. D. & R. Lee told C. Sobun that they did not burn garbage and they did not realize the burn pile had smoldered during the night. D. & R. Lee said they would have contacted C. Sobun if she had signed the letter. R. Lee apologized for the problems the burning caused.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning open burning in the Borough of Mont Alto. C. Sobun stated that she still stands firm on her position (no open burning).

M. Gossard thanked C. Sobun and K. Smith for their time and said that Council will look at this when they work on Ordinances. K. Smith and C. Sobun left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

**ACCEPTANCE OF ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**

**June 2008** – D. Lee made a motion to accept the Zoning Officer's Report for June 2008, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

## BOROUGH OF MONT ALTO

### ZONING OFFICERS REPORT TO THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Michael Hansen  
for Accredited Services, Inc.  
Zoning Officer

Report Period: June 2008

LAND USE PERMITS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u> <u>Project Address</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Comments</u>
6/9/2008	John Kohler 43 Reynolds Ave.	6/9/2008	Permit # 08-23 16' X 24' Addition
6/16/2008	Todd Rock 102 Reynolds Ave.	6/13/2008	Permit # 08-24 15' X 18' Addition
6/16/2008	Michael Noll 227 S. Main St.	6/13/2008	Permit # 08-25 Chain Link Fence

**DEMOLITION PERMITS**

NONE

**SUBDIVISION REVIEWS**

NONE

Land Use Permits Issued This Month	3	Demolition Permits Issued This Month	0
Land Use Permits Denied This Month	0	Demolition Permits Denied This Month	0
Land Use Permits Issued To Date	25	Demolition Permits Issued To Date	2

Subdivision Reviews This Month	0
Subdivision Reviews Year To Date	1

**Building Code Officials Report June 2008 and Complaint Log** – M. Hansen briefly reviewed the report with members of Council. M. Hansen told Council that he is addressing inquiries from residents concerning zoning issues.

M. Hansen and T. Lowson will meet to discuss the installation of the bleachers at the Mont Alto Recreation Area.

**Fence 414 South Main Street** – M. Hansen spoke to the owner, Michael Beeler, previously and told him that the fence needed to be installed 10’ from the right of way, not 10’ from the road. M. Hansen stated that the fence is still set back further than most of the fences. M. Hansen told Council that Beeler either misunderstood him or M. Hansen did not explain the requirements clearly. M. Hansen feels responsible for this situation. M. Hansen will write another letter and tell Beeler the fence has to be 10’ from the edge of the right of way, not 10’ from the edge of the road or M. Beeler could seek a variance.

Discussion on the size of right of ways for state highways. T. Lowson will try to get some information from Penn Dot about the size of the right of way on 997 in the Borough of Mont Alto. T. Lowson feels some of the right of ways are not 50’. M. Hansen is interested in receiving this information so he can make a determination.

J. Evans told Council that they can’t ignore the Ordinance or they could run into trouble down the road.

M. Gossard pointed out that it is the responsibility of the land owner to obtain the size of the right of way before they go forward with the project.

**Commonwealth Code Inspection Service, Inc. Report** - For your information.

**Accredited Services Report** – For your information.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**June 2, 2008**

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Page 6 Paragraph** – Second sentence change Historical Society to “**Borough Council**”

D. Monn made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 2, 2008 as corrected, D. Lee seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**June 17, 2008**

D. Lee made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 17, 2008 as presented, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER’S REPORT**

**May 31, 2008** – D. Lee made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report of May 31, 2008, D. Monn seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

Table June 30, 2008 report until the August 2008 meeting.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 466 TRANSFER OF FUNDS JUNE 2008** – M. Gossard made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 466, Transfer of Funds for June 2008, T. Lowson seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

**Acceptance of 2007 Audit** – T. Lawson reviewed several items on the Audit with the members of Council.

1. Fixed assets - This project has been started but need to spend more time on it
2. Segregation of duties - There isn't enough personnel to do this the way Boyer and Ritter would like to see it done. T. Lawson stated that the way the work is being done now works and the Borough trusts their people.

**Fixed Assets** – Earlier this year Council passed a motion setting \$1000.00 as the threshold for fixed assets. Discussion on changing the threshold to \$5000.00.

R. Lee suggested having an outside firm come in and perform the Fixed Asset project.

Discussion. R. Lee will look into finding someone that could do this work for the Borough.

D. Monn made a motion to accept the 2007 Audit, S. Strizziere seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried

**2008 Special Carnival Fund Drive MAVFD** – Table until later in the meeting.

**MAVFD Carnival** – Council Vice President D. Monn thanked everyone for helping at the Carnival. D. Monn discussed the possibility of Council making a contribution to the MAVFD in memory/honor of past, present or future council persons.

**Educational Property Group, Inc.** – M. Hansen reported that ten (10) of the Building Permits have been issued and construction should start soon. One (1) unit has to be completed by November 2008 and all 20 by July of 2009 as a condition of the financing for the Project.

**VACANCIES** - None

### ATTORNEY'S REPORT

**Adopt Ordinance No. 464 Zoning Ordinance**

**No. 465 Subdivision Ordinance**

T. Lawson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 464 Mont Alto Borough Zoning Ordinance, R. Lee seconded,

Council President M. Gossard called for a Roll Call vote.

T. Lawson	Yes	D. Lee	Yes
D. Monn	Yes	M. Gossard	Yes
B. Spicer	Yes	S. Strizziere	Yes
R. Lee	Yes		

Motion carried unanimously.

T. Lawson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 465 Mont Alto Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, D. Lee seconded,

T. Lawson	Yes	D. Lee	Yes
D. Monn	Yes	M. Gossard	Yes
B. Spicer	Yes	S. Strizziere	Yes
R. Lee	Yes		

Motion carried unanimously.

**Recreation Fees for developers** – M. Gossert provided a copy of the Greene Township Recreation Plan. The Borough has to adopt a Recreation Plan. J. Evans has an Ordinance drafted but the Borough needs an official map.

B. Spicer briefly reported on the Official Map Seminar that she attended. T. Lawson presented an article which shows where the Borough can get help to develop an official map for the Borough.

J. Evans told Council that the Borough has to identify the existing Recreation areas on the map, land the Borough would be interested in acquiring and what facilities are potentially needed.

T. Lawson volunteered to serve on a Committee to work on this Project. Consider until next month when M. Gossard will make Committee assignments.

**Special Fire Police Mutual Aid Agreement** – J. Evans told Council that he does not have a problem with the passage of this Agreement.

D. Monn made a motion to sign the Mutual Aid Agreement, T. Lawson seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Request from Brunswick Township** – Consensus of the Council is to ignore this request.

**Occupational Privilege Tax MAVFD** – J. Evans told Council that he is working on this.

**Memo of Understanding PSU** – J. Evans reported that he is working on this.

**Grist Mill Drive Maintenance invoices** – J. Evans has not heard from them and no payments have been made. J. Evans will file a lien against the properties as instructed by Council.

**Sheriff's Sales** – P. Kocek was told by L. Hardsock of the Sheriff's Department that she could no longer send in for Sheriff's Sale bills for mowing grass, weed wacking, etc. Those types of invoices have to be taken care of by judgments. J. Evans is not sure he agrees with this. J. Evans will look into this matter.

**Vegetation growing along Ash Street at Penn Street** – D. Monn reported that the vegetation is growing out onto the road and vehicles coming out of Penn Street can't see vehicles coming in Ash Street. P. Kocek will call Penn Dot and ask them to remove the vegetation.

**Trailers corner of Poplar and Reynolds** – It was brought to Council's attention that this situation has not been resolved. A new realty sign has been erected at the property. J. Evans will look into this matter.

### **Vacancies (continued)**

**Constable** – S. Strizziere talked to Kelly Rock, District Justice and to some of other constables in the surrounding areas. S. Strizziere has a packet to submit to J. Evans outlining her background and suitability to serve as a constable. At this time S. Strizziere stated that she is interested in serving as a constable for the Borough of Mont Alto and is asking for Council's support. S. Strizziere did a lot of research concerning serving as a Constable.

S. Strizziere told Council that she could enforce Ordinances with out cost to the Borough. There is a class for Constables starting in August and S. Strizziere would like to attend the classes.

J. Evans said that there would have to be a Petition to the Court to have someone appointed as Constable. The person appointed as Constable would have to stand election in May of 2009.

Discussion about the prospect of S. Strizziere serving as Constable for the Borough of Mont Alto and the office of Council person.

J. Evans will research to see whether or not the office of Constable and Councilperson are incompatible.

P. Kocek will talk with S. Houke of PSAB and pose the same question. P. Kocek will also discuss the Petition to the Court with S. Houke.

T. Lawson made a motion authorizing the Solicitor to Petition the Court to fill the vacant Constable Seat, seat to be filled by S. Strizziere, a qualified applicant, provided it is not an incompatible office, D. Monn seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

The Mayor does not have control of the Constable but he can or cannot delegate to the Constable as he sees fit. T. Lawson said as Constable she can cite Ordinances and take them to the Justice of the Peace. The Constable is not paid by the Borough, but through the Justice of the Peace. Start a file for S. Strizziere as Constable.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Esser is not present this evening. J. Esser provided a report for Council to review. Table and discuss at the August meeting.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**Sewer Treatment Plant Field Trip** – Those attending should meet at the Borough Office at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

**WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE** – Nothing.

### **STREET COMMITTEE**

**Status Phase II Storm water Project University Drive** – M. Gossert reported that the Project is about 60% complete, which is reasonable for this time period. The Contractors will have to cross two main water lines.

Short discussion about the two unmarked water lines that were broken by the Contractor. It turned out that they were lines that were not being used.

M. Gossert reported that there has been approximately a 70% increase in the price of oil since R & D bid the Project. M. Gossert isn't sure if R & D will request extra funds because of the increase in oil.

D. Monn and T. Lawson have been supervising the job. T. Lawson said one couple on University Drive complimented the Contractor on the fine job they are doing.

R & D will install a water valve for Willow Street.

**Joint road maintenance with Quincy Township** – R. Lee and Kerry Bumbaugh have been playing phone tag.

**Basketball net/Paint cart way on Verdier Street** – T. Lawson told Council that G. Calimer, Jr. made arrangements with Waynesboro to paint the caraway. Council can't do anything about the basketball net until the lines are painted.

D. Monn will call Dennis Benchhoff and check the status of this Project.

**Center Square Update** – Nothing at this time.

#### **PROPERTY & SUPPLY COMMITTEE**

##### **Glessner's Alarm and Communications**

**Alarms (fire & intrusion)/Card Access System** – Council V. President D. Monn told Council that there have been some incidents within the Borough where an alarm system would have helped.

D. Monn would like Council to review the proposals from Glessner's. He will call Glessner's and make sure the quotes are up to date.

**Gas Pump Replacement** – M. Gossard will provide the phone number to D. Monn.

#### **ELECTRIC COMMITTEE**

**Antenna on Constitution Avenue** – A resident installed an antenna on an electric pole on Constitution Avenue. A letter has been sent telling them this antenna has to be removed.

**Updates from Downes** – T. Lawson reported that he has been receiving updates from Downes in regards to the Electric Contract. The prices have been fluctuating but the Borough's price is good for one (1) year. T. Lawson told Council that the new rate went into effect and most people didn't even notice it. Only the PPA went up, not the electric rates.

**Ground wires** – D. Monn reported that G. W. Electric and R. Slothour are working on installing the wires that were cut and removed. They are putting a stronger covering over the copper wire as they replace them.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** – Nothing.

**SANITATION & SAFETY COMMITTEE** - Nothing

#### **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

##### **Recreation Grant**

**Players Benches and Bleachers** – T. Lawson reported that the player's benches are assembled. Some of the ball teams (fathers) should be coming in next week to help assemble the bleachers. The new bleachers will have to be installed according to ADA specifications.

The following invoice was presented for approval and payment from the Recreation Grant Fund: Metropolitan Tennis Construction, Inc. \$4800.00

(Renovation of the Tennis Court)

D. Lee made a motion to authorize the payment of \$4800.00 out of the Recreation Grant Funds to cover the invoice listed above, D. Monn seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

The Practice Boards will be installed in the near future.

**Veteran's Day Program 21 Gun Salute** – Barbara Rotz of the Historical Society is asking permission to have a 21 Gun Salute during the Veteran's Day Program. She made this request because there is an Ordinance in the Borough that does not allow the discharge of firearms.

Consensus of Council is that this would be an approved use.

**Report on pavers** – B. Spicer and T. Lawson told Council that they need approximately 600 more bricks to finish the area. B. Spicer has 17 applications for engraved pavers at this time. The cost of the additional pavers would be approximately \$400.00. They also need to purchase 50 bricks at a cost of .63 cents each. These bricks are the ones that would be engraved. B. Spicer reported that there is approximately \$900.00 in the Veteran’s Memorial Account. D. Lee made a motion approving the purchase of the bricks needed for the Veteran’s Memorial, D. Monn seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Riding motorized vehicles in the Recreation Area** – Kelly Rock called D. Monn and discussed a particular person that has been causing problems in the Recreation Area with a motorized scooter. There are Rules and Regulations against riding motorized vehicles in the Recreation Area. K. Rock will look into this matter.

**REPORT ON COG (COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT) ISSUES** – No meeting.

**VISION 2015** – Council Vice President D. Monn discussed the following with Council:

1. Discussed Chambersrg Development Corporation providing ideas for the revitalization of Downtown Waynesboro
2. Comprehensive Plan for Washington Township and Waynesboro – D. Monn has information concerning this Plan. He will scan and email the information to the Council members
3. Waynesboro trying to obtain the Armory for the Police Department

D. Monn reported to Vision 2015 that Chestnut Springs has been cleaned up and that the Historical Society held a very successful Homecoming at Mont Alto State Park.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Appointment of committees** – Council President M. Gossard reported that he will have this ready for the August meeting.

**NIMS Certification** – D. Monn reported that Antrim Township is going to hold a class. Anyone that wants to sign up should go ahead and make contact with Antrim Township.

**Public Gathering/Festival Ordinance** – Council President M. Gossard will meet with C. Baker and R. Sleicher from the MAVFD. As the Carnival was held additional items were identified that need to be considered. After the meeting is held M. Gossard will provide comments to J. Evans.

**Generator/MAVFD/Evacuation Center** – T. Lawson and D. Monn feel the Borough should take the lead in this Project to find the funds to combine the two electrical services coming into the fire hall. Until the two services are combined an Emergency Generator cannot be installed. It will cost approximately \$15,000.00 to make these changes.

D. Monn said this is a community project/Borough project because the whole community will benefit from the services if they are needed.

After the services are combined then there is the possibility that Mont Alto Borough, Guilford and Quincy Townships could contribute towards a generator since those entities would utilize the Fire Hall in the event of an emergency.

T. Lawson told Council that there is a very large reserve in the Electric Fund (in excess of \$350,000.00). T. Lawson told Council that it would be a benefit to all to make a \$15,000.00 contribution to the MAVFD to combine the two electric services at the Fire Hall.

The donation would be earmarked so that the money could not be used for another Project and if there is money remaining from the \$15,000.00 that would be used towards buying a generator.

D. Lee made a motion to authorize the Borough Council to contribute \$15,000.00 towards the upgrade of the electric service at the MAVFD, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion,

Council President M. Gossard called for a Roll Call vote.

T. Lawson	Yes	D. Lee	Yes
D. Monn	Yes	M. Gossard	Yes
B. Spicer	Yes	S. Strizziere	Yes
R. Lee	Yes		

Motion carried unanimously.

T. Lowson will inform P. Strite of the donation and have her write the check. The MAVFD will be invited to the Borough Office and the check will be presented to them. Will try to make arrangements for 4:30 p.m. next Thursday or Friday.

T. Lowson will assist P. Kocek in writing the letter that will be included with the check.

**Official Map Workshop Report** – Covered previously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PSAB Alert** - For your information.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council President M. Gossard called for an Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. The Executive Session was called to discuss personnel matters and Audit items.

Council President M. Gossard called the Regular meeting of Mont Alto Borough Council back to order at 9:47 p.m.

T. Lowson made a motion to reinstate Todd Sharrah, new hire date will be July 21, 2008, and to be reinstated at his former pay grade (Step and Labor Description), B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Adjournment** – D. Lee made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Mont Alto Borough Council of July 7, 2008 at 9:49 p.m., R. Lee seconded, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted to Council for their approval on  
August 4, 2008

*Patricia A. Kocek*

Patricia A. Kocek  
Borough Secretary

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Michael Gossard President

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Dennis Monn Vice President

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Debra Lee President Pro Tem