

## MONT ALTO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER** – Council President Michael Gossard called the Regular meeting of August 3, 2009 of the Mont Alto Borough Council to order at 6:46 p.m.

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

**MAYOR** – Mayor John Esser absent.

**BOROUGH STAFF** – Maurice Gossert and Eric Hall Nassaux-Hemsley, Inc., Jeff Evans Solicitor, Larson Wenger Michael E. Hansen Accredited Services and Patricia Koczek Borough Secretary

**INVOCATION** – No

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – No

### VISITORS

Allison Schuhart      The Record Herald

### ACCEPTANCE OF ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

**July 2009** – D. Monn made a motion to accept the Zoning Officer's Report for July 2009, S. Strizziere 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: July, 2009

### LAND USE PERMITS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u> <u>Project Address</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Comments</u>
7/15/2009	Equitable Holdings 526 Park Street	New Single Family	Permit 09-14
7/15/2009	Boswell Property Management 2 Grist Mill	New ½ Duplex	Permit 09-15
7/15/2009	Boswell Property Management 4 Grist Mill	New ½ Duplex	Permit 09-16
7/16/2009	Mont Alto Fire Company 603 Main Street	New Sign Pad and Sign	Permit 09-19
7/28/2009	Star Patterson 13 Grist Mill	Paved Driveway	Permit 09-20
7/29/2009	Jeff Smith 25 Aspen Drive	Residential Addition	Permit 09-18

**DEMOLITION PERMITS**

**NONE**

**SUBDIVISION REVIEWS**

**NONE**

<b>Land Use Permits Issued This Month</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Demolition Permits Issued This Month</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Land Use Permits Denied This Month</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Demolition Permits Denied This Month</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Land Use Permits Issued To Date</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Demolition Permits Issued To Date</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Subdivision Reviews This Month</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Subdivision Reviews Year To Date</b>	<b>0</b>		

**Building Code Officials Report June 2009 and Complaint Log**

**Item #8 Vehicles 108 Park Street** – M. Hansen told Council that the Court date has been set for the Scott Gump property.

**Item #18 Weeds along fence 24 Grist Mill Drive** – This item has been taken care of and will be removed from the Complaint Log.

**Item 19, 20 and 21 Court Order Violations 6 Grist Mill Drive 4 & 6 Willow Street** – J. Evans told the Council members that these items will be discussed in Executive Session.

**Clean Up Mont Alto Initiative** – M. Hansen instructed P. Koczek to write a letter to a property owner that is using vehicles to store trash.

M. Hansen reported that he will be actively pursuing the weed violations on Grist Mill Drive.

**Garage on Lowry Lane** – The owner wants to demolish the existing garage and build on the existing pad. The existing garage is in violation of the set backs. M. Gossard said the rule of thumb that was previously applied is if there isn't any site excavation involved then you can rebuild on the same pad. The applicant cannot increase the size of the pad. He can only replace the existing structure.

**Boundary Survey** – Short discussion concerning the findings of the boundary survey. M. Gossert reported that quite a few of the points that are referenced are not there. M. Gossert and J. Evans will meet to clarify and get a legal opinion on some of the findings.

**Weeds and shrubbery on Borough side (south side) of Lowry Lane** – M. Hansen will look at this situation and proceed accordingly.

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

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

**Order of Court** – Discussed previously.

**Information from M. Hansen Re: Land Use Permits** – Council reviewed the information provided by M. Hansen that is used by another municipality. Discussion on corner lots and meeting two front yard set backs.

No changes to be made at this time to the requirements for a Land Use Permit.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES July 6, 2009**

**Correction:** Header on all pages Changed from June 1, 2009 to correct date of **July 6, 2009**

S. Strizziere made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 6, 2009 as amended, D. Monn seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

**June 30, 2009** – D. Monn made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2009, M. Gossard seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

Table the July 31, 2009 Treasurer's Report until the September 2009 meeting.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 490 TRANSFER OF FUNDS JULY 2009** – D. Monn made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 490, Transfer of Funds for July 2009, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

## **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**COLA Policy** – Nothing at this time.

**Wish List** – T. Lowson is not in attendance this evening to address this matter.

## **VACANCIES**

**Zoning Hearing Board Terms expire 9-7-2009**

**Jim Geer**

**Michael Doncheski (Alternate)** – P. Kocek reported that both gentlemen are willing to serve another term on the Zoning Hearing Board if Council so desires.

D. Monn made a motion to appoint J. Geer and M. Doncheski to the Zoning Hearing Board, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

P. Kocek was instructed to send letters to J. Geer and M. Doncheski advising them of their reappointment to the Zoning Hearing Board.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**Recreation Fees for developers** – Nothing

**Countywide Earned Income Tax Collection Committee Ordinance 491** – J. Evans prepared Ordinance 491 for adoption at the meeting this evening.

D. Monn made a motion to adopt Resolution 491 appointing Ronald Strite the Borough representative on the Countywide Earned Income Tax Collection Committee, S. Strizziere seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Grist Mill/Park Street properties**

**Liens against Grist Mill properties** - J. Evans told Council that these items will be discussed in Executive Session.

**Resolution 492 forbidding political signs on any Borough property** – J. Evans has this resolution ready for adoption this evening. J. Evans researched whether or not political signs are allowed at a polling place owned by the municipality. J. Evans said that signs are allowed from the night before the election until the day after the election at 8:00 a.m. Signs are not allowed inside the polling place.

S. Strizziere made a motion to adopt Resolution 492 forbidding political signs on any Borough property except when it is used as a polling place, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

**August 3, 2009** – The August 3, 2009 report was provided to Council in their packets on July 31, 2009.

Mayor Esser was not in attendance this evening. Council briefly reviewed the report.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**Report on progress of Borough boundary project** – M. Gossert reported, as noted earlier in the meeting, that he will be meeting with J. Evans this week to work on the Boundary Project.

Council President M. Gossard asked if the Boundary Survey found anything that would have a direct impact on the residents.

M. Gossert said No. There are a few areas that may be in question though.

**Inspection at Apex** – M. Gossert reported that an inspection was held at Apex. There are some items that need to be corrected or that were not completed.

M. Gossert marked up a set of plans and provided them to the contractor so that the items could be completed.

There is a meeting scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning with the Contractor.

An area of the street has been gouged and this needs to be taken care of before the Borough accepts the Student Housing Project as being complete.

Storm water issues – M. Gossert told Council that this is one of the items that has to be addressed before final approval.

### **Mayor's Report (Continued)**

**PSU Student Housing** – D. Monn reported that he attended a meeting regarding a survey PSU is conducting concerning student housing in the area of their campuses. He told Council that at this time Apex is 50% filled.

D. Monn said Dr. Gnage is more concerned about how the meetings between the Borough and PSU are progressing.

### **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE**

**Monitoring Water Treatment Plant and Wells on weekends and holidays** – T. Lowson is working on this but is not here to give a report.

## **STREET COMMITTEE**

**Joint road maintenance with Quincy Township** – Nothing at this time.

**Mont Alto Borough Square Project Update** – L. Wenger reported that he was given a tentative date of early September as a starting date.

**Letter from Penn State Mont Alto Re: Crosswalks** – D. Monn told Council that he faxed the letter from PSU to Penn Dot in Chambersburg on July 7, 2009. He received the letter back on July 27, 2009 along with some forms that have to be submitted to Harrisburg instead of Chambersburg. D. Monn is working on completing the forms and submitting them to Harrisburg.

L. Wenger checked on the cost of cross walk signs to put in the middle of the street. The cost is \$282.00 per sign. This type of sign could cause problems with vehicles turning.

D. Monn reported that the new street light at Park and Slabtown has been straightened. He will take readings to see if the area is better illuminated than it was before.

**Water problems Mont Alto Road Meeting 8-6-2009** – D. Monn explained the situation concerning the flooding that took place earlier this summer.

All interested parties will be meeting on August 6, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. Council discussed various ideas to correct the problem to avoid further flooding in that area.

**PROPERTY & SUPPLY COMMITTEE** – Nothing.

M. Hansen left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

## **ELECTRIC COMMITTEE**

**Electrical Grant for street lights** – D. Monn and T. Lowson discussed applying for the Grant at this time and decided to put this on hold until further information could be obtained about the various new types of street lights available.

**Electric Project** – D. Monn told the members of Council that there is still a section of electrical lines to be upgraded. This is left over from the Downes evaluation that was done in 1992. The area to be completed is from the square up Park Street to Constitution and back to the Recreation Area on Constitution.

The bids for this Project will be advertised and the bids will be opened at the September 8, 2009 meeting.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**Capital Blue Cross Generic Rewards** – After discussion it was the consensus of Council not to participate in the Generic Rewards Program.

**SANITATION & SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Nothing.

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Joint venture Mont Alto State Park** – B. Spicer reported that Senator Alloway contacted her and told her not to let them (Quincy) drag their feet. He would really like to see this program take off.

B. Spicer will contact Bob Gunder from Quincy to find out the status of this Project and to inform him that Senator Alloway called. B. Gunder is the head of the Joint Venture Committee.

**Request for approval for a 21 Gun Salute Veteran's Day Ceremony November 7, 2009 1:00 p.m.** – Council discussed this matter and J. Evans researched the Firearms Ordinance.

D. Monn made a motion authorizing the 21 Gun Salute at the Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 7, 2009, S. Strizziere seconded, any further questions, any further questions, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**Pavilion Rental Incident 7-18-2009** – T. Lawson provided information concerning the incident in the Council packets. Council discussed the skateboarding incident on the tennis court that occurred on 7-18-2009. The persons involved in the incident on 7-18-2009 were at the Recreational Area as part of the group that had the pavilion rented for that date.

D. Monn reported that another skateboarding incident took place on the tennis court a few days later and described details of the incident.

T. Lawson requested that the person renting the pavilion on 7-18-2009 be banned from renting the pavilion in the future.

J. Evans told Council that this matter will be discussed in Executive Session.

**Additional security cameras for the Recreational Area** – T. Lawson through D. Monn is requesting that two more cameras be added to the security system at the Recreational Area.

D. Monn obtained a quote from Glessner's to install two more cameras at the Recreational Area. The cost for the two cameras would be \$1447.00.

D. Monn made a motion to authorize the purchase of two additional cameras for the Recreational Area at a cost of \$1447.00, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

**REPORT ON COG (COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT) ISSUES** – At the COG the various representatives reported on things that are happening within their municipalities. D. Monn reported on the Joint Venture with Quincy Township to obtain Mont Alto State Park and the project to replace all of the street lights within the Borough.

**VISION 2015** – No meeting.

**Franklin County Emergency Service Alliance** – D. Monn attended the meeting on Saturday August 1, 2009. The meeting was held at the new 911 Center. The new 911 Center is not yet operational.

He reported that there has been a Board established to run the Emergency Training Center. The Board is made up of community leaders with various areas of expertise.

**Radio System** – D. Monn is compiling a document concerning the new radio system. He will provide this to the members of Council.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**NIMS Certification** – Nothing at this time.

**Public Gathering/Festival Ordinance** – This will be discussed in Executive Session.

**Ordinance 35 – An Ordinance Regulating Hawking, Peddling and other Borough Ordinances** – S. Strizziere provided a draft Resolution to cover fees for all of the Ordinances and Resolutions to J. Evans for his review.

J. Evans said that a summary fine is a maximum of \$300.00 and the Borough can't set their fines above what has been set by the legislature.

The Ordinance numbers affected by the Resolution will have to be incorporated into the Resolution.

S. Strizziere and J. Evans will continue to work on this document.

**Emergency Management Coordinators** – Mayor Esser and D. Monn met with Mark Garling. M. Garling is interested in continuing as EMC. James Powell is also interested in continuing as the assistant EMC.

D. Monn gave M. Garling the new Emergency Operations Plan that they need to work on get implemented as soon as possible. The coordinators will take care of this matter.

**Open Burning Survey** – P. Kocek reported that this survey was not on the August 1, 2009 billing invoices because the Mont Alto Municipal Authority authorized a sewer rate increase and the customers had to be notified of this matter on the August 1, 2009 invoices.

P. Kocek will attempt to have this ready for inclusion on the September 1, 2009 invoices.

**Security System Recreation Area** – Covered previously in the meeting.

## **MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR REPORT**

L. Wenger reported on the following items:

1. There are a few items to complete at the Recreation Area now that it has been inspected by DCED.
2. The Carbaugh water meter problem has been corrected by installing one meter to meter the four trailers.
3. 95% of the water valves have been exercised. There are a few that need to be located that are shown on the drawing but haven't been physically located at this time.
4. Locating the curb stops is 10-15% completed. L. Wenger hopes to have this project finished by Labor Day.
5. Hydrants will be flushed on August 18, 19 and 20, 2009.

**WEB SITE UPDATE** – Council was provided with a report on the progress of the website. Council President M. Gossard told Council that this is the first one for your information. He asked Council to review the data that was provided. He stated that Gloria is doing a great job.

If there is anything additional you would like to have on the website please present your ideas.

P. Kocek was instructed to list the Website Update under Old Business on the Agenda each month.

D. Monn and M. Gossard agree that the website is ready to go at this time, but a website is always under construction.

M. Gossard asked A. Schuhart of the Record Herald to include something in her article concerning the Mont Alto Borough website. A. Schuhart graciously agreed to do this.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Related Laws Updates Approval to purchase** – D. Monn made a motion to authorize the purchase of this document, S. Strizziere seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

P. Kocek asked, if in the future, there are publications of this sort that need to be purchased does it need to be brought before Council.

P. Kocek was instructed to bring the matter to D. Monn or M. Gossard for approval to purchase.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Council President M. Gossard called for an Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. to discuss possible litigation matters.

Council President M. Gossard called the Regular Meeting of August 3, 2009 back to order at 8:37 p.m.

**Adjournment** – S. Strizziere made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Mont Alto Borough Council of August 3, 2009 at 8:38 p.m., D. Monn seconded, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted to Council for their approval on  
September 8, 2009.

*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