

MONT ALTO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – Council Vice President Dennis Monn called the Mid Month meeting of November 17, 2009 of the Mont Alto Borough Council to order at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL –Thomas Lowson, Beverly Spicer, Dennis Monn, Richard Lee, Shannon Strizziere were present. Michael Gossard was absent.

MAYOR – Mayor John Esser present.

BOROUGH STAFF – Jeff Evans Solicitor, arrived at 7:22 pm, Patti Strite, Borough Treasurer and Gloria Socks, Recording Secretary

INVOCATION – Mayor John Esser

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VISITORS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council Vice President Dennis Monn called for an Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Council Vice-President D. Monn called the Special Meeting of the Mont Alto Borough Council of November 17, 2009 back to order at 7:40 p.m. Shannon Strizziere left the meeting at 7:40.

Tom Lowson made a motion to approve the hour change for Gloria Socks from 23 hours a week to 30 hours a week so that she will be eligible for the group health insurance. Rick Lee seconded the motion, any further questions, any further questions, all in favor Aye, opposed No, motion carried.

BUDGET

General Fund

Budget work papers were distributed to everyone present. T. Lowson asked everyone to specifically note that on page 5 of the worksheets that we are projecting a budget deficit at present of \$ 52,277.96. T. Lowson stated that in the past, this deficit was made up by transfer from the Electric to the General Fund when needed but this deficit figure is higher than in the past. Also, this transfer of funds may no longer be possible as will be discussed later.

Various line items were discussed at length and looked at. There was some discussion about whether the \$ 52 Emergency Services Tax would benefit the Borough if we were to go to that tax instead of the Occupational Privilege Tax we now charge. J. Evans will check this item out.

J. Esser asked if it was feasible for the stipend paid to council might be raised in order to attract council members.

It was noted that Earned Income Tax has been adjusted down a bit due to the fact that it has been discovered that some of the Penn State Campus employees actually work in Quincy Township. It was determined that this might compute to around \$ 1,300 in lost revenue.

The possibility of a one mil tax increase was also discussed. A mil increase would result in about \$ 9,100 worth of extra income for the General Fund. It was suggested that the mil rate should increase gradually if decided upon and not increase 3 or 4 mils all at one time.

R. Lee questioned the \$ 10,000 in the Recreation Improvements line. This money was put aside for some equipment for skateboarders. After much discussion it was decided this line should be reduced to \$ 1,000 and not do this project next year.

J. Esser asked that we also figure a 10% cut in discretionary expenses to see what that figure might contribute to in lessening this \$ 50,000 deficit in the general fund.

D. Monn also suggested that the purchase of a new phone system is not critical at this time, so this line will be reduced by \$ 1,000 in all funds.

Electric Fund

We will be reducing the line 442.320 by \$ 1,000 to delete the purchase of the new phone system.

Information was distributed from Downes Associates in reference to the budget figures for the projected wholesale power cost and retail revenue. After these figures are plugged into our budget, there is around a \$ 75,000 plus in overall revenue. Some of this could be transferred to help defray expenses in the general fund budget as was done in previous years, but at some point, the general fund needs to become more self-sufficient.

The electric fund will be monitored more closely next year to make sure revenues are sufficient to pay the cost of purchasing electricity. This year there was a shortfall that has yet to be identified.

A special meeting will be set for November 30th and then the budget will be advertised for 10 days. The council will adopt the budget at the special meeting scheduled for December 15th.

If it is decided to increase taxes a mil then an ordinance will need to be advertised along with the budget. Also an unknown at this time is what taxes will increase on the Apex property which will be an additional income for the general fund.

Everyone was asked to look over all of the items mentioned throughout the meeting and come back with suggestions at the November 30th meeting. P. Strite will have changes made and new budget sheets to look over.

Adjournment - R. Lee made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Mont Alto Borough Council of November 17, 2009 at 9:58 p.m., T. Lawson seconded the motion, no further questions, no further questions, all in favor Aye, opposed no, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted to Council for their approval on
December 7, 2009.

Patti A. Strite
Borough Treasurer

Michael Gossard President

Dennis Monn Vice President

Rick Lee President Pro Tem