

MONT ALTO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – Council President Dennis Monn called the midmonth meeting of November 16, 2010 of the Mont Alto Borough Council to order at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Tom Lowson, Beverly Spicer, Dennis Monn, Rick Lee and Cheryl Sobun present. Karlton Smith and Shannon Strizziere were absent.

MAYOR – Mayor John Esser present.

BOROUGH STAFF – Jeff Evans Solicitor, Patti Strite Treasurer and Patricia Kocek Borough Secretary

INVOCATION – P. Kocek

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VISITORS

Donna Henderson Local Services Tax

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Local Services Tax – Members of Council debated the pros and cons of enacting the Local Services Tax.

Use of the Local Services Tax:

1. \$5.00 goes to the local school district
2. 25% Emergency services
3. Remainder for streets and/or reduction of property taxes

There is a possibility that the Borough will be able to reduce the property taxes if the LST is enacted.

J. Evans said that the Local Services Tax would shift some of the burden from the residents to those coming into the Borough to work.

T. Lowson made a motion to enact the Local Services Tax, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion,

Roll Call Vote

R. Lee	Yes	D. Monn	Yes
B. Spicer	Abstain	T. Lowson	Yes
C. Sobun	Abstain		

Motion carried.

P. Kocek and J. Evans will prepare the Tax Form that has to be submitted to the State by December 1, 2010.

EIT Committee – P. Strite is the Borough’s representative on the EIT Committee. Council and P. Strite discussed the weighted vote that is used to make decisions about the EIT tax.

T. Lowson doesn’t feel that the documents that were received are legal. J. Evans will review the information that was received in the last few days concerning the weighted vote and report back to Council.

Employee Health Insurance – The current health insurance through Gettysburg Health has increased 85% for the 2011 plan year.

Benecon has offered a health insurance plan through Capital Blue Cross that has better coverage and a rate that is no higher than the previous carrier charged for 2010.

J. Evans advertised the Ordinance that is required to join the Benecon Group. J. Evans has also reviewed the Agreement that has to be signed with Benecon.

The Capital Blue Cross does not include vision. P. Strite told the members that it would cost approximately \$350.00 per year to provide vision coverage.

C. Sobun made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 519 authorizing the Borough of Mont Alto to join the PMHIC (Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative) and to enter into an intergovernmental agreement for the purpose of joining (PMHIC), B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

T. Lowson made a motion to include the Vision Plan in the new health insurance plan, which will be paid for by the Borough, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

\$10,000.00 Grant/Historical Society Letter from DCED – Council President D. Monn received a letter from DCED concerning the Historical Society and the money they requested.

Discussion on how much of the money will be used for the improvements at the Recreation Area. The cost of the gazebo is approximately \$4000.00. \$300.00 has been donated by F & M Trust and this money will be used for the base to sit the gazebo on.

Whatever money is left over will be used for the skate board walkway. If \$1200.00 is given to the Historical Society then the remainder, after paying for the gazebo and the Historical Society, will be used for the skate board walkway.

If the Borough decides to give \$1200.00 to the Historical Society, the Borough has to submit an amended budget, including the \$1200.00. The budget has to show what the Historical Society is going to do with the money. The Borough would have to administer the \$1200.00 in accordance with DCED standards.

Discussion on putting a line item in the Budget for the Historical Society instead of giving them the \$1200.00 out of the Grant.

The Historical Society wants to buy signs for the entrances to the Borough of Mont Alto. If this is what they want to do, they would have to get permission for the placement of the signs from the property owner and Penn Dot, in certain instances.

T. Lowson made a motion to add a line item to the 2011 Budget in the amount of \$300.00 for the Historical Society, C. Sobun seconded, any further discussion on the motion,

Discussion concerning the amount of money mentioned in the motion. As with any line item, because of budget constraints, the line item for the Historical Society will be reconsidered each year.

Any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Cintas Uniforms – In the absence of L. Wenger P. Kocek reported that it would not be advantageous to go with the lease program. Wait until the contract expires in June before making a decision. J. Evans told Council that there is not an automatic renewal of the Contract.

Council discussed various options such as a clothing allowance or buying the uniforms for the employees.

This item was turned over to the Property & Supply Committee to pursue.

2011 Budget

General Fund – P. Strite reviewed the General Fund Budget with the members of Council. It was pointed out that the 3% employee increase included in the Budget is not a general raise. Raises will be based on employee evaluations and performance.

Electric Fund – T. Lowson said the Electric Fund Budget does not require any further discussion. Downes Associates tells the Borough when to raise and lower the electric rates. The Borough Electric Fund is a not for profit.

R. Lee made a motion to direct J. Evans to advertise the Budget for approval at the December 6, 2010 meeting, C. Sobun seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

T. Lowson made a motion to lower the mill rate for 2011 by 1 mill, C. Sobun seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion,

P. Strite addressed the issue of lowering the tax rate by 1 mill. As Treasurer, she is concerned about lowering the tax rate by 1 mill at this time. The General Fund Budget is very tight and P. Strite feels it would be detrimental to the Borough to lower the rate by 1 mill at this time.

B. Spicer feels that it would be better to wait one (1) year to see if the new tax benefits the Borough before lowering the tax rate.

T. Lowson withdrew his motion, C. Sobun withdrew her second but she would like to revisit this issue next year.

Set Tax Rate for 2011- R. Lee made a motion to authorize J. Evans to draft the Ordinance and advertise the Tax Rate for 2011 at 7.55 mills, with 1.165 mills of the 7.55 mills designated for streets, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, C. Sobun opposed the motion, so ordered.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ordinance 35 An Ordinance Regulating Hawking, Peddling and other Borough

Ordinances - J. Evans has the rough draft of the Ordinances (approximately 35-40 ordinances) ready. This Ordinance will be passed to bring the penalties and consequences up to date for the ordinances addressed in this new Ordinance. J. Evans can have this ready for advertisement in time for the December 6, 2010 meeting.

C. Sobun made a motion authorizing J. Evans to advertise this Ordinance for passage at the December 6, 2010 meeting, D. Monn seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

RRFB Lights – Council President D. Monn provided J. Evans a packet of information which includes the Agreement for the RRFB lights. J. Evans will review the document and if it is acceptable D. Monn will sign.

D. Monn reported that Penn Dot will not pay for the engineering or the advertisements that were necessary to do this Project. The Borough has paid \$3542.86 in fees.

D. Monn suggests contacting PSU and asking them if they will help with the cost for RRFB lights. This Project will benefit them more than it will benefit the Borough of Mont Alto.

The Borough will pay for the RRFB lights out of the Liquid Fuels money and then the Borough will be reimbursed. There is no guarantee on the time line for reimbursement of the funds.

Council President D. Monn will write a letter to Penn State University asking for their help with the cost of this Project. D. Monn will review the letter with J. Evans and the appropriate members of Council before sending.

NEW BUSINESS

Mont Alto Municipal Authority

Term of Gary Eigenbrode expires 12-6-2010 – P. Kocek reported that G. Eigenbrode is willing to serve another term on the Mont Alto Municipal Authority.

D. Monn made a motion to appoint G. Eigenbrode for an additional term on the Mont Alto Municipal Authority, C. Sobun seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Any other business that may come before the meeting

Flying the flag at half mast – D. Monn told the members that the Governor has ordered the flags to fly at half mast at state buildings. This is in honor of the State Game Warden that was killed in the line of duty.

D. Monn is asking whose directive the Borough should follow in flying their flags at half mast. Short discussion on flying the flag at half mast and it was the consensus of Council to follow the directive of the Governor in flying flags at half mast.

CCIS Agreement – P. Kocek told Council that the Agreement is signed by CCIS and is ready for D. Monn to sign.

P. Kocek and G. Socks are in the process of getting the procedures in place for processing Land Use Permits through CCIS. C. Malot is assigning David Lutz to do the zoning work for the Borough of Mont Alto.

Zoning Training Class – Council President D. Monn attended a zoning class in Gettysburg this past Friday and will attend this coming Friday.

D. Monn reported that he was the only attendee that's municipality had Zoning Ordinances but did not have a Comprehensive Plan. T. Lowson and J. Evans said that the Borough does have a Comprehensive Plan. P. Kocek to look for the Comprehensive Plan.

Borough building repair – C. Sobun reported that she spoke to a contractor and he should have contacted L. Wenger by this time. P. Kocek told her that as of today L. Wenger had not spoken to this contractor.

D. Monn suggested that Council meet at the Borough office and have L. Wenger show Council what needs to be done to the Borough building.

Letter of resignation Karlton Smith – C. Sobun presented a Letter of Resignation from Karlton Smith effective immediately. Mayor J. Esser read the letter to those present.

T. Lowson made a motion to accept the letter of resignation with reluctance and send a letter recognizing his service and thanking him for it, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

There has been a letter of interest submitted for a council seat.

Council has 30 days to appoint someone to the seat and if Council doesn't appoint someone the Vacancy Board has 15 days to appoint a new council person. If that doesn't happen, then the Vacancy Board has to petition the Court to appoint someone to the seat.

P. Kocek will contact the Record Herald and the Public Opinion to advise them of the open seat on Borough Council.

Mont Alto Volunteer Fire Department 2010 Toy Drive – There was an item in the Budget for \$225.00 for another use and it was not needed so Council would like to allocate this additional money to the Toy Drive.

R. Lee made a motion to give an additional \$225.00 to the Toy Drive, D. Monn seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Penn State Student Government Association – Mayor Esser met with the Student Government from Penn State.

They would like to do a Lion Walk, this is where they walk through the town and become acquainted with the citizens and also possibly volunteer to do some community service in the spring to help any citizens that might need some work done such as yard work, painting, etc.

J. Esser is asking for permission to have Chad Miller go on this walk with the Student Government group. Council has no objection to C. Miller going on this walk.

December 6, 2010 Council meeting – J. Evans informed Council that he may not be able to attend this meeting. He will have all of the documents ready for the meeting that need to be voted upon that evening.

Adjournment – R. Lee made a motion to adjourn the Midmonth Meeting of the Mont Alto Borough Council of November 16, 2010 at 8:35 p.m., C. Sobun seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted to Council for their approval on
December 6, 2010.

Patricia A. Kocek

Patricia A. Kocek
Borough Secretary
Council President
Thomas Lowson Vice President
Beverly Spicer President Pro Tem