

MONT ALTO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – Council President Dennis Monn called the Regular meeting of November 5, 2011 of the Mont Alto Borough Council to order at 6:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL –Dennis Monn, Rick Lee, Beverly Spicer, Tom Lowson, James Eck and Cheryl Sobun present. Shannon Strizziere arrived at 7:33 p.m.

MAYOR – Mayor John Esser present.

BOROUGH STAFF – Jeff Evans Solicitor, Larson Wenger Maintenance Supervisor and Patricia Kocek Borough Secretary. Treasurer Patti Strite attended the meeting to discuss the 2012 Budget and left the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

INVOCATION – P. Kocek

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VISITORS – None

VACANCIES – Mont Alto Municipal Authority Term of David Monn expires 12-6-2011.

ACCEPTANCE OF ZONING OFFICERS REPORT October, 2011 - R. Lee made a motion to accept the Zoning Officer's Report for October 2011, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

BOROUGH OF MONT ALTO ZONING OFFICERS REPORT TO THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report Period: October, 2011

LAND USE PERMITS OCTOBER, 2011

PERMIT #	DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	PROJECT
LU-11-37	10/18/11	CHAD RUNYON	27 SPRUCE ST	14' X 18' PERGOLA
LU-11-38	10/26/11	M.A. FIRE DEPT	517 S MAIN ST	12' H SOLAR H2O HTR

DEMOLITION PERMITS OCTOBER, 2011

PERMIT #	DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	PROJECT
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SUBDIVISION REVIEWS

Land Use Permits Issued This Month	2	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	38	Demolition Permits Issued To Date	8
Subdivision Reviews This Month	0		
Subdivision Reviews Year To Date	2		

ZONING/SUBDIVISION ISSUES

Cleared additional outstanding projects without Land Use permits, in contact with property owners with new paving. Contacting local paving companies to let them know of the need for land use permits.
 Zoning Hearing Board tentatively passed J Fogelsonger’s request for relief from set back ordinances due to pre existing conditions for his property on Yew St, waiting on formal decision.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mont Alto Zoning Officer
 Provided by CCIS
 Wm. David Lutz

CCIS Building Permits Commonwealth Code Inspection Service, Inc. Report – For your information.

UCC Building Permits Accredited Services Report – For your information.

Council President D. Monn reported that there have been some burning and noise violations and letters have been sent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 3, 2011

Page 4 Fogelsonger Ninety (90) day review extension **add** the 6th Paragraph. The motion was not completed at the October 3, 2011 meeting. The following motion completes the motion on the Fogelsonger 90 day extension.

D. Monn made a motion to add “**Any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered**” to the Minutes of October 3, 2011, T. Lowson seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, C. Sobun and J. Eck abstained, so ordered.

J. Eck made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 3, 2011, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER’S REPORT

September 30, 2011

R. Lee made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for September 30, 2011, B. Spicer seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Table the October 31, 2011 Treasurer’s Report until the December 5, 2011 meeting.

ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 540 TRANSFER OF FUNDS OCTOBER 2011 – R. Lee made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 540, Transfer of Funds for October 2011, T. Lowson seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2012 Budget – T. Lowson told Council that P. Strite has done a fine job of compiling the 2012 Budget. T. Lowson noted that during 2011 the Borough did not have to transfer any money from the Electric Fund to the General Fund to meet bills.

P. Strite reviewed the highlights of the General Fund Budget with Council. After review P. Strite was instructed to add \$10,000.00 to the Budget for the purchase of fuel pumps. This amount will not cover the full cost of the complete system but more money can be budgeted next year to complete and complement the fuel pump system.

P. Strite reported that the electric collections are down but this is not going to change anything in the Electric Fund Budget.

There will not be a tax increase for the year 2012.

R. Lee made a motion to approve the 2012 Budget for advertising for adoption at the December meeting, T. Lowson 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 approve the 2012 Tax Rate Ordinance for advertising for adoption at the December meeting with no increase in the rate, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Toy Drive

Mid-Atlantic Wall of Fallen Heroes – P. Strite reported that there is \$200.00 budgeted for the 2011 Toy Drive and there is \$225.00 in the Community Line for use by Mayor Esser.

Mayor Esser attended the Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 5, 2011 and the Mid-Atlantic Wall of Fallen Heroes was on display. J. Esser feels this is a worthwhile cause and is asking that the Borough donate \$100.00 so that this memorial can continue to be displayed in the area. The money would come out of the Community Line in the 2011 Budget.

T. Lowson made a motion to send a donation of \$100.00 out of the Community line of the Budget, D. Monn 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 that the remaining \$125.00 in the Community line of the Budget be added to the Toy Drive contribution for this year, D. Monn seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Before P. Strite left the meeting at 7:12 p.m. T. Lowson thanked and complimented P. Strite on the work she did on the 2012 Budget.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Official Recreation Map/Recreation fee for developers – No report.

Outdoor Amusement Ordinance – Council reviewed the Ordinance. The words outdoor amusements will be changed to outdoor assemblies.

S. Strizziere arrived at 7:33 p.m.

A very lengthy discussion followed on the pros and cons of adopting this Ordinance. J. Evans told Council that he does not feel the Borough needs this Ordinance. After continued discussion the following motion was made.

J. Eck made a motion to approve the Outdoor Amusement Ordinance for advertising and adoption at the December meeting, C. Sobun seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, R. Lee and D. Monn No, so ordered.

Adopt Flood Plain Ordinance No. 538 – J. Evans told Council that the Ordinance has been properly advertised.

R. Lee made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 538, T. Lawson seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

7:49 p.m. Commissioner Robert Ziobrowski stopped and introduced himself to Council and greeted each Council member. He was in the area and saw the meeting was going on. He asked if Council had any questions and Mayor Esser discussed with Commissioner Ziobrowski the possibility of the County providing additional funds for the Drug Task Force. Mr. Ziobrowski left the meeting. Figures will be forthcoming from the Drug Task Force.

Adopt Amendment to the Burning Ordinance No. 539 – J. Evans told Council that the Amendment to the Burning Ordinance was properly advertised.

T. Lawson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 539, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Addition to Employee's Handbook

Retiree's Dependents Health Insurance – J. Evans prepared the following statement to replace the paragraph addressing retiree's dependents as it applies to health insurance.

“The Borough will allow Retirees to continue their Insurance under the Borough's plan, including for their eligible dependents and family members insured at the time of retirement. Retirees must pay 100% of the premium for their continued coverage, but are eligible for the group rate with the Borough.”

B. Spicer made a motion to add the above paragraph to the Employee Handbook, J. Eck seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Draft Mandatory Connection Ordinance – J. Evans provided copies of the Ordinance for Council to review and come back to the next meeting with comments. J. Evans will be adding another subsection to this Ordinance that will refer to the Standards for sewer and water installation that were adopted several months ago. Short discussion.

Apex Appealing tax assessment – J. Evans explained that Apex is appealing their tax assessment for the Apex complex. At this time the appeal is in the Court of Common pleas. The documentation we received gives a time line of how the procedure will go forward. J. Evans said that the Franklin County Assessment Office is fighting the reassessment. He suggests that the Borough not intervene at this time. If the Borough intervenes the Borough would have to hire expert witnesses to appraise the Apex complex. It is the consensus of Council to not intervene in this appeal. J. Evans is going to do some further research and he will get back to Council if he learns anything that would cause him to change his mind.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Esser reported/discussed the following:

1. Attended the Drug Task Force Breakfast. The figures are not yet available on the cost but the task force would like the municipalities to fund an additional full time person. At the Task Force breakfast J. Esser thanked Lt. Lauer for his fast response to issues in the Borough.
2. J. Esser received a gift card in the amount of \$75.00 for performing a wedding. He wants to know what to do with this gift. He always tells the couples he doesn't want any compensation for doing weddings.

D. Monn made a motion that J. Esser use the gift card, J. Eck seconded, any further discussion, any further discussion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

3. J. Esser presided as the Emcee for the Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 5, 2011.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - None

WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE

Mont Alto/Quincy Water Agreement for Slabtown Road – D. Monn reported that the negotiations are not going very well at this time.

Water leaks – D. Monn reported that there have been three (3) water leaks in the past month.

STREET COMMITTEE

Street signs for Recreation Area – L. Wenger will check tomorrow to see if there is a Recreation Area sign on the stop sign at the corner of Park and Constitution.

PROPERTY & SUPPLY COMMITTEE

Borough lot problems – On hold.

Diesel Pump/Gas Pump – Discussed previously.

Ceiling in the office – T. Lowson reported that there is money available in the 2011 Budget for this project.

D. Monn obtained a quote of \$706.14 for the material to hang a drop ceiling in the Council room and in Gloria's office. The ceiling would be put in Gloria's office to cut down on noise.

R. Lee made a motion to complete the ceiling in the Council room and the interoffice and paint the paneling in the Council room, S. Strizziere seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, any questions, any questions, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

ELECTRIC COMMITTEE

PMEA Conference Report by D. Monn – D. Monn reported that the PMEA did a survey of the members of PMEA on the cost for 1000 KWH's of electric. The Borough of Mont Alto ranked very well in this survey. D. Monn is going to contact Todd Rock and go over the survey with him since T. Rock receives so many calls about the cost of electric in the Borough of Mont Alto. There are only six (6) entities that rank lower on the cost for 1000 KWH's of electric. Copies of the survey are available if anyone would like a copy.

D. Monn said that the PMEA is interested in working towards standardization of billing, etc.

October 28, 2011 Snow storm – There were no power outages during the storm, only blinks. It is felt that the tree trimming the Borough had done helped cut down on electrical outages.

GDS Associates, Inc. – T. Lowson and D. Monn spoke with Garrett D. Cole, P. E. of GDS Associates, Inc. This is a company similar to Downes Associates. GDS Associates, Inc. is doing work for Chambersburg at this time and comes recommended by Chambersburg.

After discussion with G. Cole, D. Monn and T. Lowson recommend hiring GDS Associates, Inc. to negotiate the new electrical contract for the Borough of Mont Alto. The price to negotiate the contract would be lower with GDS Associates, Inc. than what it cost Downes Associates to negotiate the last electrical contract.

The Borough would continue to use Downes Associates for certain aspects of the electrical work for the Borough but because Steve Hirsch is not available full time at this point to work on the electrical contract is why T. Lowson is recommending changing to GDS Associates, Inc. to negotiate the new contract.

GDS Associates, Inc. will negotiate a three (3) year contract instead of a five (5) year contract for the Borough. J. Evans has not received the legal paperwork for his review. T. Lawson will look into this and will make sure J. Evans receives this material.

T. Lawson noted that there are several companies interested in serving the Borough with electric. Graham Baldwin with AEP will be stopping in on November 20, 2011 to discuss providing electric to the Borough of Mont Alto.

R. Lee made a motion to enter into a service agreement with GDS Associates, Inc. to begin the process to obtain an electrical contract for the Borough of Mont Alto, contingent upon the approval of the documents by J. Evans, S. Strizziere seconded, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Leave Policy – Nothing

Employee Time Card notations – J. Evans will prepare something to be added to the Employee Handbook to cover this subject.

SANITATION & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Limb collection – Limbs from the recent snow storm are being accepted at the Borough lot through November 21, 2011. The suggestion was made to make this an annual event. Discussion on the pros and cons of accepting trimmings/limbs etc. on an annual basis. No decision at this time.

STREET COMMITTEE (continued)

Dumpster on Jones Avenue – P. Koczek was instructed to write a letter to Larry Wagaman asking him to move the dumpster that is sitting on Jones Avenue where it intersects with Constitution Avenue.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Skate Path – S. Strizziere had some child ask her about the pole at the end of the skate park that is hazardous to those using the skate path. L. Wenger will look at the situation tomorrow to see if there is a hazard.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE Year 2013 Celebration – D. Monn reported:

1. R. Lee provided the logo printed out on ribbon to members of Council – R. Lee will have the changes made that were recommended by the Centennial Committee
2. Money making projects: Coffee mugs, cookbook, T-shirts and first issue cancellation stamps
3. Most activities will take place at the MAVFD grounds

REPORT ON COG (Council of Governments) – The Hearing on Prevailing Wages was held in place of the COG meeting. D. Monn attended a portion of the Hearing and reported that this item is progressing.

VISION 2015 – R. Lee attended an evening meeting sponsored by the WGAL TV station. It was an open forum to highlight the different entities present and also to give WGAL TV ideas for story lines.

Waynesboro Area Arts Alliance – Vision 2015 is working on establishing this program. D. Monn has material on this program if anyone is interested. C. Sobun took the material along to review.

FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE ALLIANCE – D. Monn reported:

1. Continuing to work on the radio problems
2. Discussed the lack of use of the Fire Training Center – The land is not owned by FCESA so a permanent road cannot be built.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

1. PMAA – L. Wenger attended a one (1) day seminar at Penn State Main Campus
 - a. Electric/Water/Sewer consumption is down so income is less and entities are having problems meeting their budget
 - b. Prevailing wage – good chance that this will pass this fall and this will be a benefit when projects are bid
 - c. Because Harrisburg is filing bankruptcy – Bonds will be affected because of this
2. Grist Mill Drive shoulder reconstruction – Discussion on whether or not this is the Borough's responsibility to take care of the problem. The situation does not pose a health or safety issue. L. Wenger doesn't want to set a precedent by fixing someone's driveway for them. L. Wenger will contact the mail delivery person to find out if this is causing a problem for them when they deliver the mail. No decision at this time.
3. Christmas Tree – This will be decorated the week of Thanksgiving. Barbara Rotz, for the Historical Society, gave L. Wenger lighted angels to put on the Christmas tree. The angels are to honor special needs children in the area. L. Wenger wants approval from Council before putting the angels on the Christmas tree. L. Wenger was instructed to install the angels on the Christmas tree.
4. Paving 997 – The paving will be done in the spring of 2012 but Penn Dot will be working on and replacing culverts as long as weather permits this fall. 997 will be milled but L. Wenger will have some risers on hand for this Project.

D. Monn requested L. Wenger to make a list of items that is now done in house that was previously done by the engineers and other outside services.

1. Water Annual Report
2. Waste Water Annual Report with review by the engineers
3. Most repair work, water, sewer and shop
4. Yew Street and Walnut Street done with little engineering input
5. P. Strite did the paper work to recoup money for the extra work that had to be done at the sewer plant to keep it running during Tropical Storm Lee
5. Working with P. Strite on Liquid Fuels in order to save engineering costs
6. Snow plowing overtime cost cut by coming in early and leaving after work done within the eight (8) hour work day
7. Water leaks – try to hold them off as long as can and do on regular work day and not after hours
8. Uniforms – cut back in service

Maintenance Supervisors Report – C. Sobun suggested that the Supervisor's Report be discussed earlier in the meeting so that L. Wenger doesn't have to sit through the whole meeting. It was noted that L. Wenger will receive two (2) hours pay even if he only stays a few minutes at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Calendars – Council would like to continue to receive the monthly calendars provided by G. Socks.

Swift Reach Rapid Response System – T. Lowson provided information about the Swift Reach System. T. Lowson turned this information over to R. Lee to continue to work on to possibly obtaining this system for the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS

Adopt "Designation of Agent Resolution" No. 541 – This Resolution has to be adopted in order to receive reimbursement for damages sustained during the tropical storms a few months ago.

T. Lowson made a motion to adopt Designation of Agent Resolution No. 541, R. Lee seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Mont Alto Historical Society – B. Spicer reported that WQED from Pittsburgh is doing a documentary and requested pictures of the South Mountain Sanatorium. The pictures were scanned and provided to WQED. Mont Alto Borough will be listed as a contributor to the documentary. This will air sometime after the first of the year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Council President D. Monn called for an Executive Session at 9:31 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Council President D. Monn called the regular meeting of Mont Alto Borough Council of November 7, 2011 at 10:34 p.m.

PERSONNEL

Employee Raises - T. Lawson made a motion to put 1.5% into the Budget for employee raises, C. Sobun seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Holidays – R. Lee made a motion to remove Martin Luther King Day as a holiday and substitute the day after Thanksgiving in place of the Martin Luther King holiday, C. Sobun seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Request for an additional ½ day holiday on Christmas Eve – Dies for lack of a motion.

Lay off – There will not be a lay off this year because of the cost of unemployment.

Nancy Helman disciplinary action – R. Lee made a motion, based on the continued refusal to do assigned duties of the job, to terminate Nancy Helman’s employment, J. Eck seconded, any further discussion on the motion, any further discussion on the motion,

C. Sobun made a motion to amend R. Lee’s motion, to not terminate N. Helman’s employment and C. Sobun offering to counsel N. Helman and make it clear to her that things are dire and if she doesn’t do her duties after being counseled she will be terminated, T. Lawson seconded,

Roll Call Vote

C. Sobun	Yes	S. Strizziere	Yes
B. Spicer	Abstain	T. Lawson	Yes
D. Monn	No	J. Eck	Yes
R. Lee	No		

So ordered.

T. Lawson and S. Strizziere volunteered to help C. Sobun with the counseling. It was the consensus that this needs to take place very soon. J. Evans instructed the group to take notes and confirm in writing what was said at the meeting with N. Helman. He also reminded them to keep focused on the subject and address the work environment only.

ADJOURNMENT – R. Lee made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of Mont Alto Borough Council of November 7, 2011 at 10:47 p.m., C. Sobun seconded, all in favor Aye, opposed No, so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted to Council for their approval on
December 5, 2011.

Patricia A. Kocek
Borough Secretary
Dennis W. Monn Council President
Thomas Lawson Vice President
Beverly Spicer President Pro Tem