

# **Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 24, 2024**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Fahndrich at 18:30 Hrs.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present were: Councilor Fahndrich, Councilor Crider, Mayor Bradley (via Zoom), Chief Goshen and Borough Manager Pugliese. Councilor Eichler was absent.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda for June 24, 2024 as presented was made by Councilor Crider; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

David Astuto of 311 North Barbara Street and he owns a business at 47 East Main Street in Mount Joy Borough. His concern is the two-hour parking ordinance on Main Street. He has gotten three parking tickets in one week; feels there is a better way to go about it than ticketing the business owners. Business owners need to unload in front of their stores and feels there is plenty of parking on Main Street. He has owned his business in Mount Joy for nineteen months and his wife has had her store for one year. His wife's vehicle is the one that is getting ticketed and she doesn't have time to move her vehicle and doesn't feel safe walking down the alley in the evening. Mr. Astuto explained that he has the opportunity to move his business out of Mount Joy and into nearby areas. He would be fine purchasing a permit for the businesses every year. Councilor Fahndrich thanked him for his comments. She has been on Council for seven years and parking has been a consistent issue. She explained that this has been an ongoing discussion again recently and that the Committee is aware of his concerns and they will continue to discuss parking.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes from the May 20, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting as presented was made by Councilor Crider; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes from the May 20, 2024 meeting have been approved.

## **FDMJ REPORT**

FDMJ Chief Brett Hamm presented his report for May which was included in the packet. They responded to fifty-two calls for the month of May 2024; two hundred twenty-five calls so far in 2024. Time in service was twenty-four hours and thirty minutes. Calls were every sixteen hours

and thirty-eight minutes. They averaged ten members per call for the month. The average response time in May was unavailable. Total man hours were unavailable. Total training hours for May were one hundred five hours with fifty-seven members trained. The unavailable statistics is due to a new firehouse software program they continue to make some progress. There were thirty-six first due alarms with sixteen mutual aids; fifteen in the Borough, sixteen in Rapho Township, two in Mount Joy Township and three in East Donegal Township. There was one notable fire in May which resulted in a \$1,000.00 loss in Rapho Township. FDMJ did not have any fire prevention details. The community service details for the month included five duty crews, participation in the Memorial Day and Make-A-Wish Parades and one public service.

### **EMA REPORT**

Phil Colvin was in attendance and reviewed his summary report for May and June. There were some trees that came down from the storm Saturday night, but no major damage. There was a gas leak earlier today which is continuing. There was a short-term evacuation of four homes. One person went to the fire station for a little bit. The leak appeared to be in the street according to UGI. Continuing work on Little Chiques Creek stream gauge with county EMA. Hazardous Mitigation is ongoing – met with Mount Joy Borough Authority Administrator and Assistant Administrator on June 21, 2024 and will be meeting with Dennis Nissley from Public Works. We should have a good list of projects to put in the plan so should mitigation funds open up, the Borough and/or the Authority can apply for funds. He sent a survey to the event organizers for the Memorial Day Parade. Fire police had some concerns and suggestions on handling traffic after the parade ends. Moving forward, he wants to schedule pre-event meetings with the organizers so they can iron out any potential issues in advance.

### **PSH LIFE LION REPORT**

No representative was present from PSH Life Lion but the report was included in the packet. Manager Pugliese has a phone call waiting to be placed to PSH Life Lion to review the report. If anyone has any questions about the report, let him know so he can address it during the call.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. None

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Councilor Fahndrich briefly reviewed Mr. Astuto's concerns to Mayor Bradley. Mayor Bradley explained that two-hour parking was in existence prior to him becoming Mayor, and in the ten years he has been Mayor, anytime we have received complaints about time limits, they come in mass from business owners. It was the business owners themselves that were concerned about the limited amount of parking on Main Street and they would often ask about parking enforcement in the downtown. After we started doing the parking enforcement, we found that it was either the employees or the business owners themselves who were parking for long

periods of time. Prior to the two-hour parking on Main Street, we had metered parking. When they did away with metered parking, they still wanted limited parking. This is the first time he has heard from business owners that they want to do away with that type of parking.

Mr. Astuto explained that he is not the only business owner that feels this way. A neighboring business owner has four children and it is far more convenient for her to park in front of her store. Several of the owners in his block have all received tickets. If it was a huge problem with parking, he would understand. But when he looks down Main Street from Sloan's to the Borough Office (on Sloan's side), there may be one or two vehicles parked on Main Street. He has never had any complaints from his customers saying there is no parking. It is an issue for convenience of the store owners. Mount Joy needs to do something for the businesses or they will only be open two or three days per week, or you will have storefronts that will be empty.

Mayor Bradley explained that there has been a pattern over the course of ten years, and not a brief moment in time and overwhelmingly that is where the complaints came from. The businesses in those areas and blocks consistently complained about parking and that is why we were getting pushed to make sure we were doing enforcement. The reason you are not seeing cars parked along Main Street is because of the parking enforcement. If the two-hour parking is lifted, there are a number of residents who will again, find it more convenient to park on Main Street as opposed to parking in the rear. Most times people are parking in excess of the two hours. What Mount Joy did for the businesses was at the behest of businesses to try to have parking available for patrons. If you lift it, it is no longer available for patrons and will be a free-for-all. The second thing Mount Joy does for the business district is snow removal. Those businesses that don't exist on Main Street and have their own parking lots, need to pay for their own snow removal. Mount Joy puts enough money in the budget for the downtown area to clear the snow out and haul it away when we have large amounts of snow. We do it to open up the area for businesses to have patron parking. If we change the ordinance and ridership with Amtrak increases, they may gravitate out of the paid parking lot and onto Main Street. We now have a sub shop/brewery/bar so the nature of the demands on parking in that area is going to change dramatically over the course of the next few months. That new business owner chose to move into Mount Joy understanding what the restrictions were. If you go around to surrounding municipalities, they have metered parking or paid parking so we are right in line. Councilor Fahndrich stated that we would continue to look at this issue and was on Main Street Mount Joy several years ago and they did a study with the business owners so she was going to pull it out and review it.

#### **ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

Councilor Fahndrich explained that today the Veterans Affairs Committee voted to move it out of Committee and to the House floor to add an additional 30 million to the fire and EMS grant program.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS**

The committee went into Executive Session to discuss personnel/legal matters at 19:09 Hrs. and ended at 19:14 and no decisions made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 19:14 Hrs. Councilor Crider made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Diana Ellis