



Mars Borough

Meeting Minutes

(Visitors/Speakers are asked to limit their presentations to 5 minutes during Public Meetings.)

Meeting Date: September 20, 2021

Call to Order: 7:00 PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE ("x" indicates present) ("tc" indicates teleconference attendance)		
x	Rob Bost	Council Vice President Administration, HR
x	Chris Clutter	Council Pro Tem Public Safety
x	Mike Fleming	Council President
	Rick Foster	Streets
x	Bill Lambert	Water
x	Brad Price	Budget, Finance
x	Julie Schultheis	Parks & Rec, Celebrations
x	Gregg Hartung	Mayor

EMPLOYEE / PROVIDER ATTENDANCE ("x" indicates present) ("tc" indicates teleconference attendance)		
x	Bonnie Forsythe	Secretary / Treasurer
	Patricia Madaffari	Assistant Secretary
x	Jamie Kochik	Assistant Sec. / Treas.
x	Ed Dorsey	Public Works Foreman
	Allen Russell	Code Enforcement
	Beau Sneddon	Officer in Charge
x	Renea Pomeroy	Tax Collector
	Chris Reese	Solicitor

VISITORS:	
Name(s) / Organization	Topic
Renea Pomeroy Aaron Pomeroy	Pomeroy expressed concern about her property at 528 Cherry Street and the subsidence of the ground at the end of Cherry Street "above" where the daycare sits lower down on Hook Street. She stated she was worried that it may undermine her foundation at some point because of some of the more powerful rains in recent years. Dorsey and Fleming stated they believed that work that was done by Breakneck Creek Regional Authority was the most recent disturbance to the area. Bost suggested having BCRA look at the area. Dorsey stated he would look at and contact BCRA if he saw evidence that there was something they might have to look at. As the Elected Tax Collector, Renea Pomeroy asked if Council had considered including a lockbox for tax collection payments so that people who want to drop them off in person can do so without having to go to her private residence.
Julia Maruca, Cranberry Eagle	In attendance to observe.

PUBLIC COMMENT TO SPEAK ABOUT STORMWATER MS4 ISSUES:	
Name(s) / Organization	Topic

MOTIONS	FIRST	SECOND	ACTION
Motion to approve the closing of streets on October 1, 2021, starting at 3:00 PM, for the Mars Homecoming Parade.	Bost	Lambert	Carried
Motion to amend Halloween Trick-or-Treat from Saturday, October 30, 2021 to Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.	Schultheis	Clutter	Carried
Motion to hire Cohen Law Group to oversee a new ordinance related to PA Act 50 (the "Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act"), with a cost to be determined.	Tabled		
Motion to add Allen Russell to the agenda to update Council on several Code Enforcement Items.	Schultheis	Lambert	Carried

Motion to add a request for street closure by Mars UP Church	Bost	Schultheis	Carried
Motion to close streets around Mars UP Church on October 16, 2021 for a wedding.	Price	Clutter	Carried
Motion to use ARPA funds to pay essential workers (all employees) \$1.50/hour for hours worked from April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, in the amount of approximately \$19,750.00.	Price	Fleming	Carried Schultheis abstained.

NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:		
Item	Submitted by:	Discussion / Status
528 Cherry Street	Pomeroy	See visitor section above.
Cohen Law Group proposal	Meeting Discussion	Fleming and Price were not comfortable accepting the proposal. They both had additional questions. Russell recommended appointing someone to reach out to the Cohen Law Group. Forsythe will reach out to the Cohen Law Group and arrange a conference call to gain more information before the next meeting.
Marburger Field	Bost	Bost is concerned with the parking situation for football games at the field, in particular, when temporary no parking signs don't get put up in the same places in advance. Bost also asked why that volume of people is allowed to congregate in the Borough if there is no police coverage.
Asst. Secretary Apps	Bost	Three full applications and three partial applications have been received. Bost asked for several volunteers to do interviews. Price, Clutter, and Schultheis will do interviews.
Street Closure at Mars UP Church	Fleming	Request for street closures around Mars UP Church on October 16, 2021 for a wedding

OLD / UNADDRESSED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:		
Item	Submitted by:	Discussion / Status
Code Enforcement	Fleming / Russell	302 Garfield – First floor has been removed. Progress is on hold for Contractor to purchase construction materials at a lower price. Sidewalk at St. John's Church – Fleming suggested looking at an entire block when a large portion of sidewalk is being replaced to help lower costs for everyone overall and so the Borough can replace curbs at the same time. LubePro / Lub-ology "junkyard" – It is being addressed. Owner was selling the property however Russell hasn't received notification of the sale in order to address the situation with the new owner. Trailer on Garfield – Russell has reached out several times but not received a response from the property owner. Fleming stated that property was annexed into the Borough and the trailer was pre-existing when the annexation occurred.

REPORTS:	
Department	Report
Mayor	Follow-Up on Filming Downtown – An itemized list of hours and services needs to be sent to film company. Mayor received many positive compliments. Follow-Up on BrewFest – Mayor stated approximately 1200 attendees and raised approximately \$25,000 for the next Mars New Year. Acknowledgement of Police Officers – Mayor Hartung commended the police department with their recent coverage of events in Mars and Saxonburg. New Police Hire – Officer Carly Ursida was sworn and has begun working.

Secretary/Treasurer	Budget update provided to Council. 2020 Hazard Pay Analysis provided to Council. Administration Priorities list provided to Council.
Public Works	Written Public Works report provided to Council. Dorsey stated he is renting a hotbox to address problem areas around town. Ostermann Water Account. Dorsey stated that despite Council forgiving late fees the resident did not pay his water bill and his service had to be shut off for non-payment. Grand Avenue Commons Ditch. Dorsey explained the situation to Council and stated there is no problem with the drainage from Borough streets or blockages from the ditch. The problem has been building up due to the way their parking areas are being plowed in the winter which creates more difficulties with drainage. Letter to be sent to Jan Balentine regarding work in her back yard. Letter to be sent to resident on Oakland Street who wanted pipe put in to inform them that work will not be done. Public Works Priorities list provided to Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION				
Requested by:	Topic(s):			
Hartung	Police Personnel Issues			
Bost	2020 Hazard Pay			
Motion		First	Second	Action
To go into Executive Session	Time: 9:11 PM	Lambert	Clutter	Carried
To come out of Executive Session	Time: 10:16 PM	Lambert	Bost	Carried

CLOSING ACTIONS				
	Motion	First	Second	Action
To Adjourn	Time: 10:18 PM	Lambert	Price	Carried

Submitted by: Bonnie Forsythe, Secretary / Treasurer