

Manheim Borough Council Meeting
9/12/2023 at 7:00 PM
Manheim Farm Show Building, 502 Adele Ave., Manheim, PA 17545

ROLL CALL: President Noah Martin, Vice President Jared Longenecker, Pro Tempore Jim Blanck, Brad Roth, Carol Phillips, Adam Buchmoyer and Mayor Scot Funk.

STAFF: Borough Manager/Secretary James R. Fisher, Police Chief Joseph Stauffer, and Recording Secretary, Lindsey Kirchner

This meeting was held in person and via Zoom audio. These proceedings were recorded for the purpose of preparation of meeting minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Martin at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

The meeting is being recorded for the purpose of assisting in creating minutes.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

1. None

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Approval of 8/29/2023 Borough Council Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the 8/29/2023 Borough Council Meeting Minutes, was made by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Roth, passed unanimously.

2. Resolution 15-2023

- a) A motion was made by Mr. Roth to approve Resolution 15-2023 on Public comment policy, seconded by Mr. Blanck, passed unanimously.

3. Financials:

- a) Approval of Contractor Invoices:
 - i. none

Payment of bills presented for approval-

- 1) Ratified General Fund -**\$-0-**
- 2) General Fund - **\$153,061.79**
- 3) Capital Fund - **\$-6,730.23**
- 4) Liquid Fuels - **\$-0-**

A motion to approve the payment of the bills was made by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Roth, passed unanimously.

POLICE CHIEF REPORTS:

- a) Chief Stauffer read his report highlighting the Use of force training for the officers on August 29-30. Chief continued by sharing the upcoming events such as the 3 home football games, The Farm Show scheduled for October 9-13 with the Parade dated for October 11. Chief then concluded by sharing the 2024 Police budget was given to the finance committee. The police will be hiring additional officers based on the recently approved agreement with Rapho Township.

STAFF REPORTS in PACKETS

1. Codes Officer Report

2. Office Administrator Report
3. PW Director Report
4. Borough Manager Report –
 - a. Mr. Fisher shared with the council that the Memorial Park Stream Restoration Project is gaining recognition and he provided a presentation and tour last week to municipal leaders from throughout southeast/southcentral PA as well as representatives from FEMA, PEMA and SRBC. Mr. Fisher continued to share that the E High St Bridge project received approval from PennDot to move forward with the repouring of the sidewalks, hoping to be completed by the farm show. Mr. Fisher concluded by sharing the storm sewer project on East High Street that should be starting in a few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made to approve Resolution 16-2023 – MMO by Dr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Longenecker, passed unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the special Event Application Light the Night was made by Mr. Longenecker and seconded by Mr. Blanck, passed unanimously.
3. A motion was made to approve the Veterans' Memorial Project Grant Reimbursement request by Mr. Roth and seconded by Mr. Blanck, passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made to approve the draft application and cost for the benches at Memorial Park by Mr. Longenecker, seconded by Mr. Blanck, passed unanimously.
2. Market Square Improvement Project
 - a. Mr. Longenecker shared that he would like to move forward with the plan with the modifications of retaining the U-turns according to PennDOT standards, trimming the middle island to only being wide enough to meet ADA standards and having trees, and removing the bump outs to retain the right turn lanes.
 - b. Mr. Blanck stated that he agreed with Mr. Longnecker.
 - c. Mr. Roth shared that he would like to see the end of square crosswalks kept. He liked the mid-block crosswalk, and the idea of keeping the right turn lanes and the U turns. Mr. Roth also stated that he likes that the trees will all be uniform and that the Christmas lights will be staying.
 - d. Mayor Funk shared with the residents that he does not have a vote unless it is a tie. Mayor Funk shared that he agreed with Mr. Longenecker and Mr. Blanck.
 - e. President Martin shared that the process for the Market Square Improvement project has been lengthy and the Borough has put in a lot of hard work attaining grants and meeting with engineers. Mr. Martin continued by sharing that he has a personal opinion, however he realizes that he is a representative of the Manheim borough residents. Mr. Martin believed that the borough should move forward with the traffic signals only.

A motion was made by Mr. Longenecker to proceed with the plan in its current form with the modifications of: only widening the center island strip to the minimum width required for ADA compliance and to allow for trees to be planted, retaining the right turns at the end of the Square, retaining the U-turn movements in a form allowable by PennDOT, and either eliminating or modifying the end-of-Square crosswalks in a manner acceptable to PennDOT. Seconded by Mr. Roth. President Martin opened the floor for any further comments or discussion.

Public Comment

1. Ron Harper of N Charlotte St objected to the Borough's current plan for Market Square and shared his ideas for the Market Square and shared the website he created. Manheimsquare.com.
2. Linda Keefer of Parkview Dr objected to the back in parking and her concern that the elderly can't back up.
3. Alicia Weibly of S Charlotte St asked council what the thought process was about replacing the trees in the square. She also spoke of her concern for the residents on the square losing the 25 parking spots.
4. Darryl Myer of N Penn St asked council several questions regarding the connection study that was done, what committees has the Market Square project been brought to and will the water and gas lines be affected. He asked the council not to force the project through.

5. Claudia Zug of Hershey Dr spoke about her concern of the loss of 25 parking spaces and asked that a committee be put together to make the square better.
6. Eric Phillips of Market Sq objected to the loss of 25 parking spaces. He shared his thoughts on PennDot regulations and adding storm drains in the middle of the square. He handed the council his petition signed by 605 people, not all borough residents.
7. Cindy Hanna of E Meadow Rd objected to the back in parking proposed in the project. She also shared concerns about having to deal with weeds on the sidewalks.
8. Ken Johnson of Miller Dr objected to the loss of 25 parking spaces. He asked the council about the funding. Mr. Fisher answered by sharing the grants in the amount of 2.4 million for the construction and the borough will pay approximately \$300,000 in design and engineering. Mr. Johnson shared other concerns about pedestrian safety and gridlock at the lights.
9. Ann McFarland of Penn Twp was concerned about the loss of the bus stop on the square. Mr. Fisher directed her to the RRTA website since they are currently reevaluating their routes.
10. Lorraine Coleman of Orchard St objected to the project all together and asked the council to focus on the flooding in Manheim. Mr. Fisher shared a few things the borough is acting upon regarding the flooding.
11. Justin B of E High St shared his concerns about the access of trucks in the square, specifically the Fire trucks.
12. Dave Thompson of Orchard Ln objected to the loss of 25 parking spaces in the square. He also asked the council to use the money towards the library. Mr. Roth informed him that the library is moving out of the borough and that the funds cannot be used for that purpose.
13. Anne Phillips of Market Sq objected to the back in parking on the square and the lack of maintenance.
14. Andrew Baker of W Colebrook St thanked council for listening to the public regarding the right turn lanes and U-turns. Mr. Baker then shared that while he agrees that the square needs changed however does not agree with the parking design.
15. Ed Camrion of E High St asked for a show of hand who is for the project and then a show of hands for who is against the project.
16. Catherine Prozzillo of Rapho St asked the council to create a committee for ideas on how to make the square better but only move forward with the traffic signals.
17. John Eshleman of Dover St objected to the loss of parking spaces and urged council to listen to the 300 people expressing their thoughts on the Market Square project.
18. Dora Forry of S Charlotte St objected to the back in parking, loss of parking spaces, and narrowing of the roads. She inquired about flashing lights for pedestrian crosswalks in the square.
19. Donovan Freeman of Rambler Rd expressed to council the uncertainty of their decision making. Urged the council to listen to the people represented at the meeting.
20. Mary Harper of N Charlottle St asked the council to do what is right for the town by tabling the Market square project.
21. Terry Eshleman of Crescent Dr reminded the council that they are elected officials and they serve the community.

The above listed people plus 4 unnamed residents spoke about their concerns regarding The Market Square improvement project. They spoke of the loss of 25 parking spots, the concern of back in parking, the loss of the bus stop and asked the council to pause the project. Some suggested forming groups to come up with a plan together.

After hearing all the comments President Martin called for a role call vote

- Mr. Buchmoyer – Nay
- Dr. Phillips – Nay
- Mr. Roth – Nay
- Mr. Blanck – Nay
- Mr. Longenecker – Nay
- President Martin – Nay

The motion was denied.

Mayor Funk shared a few words about moving forward and encouraged residents to continue to attend council meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE IN PACKETS: NWEMS

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion to recess to executive session to address the items listed on the agenda (per 65 Pa.C.S. §§701 et seq. - 1. Former employee legal issue §708.a.5, 2. Police personnel §708.a.1, 3. Liened property trash payment §708.a.5, 4. Real Estate §708.a.3) was made by Mr. Roth at 9:09 PM, seconded by Mr. Longenecker, passed unanimously. It was noted that the council meeting was not being adjourned and that council may be taking action on one or more of these items when they reconvene the meeting following the executive session.

ACTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made to reconvene the meeting at 9:47 PM by Mr. Roth and seconded by Mr. Longenecker, passed unanimously.

A motion was made to submit the form requested by the DA's office regarding the legal matter involving former borough employee Charles Berkowich, by Mr. Roth and seconded by Mr. Longenecker, passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the trash payment plan for Jeffrey Fritz by Mr. Roth and seconded by Mr. Blanck, passed unanimously.

A motion was made to proceed with discussions with NWEMS regarding the future of their building located in the borough by Mr. Roth and seconded by Mr. Longenecker, passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, motion by Mr. Longenecker, seconded by Mr. Blanck to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 PM, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Kirchner
Recording Secretary
9/12/2023