

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 18, 2018
OF THE MT. LEBANON COMMISSION**

The Commission of Mt. Lebanon Pennsylvania held a Special Meeting at 8:00 a.m., on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at the Municipal Building. Commission President Steve Silverman called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Manager McGill called the roll. Present were Commissioners John Bendel, Kelly Fraasch, Craig Grella, Steve McLean, and Steve Silverman. Also present were Assistant Manager McMeans, Public Works Director Sukal, Finance Director McCreery, Human Resources Officer Cross, and Assistant Public Information Officer Pace. Also present was Phil Weis of the solicitor's office.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mindy Ranney of 970 Segar Road inquired about how the amount of recycling was forecasted for 2019 and the cost involved.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

Mr. Grella said on July 11, 2018, the South Hills Area Council of Governments opened bids for solid waste collection disposal and recycling. Three bids were received from Republic Services, Waste Management, and Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill. The number of options presented precludes presenting bid tabulation on the side wall. Bid options for municipal solid waste and recycling included weekly, bi-weekly traditional and automated services. The Municipality must enter into a five-year contract with one of the providers before September 24, 2018. The contract term will commence on January 1, 2019, and run through December 31, 2023.

Mr. Silverman explained the options available which are for weekly refuse collection in addition to weekly or bi-weekly recycling.

Mr. Grella moved and Mr. Bendel seconded to award the contract to Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc., for weekly collection of solid waste to be paid on a per unit basis and for bi-weekly collection of recyclables to be paid on a per unit basis with an estimated five-year cost of \$11,035,009, in addition to authorizing the proper municipal officials to execute the Articles of Agreement with Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Ms. Fraasch stated that she would be voting against this motion, stating that she supports weekly recycling.

Mr. Grella stated that there is refuse and recycling data that goes back many years, and in looking at recycling for just this year, with the glass and plastics extracted from recycling commencing in 2019, it's a 23% reduction. He didn't feel increased recycling collection would be cost effective when items were being removed from the recycling stream. Therefore, he supports bi-weekly recycling.

Mr. Bendel concurred with Mr. Grella's comments, stating that in looking at the costs per unit for recycling weekly, there would be an additional \$400,000 annually, and if by tonnage would be an additional \$200,000 higher. He noted that we want to promote recycling, but with the tonnage option, the more residents recycle, the higher the fee would be, stating that it's the inverse of pay as you throw.

Mr. McLean stated that he agrees with Mr. Bendel and Mr. Grella. He added that many residents have asked that recycling stay bi-weekly because of the recycling changes. Additionally, they requested that the municipality look for an option for glass. Therefore, he said he'd be voting for bi-weekly recycling collection.

Mr. Silverman stated that SHACOG is researching an option for recycling glass.

Ms. Fraasch suggested not waiting for SHACOG but rather researching the issue ourselves.

Mr. McGill stated that staff members have looked for options, but there's not an easy solution. He noted that SHACOG is looking for a viable solution for glass recycling for 18 communities, noting that it speaks volumes as to the difficulty of finding a solution, considering the fact that none of the communities has determined a viable solution. He stated that there will be costs involved with recycling glass, and a shared cost with other communities is more cost effective.

Ms. Cross stated that the Environmental Sustainability Board has made contact with two companies regarding recycling glass, and neither will pick up the glass; it would have to be transported to their site.

Mr. Silverman stated that he supports weekly recycling.

The vote was called. Mr. Bendel, Mr. Grella and Mr. McLean voted in support of the motion. Ms. Fraasch and Mr. Silverman voted against the motion. The motion passed three to two.

Mr. Silverman stated that before we adjourn, Ms. Fraasch had something she wanted to say.

Ms. Fraasch stated that last year, the Commission approved a non-discrimination ordinance. She noted that there is a volunteer committee that meets monthly to go over issues that support the ordinance. She stated that they have been utilizing space in the municipal building without being charged, but they were just notified that they will need to pay henceforth because they are not an official municipal group. Ms. Fraasch asked that the Commission consider making them an official group and to waive the fee; otherwise, they will need to seek accommodations elsewhere.

Mr. Silverman stated that the Commission could discuss this issue at another time.

Mr. McGill stated that he personally offered to pay for the meeting room through the end of the year to give the Commission an opportunity to discuss the issue and time to make a decision.

Ms. Fraasch stated that municipal boards and authorities utilize the meeting rooms at no cost.

Mr. McLean noted that the group is a volunteer entity and not an official group established by the municipality as per the Administrative Code.

Mr. Weis stated that it must be uniform in terms of cost for non-official entities. It's either all or nothing. He stated that you can't look at one group and say you like their message, so there is no cost involved. If one entity isn't charged a fee, then no one should be.

Mr. Weis indicated that he would prepare information on this issue for the Commission to review.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.