

**Montgomery Borough Council**  
**November 9, 2021**

\*\*Meeting was conducted by Zoom and publicly at Borough Hall.

President Steward called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

- I. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Roll call was taken: Jeff Frey Jr.-P; Joshua Geiger-P, Laurel Green-P, Margaret Mathis-P, C. Roger McRae-P, Rocky Sanguedolce-P and Clayton Steward-P. Also present were Borough Coordinator Donna Miller, Mayor Edward Alexander and Solicitor Jonathan Dewald.

\*President Steward stated an Executive session was held prior to this meeting for contract talks for the non-Uniform employees.

- III. Fire Department Report. Chief Brad Feaster reviewed the written report as follows: The Department observed the schools' evacuation plan on October 25, 2021; the department is still monitoring Covid-19 standard of operation; the active cases have been steady and the EMA have put out daily numbers. A total of 32 calls for service were done in October 2021. No training is scheduled at this time. November 13<sup>th</sup> will be a Chicken Bar-b-q from 11-3; \$10 for meals and \$7 for chicken only. The Department is looking for new members and open to the Public. Steve Cook stated that financial records were returned to the Department.
- IV. EMA Report. Greg and Dennis Gruver were in attendance, nothing more to report then the written report.
- V. Public Concerns. Ruth Little asked if the Police phone problem has been corrected; Chief Cassel replied yes.
- ~~VI.~~ Approve October 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Rocky Sanguedolce to approve; second by Laurel Green. Motion carried.  
Approve October 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Rocky Sanguedolce to approve; second by Jeff Frey. Motion carried.
- VII. Approve September 2021 Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Laurel Green to approve; second by Rocky Sanguedolce. Motion carried.  
Approve October 2021 Treasurer's Report-Tabled until next months' meeting.
- VIII. Code Enforcement Officer's Report. Fred Grasty was not in attendance, but Donna Miller reported everything is going well, and Fred will be reducing his hours due to the winter months.
- IX. Solicitor's Report. Solicitor Dewald had nothing new to report; only that

Ordinance 2021-3 has been advertised and will be acted upon in Old Business.

- X. Police Report. Chief Cassel reviewed the written report. He stated the Halloween Parade went well; the Ford Explorer needs new tires and a battery tender should be purchased for the Ford Taurus. He is waiting on confirmation dates to install the VSPEC, cameras and the computer server.
- XI. Mayor's Report. Mayor Alexander stated he received a letter from the Montgomery Fire Department to give to the Water Authority about concerns the Department has.
- XII. Borough Coordinator's Report. Donna Miller reported on the following:
- Christmas hams will be ordered for all Council, Authority and Employees; for delivery in December.
  - Each of the employees will receive a \$25.00 monetary Christmas gift.
  - An authorization for Richard Lowe P.A. for the 2021 Borough audit has been signed.
  - The River Valley Transit Authority fee for bus service in the Borough for 2022 will increase from \$500.00 to \$825.57 yearly (\$325.57 increase)
  - A donation letter from the Montgomery Lions was received for their annual Thanksgiving meal. 253 residents were served last year. A motion was made by Rocky Sanguedolce to donate \$500.00 to the Montgomery Lions for this; second by Laurel Green. A roll call vote was taken; Jeff Frey-yes; Joshua Geiger-yes; Laurel Green-yes; Margaret Mathis-yes; Roger McRae-abstained; Rocky Sanguedolce-yes; Clay Steward-abstained. Motion carried. Vote was five-yes and two abstaining; the two Council members that abstained was due to membership in the Lions Club.
  - A motion was made by Roger McRae not to purchase hams for the Council members; second by Joshua Geiger. Motion carried.
- XIII. Committee Report.
- Summer Alive Program-None
  - Montgomery Community Development Committee-None; Steve Cook stated they will be meeting in the Spring.
  - Public Works: Streets, Sidewalks, Parking Lots, Water Authority etc.- Concerns from the Fire Department about the Water Authority are being looked into.
  - Parks/Recreation/Vacant Lots-Councilwoman Green stated the next meeting will be Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Riverside. She will look into different properties for the Dog Park if there is still interest in this. She would like to have something in the Park starting in mid-late spring 2022 on a regular basis. President Steward asked about acquiring a 501C for the Park committee to apply for grants etc. Solicitor Dewald responded as the committee could independently organize a 501C for donations, but they would still be a part of the Borough.
  - General Administration/Labor Relations-Contracts for the Uniform and Non-Uniform employees are being reviewed.
  - Public Safety: Police/Fire/EMA-The Police employment contract is being

worked on.

-Budget/Finance Committee-None

-Tech Committee-The Police phone system was fixed.

-West Branch Regional Authority Representative-Rocky Sanguedolce stated there will be no rate increase; and nothing more to report.

-Holiday Committee-President Steward stated the Halloween parade went well; plaques are being made for the contest winners. The Christmas parade will be Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 1pm; a Christmas decorating contest will take place. The Lions would like to use the inside pavilion after the Parade for activities. The open skating will start the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of 2022- January 8<sup>th</sup>.

-Planning & Development-None

-Vacancy Board Committee-None

-Zoning Board-None

-Planning Commission-None

#### XIV. Old Business.

##### 1. Ordinance Amendments

A. Ordinance 2021-3 Outdoor Storage-second reading. A motion was made by Rocky Sanguedolce to accept the second reading; second by Roger McRae/Jeff Frey. A roll call vote was taken; Jeff Frey-yes; Joshua Geiger-yes; Laurel Green-no; Margaret Mathis-yes; Roger McRae-yes; Rocky Sanguedolce-yes; Clay Steward-yes. Vote was 6-yes and 1-no. Motion carried.

2. Update on signatures for petition. Donna Miller gave an update on the signatures received as of this date for the petition on reducing Council size from 7 to 5. Forty registered voters have signed the petition.

#### XV. New Business.

1. Montgomery Christmas Committee. A motion was made by Jeff Frey to donate \$500.00 to this committee; second by Laurel Green. Motion carried.

2. Change of Insurance Agent to the Dunn Group. Donna Miller stated the insurance policies would remain the same; just the agent is changing. A motion was made by Laurel Green to change to the Dunn Group; second by Jeff Frey. Motion carried.

3. 2022 Borough Budget. Donna Miller stated the 2022 Montgomery Borough budget would be \$569,895.00; this is with a half mill increase; which is \$20,000 for the Borough. Councilman McRae handed out information about local communities and their tax basis; he also stated the Borough could save money if the Police department was furloughed for one year and then possibly brought back. A motion was made by Jeff Frey to accept the first reading of the 2022 Montgomery Borough Budget of \$569,895.00 with a half mill increase, second by Laurel Green. A roll call vote was taken; Jeff Frey-yes; Joshua Geiger-yes; Laurel Green-yes; Margaret Mathis-yes; Roger McRae-no; Rocky Sanguedolce-yes; Clayton Steward-yes. Vote was six yes and one no. Motion carried.

Tax Ordinance 2021-4; this states the tax figures for the year 2022. A motion was made by Rocky Sanguedolce to accept this; second by Margaret Mathis. A roll call vote was taken; Jeff Frey-yes; Joshua Geiger-yes; Laurel Green-yes; Margaret

Mathis-yes; Roger McRae-no; Rocky Sanguedolce-yes; Clayton Steward-yes. The vote was six yes and one no. Motion carried.

XVI. Public Comments. Councilman Sanguedolce stated as a citizen and tax payer of Montgomery Borough, he doesn't want taxes to raise, he understands the necessity of the tax increase and the necessity of a Police Department, but he also understands Councilman McRae's reasoning of 24-hour State Police coverage. He also asked what legally could be done for public opinion about the Police department, Solicitor Dewald stated the Public could comment at the public comment section of the meeting. A public meeting needs to happen in the future to talk more about this.

XVII. Adjournment. Motion was made by Laurel Green to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 pm; second by Jeff Frey. Motion carried.

Members of the public present at the commencement of the meeting are set forth on the sign in sheet attached to these minutes as "Exhibit A". -Attached

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna J. Miller  
Borough Coordinator

Djm

**Montgomery Borough Council  
Meeting  
December 6, 2021**

This meeting was not done remotely by Zoom.

Vice President Sanguedolce called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

- I. Pledge of Alliance-All rose for the Pledge of Alliance
- II. Roll Call was taken. Jeff Frey-A, Joshua Geiger-P, Laurel Green-A; Margaret Mathis-P, C. Roger McRae-P, Rocky Sanguedolce-P, and Clayton Steward-A. Also present was Borough Coordinator Donna Miller.  
  
\*\*No Executive session(s) have been held.
- III. Public Concerns: Resident Ruth Little asked about the problem with the parking on School Street; Rocky Sanguedolce and Donna Miller will look into this.
- IV. Old Business
  1. Non-Uniform Employee Contract- A motion was made by Rocky Sanguedolce to accept the counter offer of the Non-Uniform Employee Contract upon the review of the Solicitor, second by Margaret Mathis. Motion carried.
  2. Uniform Employee Contract-No more information was given.
- V. New Business. Donna Miller stated at the Council Meeting of December 14, 2021 the Council and Mayor will be sworn in; and think about continuing the zoom sessions for the upcoming year. If this is continued; someone needs to take it over. Ruth Little stated about the website not being updated. Donna Miller is aware of this and options are being looked into.
- VI. Public Comments: Roger McRae thanked the Borough for all the help with the parade permitting for the Christmas parade. Approximately 200-225 people attended with 160 hot dogs given out; Station House supplied the free coffee and hot chocolate. It was a great time!  
Resident Ruth Little asked if the zoom meeting was being used tonight; no, it was not. She asked if the attending Council for this evening's meeting would be interested in continuing the zoom; Councilman Sanguedolce replied as it is 2022 and the Borough should do it.
- VIII. Adjournment. A motion was made by Roger McRae to adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm; second by Joshua Geiger. Motion carried.  
Members of the public present at the commencement of the meeting are set forth on the sign in sheet attached to these minutes as "Exhibit A".

  
Donna J. Miller  
Borough Coordinator