

**Point Marion Borough Council Reorganization Meeting
Minutes
January 6, 2025**

Council meeting was opened with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance by President Joseph Corcoran.

Members present: Jack Stewart, Mitch Cottrell, Anthony Jordan, Carl Ables and Joseph Corcoran.

Absent: Billie Jo Nicklow, Bob Goodwin, James Cottrell, and Doug Sholtis.

Others present: Wendy Cottrell.

Roll call was taken by the Secretary and quorum was established.

Minutes of the December 23, 2024 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Anthony Jordan, seconded by Mitch Cottrell to accept the minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Checks were passed around for review of bills and signature. A spending/statement report folder was provided for review. Three checks were pulled from the signature file with questions regarding payment – two were Teamster Union payments, and the third was the garbage bill for December 2024. Linda will review with Gary in the morning and report at next meeting. A motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Anthony Jordan to approve remaining bills. All in favor, motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Doug Sholtis emailed the borough with a new ordinance regarding payment of council members. It states that council members will only be paid for the council meetings they attended. Other meetings outside of the regularly scheduled council meetings are considered voluntary and members do not receive a stipend for those. The ordinance will need to be advertised. Discussion ensued regarding a stipend increase for council members. The new stipend will go from \$25.00 per meeting, per council member, to \$50.00. An increase for the mayor will go from \$1200.00 to \$1500.00. The new stipend increases will not take place until January of 2026. A motion was made by Mitch Cottrell and seconded by Anthony Jordan to increase council stipends. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mitch Cottrell and seconded by Anthony Jordan to advertise the ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

None.

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

No new updates. There has been no news on the Big K Building. A hearing has been scheduled in March regarding their appeal.

It was determined that utility workers will now report to Vice President Mitch Cottrell as of January 2025. A motion was made by Anthony Jordan and seconded by Jack Stewart. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration: None.

Infrastructure: Mitch reported one water leak has been repaired, and a new water line put in place. Drain drop boxes were purchased to replace the ones that are in bad shape. A list showing which boxes will be replaced is in process and will be shared with council.

There are a few homes that need to be placed on Ready to Serve. The agreement that the home would be torn down was not carried out. Other homes include being listed as a single-family unit with landlords renting out both floors, using one water meter. There is another question regarding an apartment being used that is not an apartment with a water meter. Discussion ensued regarding the Ready to Serve option, and it was determined the only places that would not be required to be on the RTS are empty lots where meters have been pulled, not those with homes on them.

Public Safety: N/A. It was requested that a report be provided to council at each meeting from Officer Wilson.

Park: Wendy provided an update regarding the camera system – it is completed and working very well. She informed council that the grant resubmission was approved and discussed the need to start purchasing the park equipment as listed on the grant (bleachers, concrete slab, bathrooms, etc.). The state reimburses the borough 85%, and the borough is responsible for the 15%. The project will cost \$38,000.00. The money will need to be transferred from the open line of credit into the park account per Becky Wadsworth. Council asked if the work had to be through bids or could they be estimates. Carl and Mitch to follow up with Becky to confirm.

Unfinished Business:

Rental Registration Ordinance: Jack proposed to continue the Rental Registrations as they currently are. He wants to make sure that at least one tenant/owner's name be on the water bill.

Garbage Contract: Questions regarding the new garbage contract were discussed. Linda will check with Gary to find out where it is and what the new rate for 2025 will be.

Zoning: Anthony Jordan has a meeting with the zoning office on January 14, 2025 regarding the borough taking over their own zoning. Pros and cons of doing so were discussed. No decisions were made. The discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Hoffman Kennels: It was determined that Hoffman Kennels will need to contact us to report what day they will be doing a sweep in the area regarding the charge of \$100.00 per month. He should also report names and addresses of persons who call with reports of stray or unwatched pets.

Recycling Bin: Joe Corcoran spoke with ? regarding bringing the bins back to Point Marion. He was informed that it would take a decision from the county commissioner. He will reach out to them this week.

New Business:

Personnel: To be discussed during executive session.

Act 205 Police Pension Report: Jack Stewart has found nothing new on the subject. Linda will touch base with Angelica to see if she can provide any information.

McMillen Engineering: The borough received a letter from McMillen regarding the continuance of being their engineer company in 2025. It also included their rate schedule and a form for use when needing work done. A motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Mitch Cottrell to reappoint McMillen as our engineer. All in favor, motion carried.

Elected and Appointed Officials Compensation: See Solicitor's Report above.

Borough Office Floor: Wendy would like to have the main office floor cleaned and sealed. She received a proposal from Davies at a cost of \$400.00. The cost includes \$75.00 in labor, and material cost of \$325.00. Both Carl and Anthony noted that the best way to seal the flooring would be to cover it with either linoleum or carpeting. The discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Announcements:

Representatives from Badger Beacon are scheduled to speak with utility staff and council on Wednesday, January 15th at 5:30pm. Wendy requested that council be in attendance, as well as the secretary/treasurer. They will be discussing meters and the new Trimbles available.

A set schedule for 2025 will be determined at the next meeting, being held on January 13, 2025.

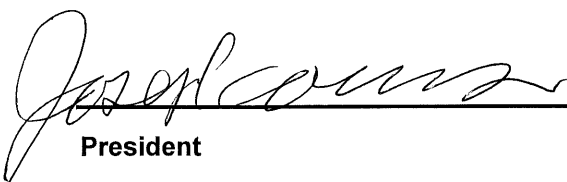
A motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Anthony Joran to enter into executive session. All in favor, motion carried. 8:38pm.

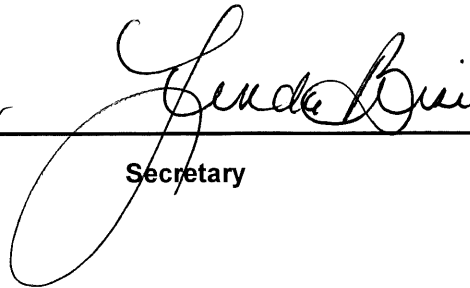
A motion was made by Anthony Jordan and seconded by Jack Stewart to enter into regular session. All in favor. Motion carried. Time: 9:36pm.

A motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Anthony Jordan to set new hours for the Assistant to the Secretary/Treasurer to Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00am to 3:00pm, with no weekend hours. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mitch Cottrell and seconded by Jack Stewart to increase the borough police officer's pay from \$28.00 per hour to \$30.00 per hour. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Mitch Cottrell for the meeting to be adjourned. All in favor, motion carried. 9:38pm.


President


Secretary

1/13/25
Date