

**Point Marion Borough Council Regular Meeting
Minutes
December 9, 2024**

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

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

Absent: Billie Jo Nicklow, Bob Goodwin, Officer Wilson

Others present: Wendy Cottrell, Helmet Binder, Jay Stutler, Rosemary Costa.

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

Minutes of the November 25, 2024 meeting were presented and a motion was made by Mitch Cottrell, seconded by James Cottrell to accept the minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Raising property taxes comment: instead of raising taxes, the boro should cut back on other things. Make the plant workers get their license. Comment regarding minutes – make sure the conference calls are mentioned in the minutes. Do council members get paid? Yes, it's a state law. It is \$25.00 per person, per meeting. Meeting minutes need corrected to reflect Jim Cottrell either present, absent, or present via conference call. Thoughts regarding raising the taxes were shared.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A report of bills due was provided. The bank statement report was provided to council for review. A motion was made by, Jack Stewart and seconded by Anthony Jordan to pay the current bills. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made to pay for the valve for the water treatment plant from the Capitol Fund by Mitch Cottrell, seconded by Anthony Jordan. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made to pay for the 4th Avenue Pump from the Grant Fund by Mitch Cottrell, seconded by Anthony Jordan. All in favor, motion carried.

A weekly list of the bank account totals and payments was provided to council. James Cottrell requested that the Liquid Fuels total be added to the weekly list.

The 2025 Budget proposal has been posted at the borough for 10 days. Approval and posting in the newspaper will need to take place.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Blosser House Affidavits – Doug filed a motion at the courthouse regarding the Blosser House. After 14 days, he will finalize the paperwork and submit.

Council member attendance discussions: Based on the information that Jack Stewart provided to Doug, it has been the boroughs past practice to not compensate those who have not attended a meeting regularly. Mitch suggested that the minutes be pulled to see who all voted to not pay those not attending. It was determined that a new ordinance be adopted, and the boro continue with the past practice.

FEMA Emergency Action Information: Doug sent in the FEMA Emergency Action paperwork. He suggested that we look into a flood plain ordinance. Flood zones have been updated, but we are supposed to be keepers of our maps. If we don't enact a flood zone ordinance, we are in jeopardy of not receiving money.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Information to be prepared and discussed at next meeting.

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Jack provided council with a code officer report and updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration: None.

Infrastructure: James Cottrell gave a report regarding work that is being done. People are dumping garbage back on the burn pile by the park. A report was given on service terminations in the boro. Leak being worked on, Morgantown Street. 70 shutoff notices were posted this month. DEP visit on December 3rd. We need to send a letter out and the electric ran as well for the turbidimeters. Second storm drop being placed at Camp Run. 4 accounts were restored after payments were received. Lines repaired. Fittings and repair clamps are needed. Morgantown street will be getting 20-foot sections of pipe replacement.

Public Safety: Sidewalks need discussed as well.

Park: Santa in the Park – the day was a success. The poles for the park cameras have been set. Cameras should be set before the end of the year.

Lighting: The money came through from the state regarding the street lighting. It is free, but will take some time to be put into place.

Unfinished Business:

A motion was made by Mitch Cottrell and seconded by Anthony Jordan to hire Smart Cents Business Services, LLC for payroll processing. Motion carried.

Dog Kennel/Pound: Anthony Jordan wants to diminish the cost of the Kennel/Pound on grounds of inhumane services. There is nothing in statute that says we have to have a dog warden. A decision was made to look at creating an ordinance regarding charging the dog owner if the dog warden is called. A decision was made to discuss the contract at a future meeting. It was agreed the contract should be looked at and possibly renegotiated.

Rental Registration Increase: Jack Stewart provided council with a rough draft ordinance which discusses the requirement of inspections between occupancy in rentals. More ordinance enforcement needs to take place in order to keep landlords in check. We will also need someone with credentialing to do inspections. It was decided that the ordinance reflect HUD Section 8 rules. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Millage Rate Discussion/Decision: Anthony Jordan asked the group what it would be raised to, and how much money would it bring in for the borough. Jack Stewart responded with some research and reports he found online. He compared the borough with other areas in Fayette County. The year 2003 was the last time the borough was assessed. The county does the assessments. Anthony wants to find alternative increases in revenue. He suggested town homes to increase the population. By using Fay Penn, we have the ability to acquire land and build family homes (Imminent Domain). Discussion also covered redevelopment of the Point Marion Park. It was determined that a 5-year and a 10-year plan needs to be put together regarding goals in the community. It was determined that the taxes will not be raised this year. Jack Stewart suggested we get together with Fay Penn and getting a plan in place. A resolution to not raise taxes was provided by Doug.

New Business:

Home Maintenance Ordinance (outdoor care of property) – already in existence. Ordinances need revisited. Redevelopment; Imminent Domain; Private Public Partnership

Library – Anthony Jordan – need to cut ties with the Library. Carl Ables – having the Library is an important entity for grants. Anthony Jordan then suggested that we maintain control of the books. Council agreed that we need to bring the Library staff in and discuss.

Changing of Office Hours: The new office hours beginning January 1st will be 9:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. A motion to accept the new office hours was made by Mitch Cottrell and seconded by Jack Stewart. All in favor, motion carried.

Announcements:

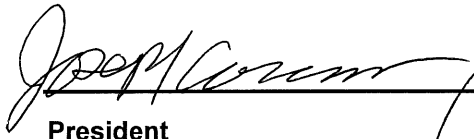
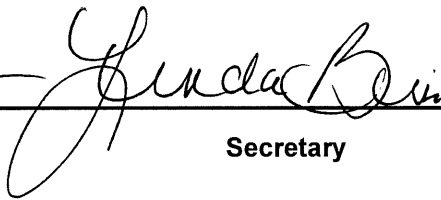
It was determined that the December 23rd meeting will take place and not be cancelled.

A motion was made by Jim Cottrell to enter into executive session. Seconded by Mitch Cottrell. All in favor, motion carried. 9:21pm.

A motion was made by Jim Cottrell and seconded by Anthony Jordan to enter into regular session. Motion carried. 10:10pm.

A motion was made by Anthony Jordan and seconded by Mitch Cottrell to approve the 2025 budget as stated and post in the newspaper. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mitch Cottrell and seconded by Jim Cottrell for the meeting to be adjourned. All in favor, motion carried. 10:20pm.

  12.23.25

President Secretary Date