

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Business Development Partnership (BDP) was held at 8:30 am, Tuesday, October 20, 2020 virtually via Microsoft Teams. The members of the BDP in attendance included Lisa Martin, J.P. Northrop, Mary Griffith-Alfarano, Troy Tradewell, and Bob Cole. Also present: Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager; Scott Bendig, Chief of Police; Rob Johnson, Community Policing Officer; Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning & Zoning; Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; and Kelsey Whalen, Public Information Coordinator.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am.

New Business:

Montgomery Township Community Policing Unit – Officer Rob Johnson presented the following programs and events offered to the public:

Citizens Police Academy – A 14 week program designed to educate the community on the operations of the Police Department.

Jr. Police Academy – A two day academy for children within the community held annually.

Public Safety Seminars – Including drugs & youth and senior cyber safety.

Building Security Assessments – Conduct assessments for Township businesses including lighting, camera systems, entry doors, and reviews of emergency operation plans.

Active Shooter Training for Businesses

Child Fingerprinting

Retail Theft Seminars

National Night Out – Community Awareness event held annually the 1st Tuesday in August. Activities include demonstrations, giveaways, food, and prizes. Businesses are welcome to participate and provide promotional giveaways.

Coffee with a Cop – Held at local businesses within the Township.

Other – Attend local events to hand out information, giveaways, and canine unit demonstrations.

Montgomery Township Police Department Update – Chief Bendig discussed that the department was generally proceeding as normal, however, fewer public events due to Covid. Two upcoming events include the Fill the Truck food drive on October 24th and the Halloween drive-through event at Windlestrae Park on October 31st. The Chief discussed preparations for the upcoming election day and post election results. Resources available to the Township include the MIRT (Mobile Incident Response Team), Rapid Response Plan, and intelligence provided by the FBI and State Police.

Township Public Information Update – The Township Business list has been utilized to provide information via email in regards to the new Tax Collection process. Any Township business owner can add their email to the mailing list on the Township's website. The ReadyMontco web site powered by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety is also a good resource for businesses. Businesses are also encouraged to sign up for this mailing list to receive emergency alerts, traffic information, evacuation information, significant water main breaks, and significant incidents impacting the community.

Local Business Update – Prime Day had good results for some local businesses. Consumers are reminded to buy early as merchandise may not be available in December. 4th quarter may be a challenge for all businesses. The local Women's Conference is virtual this year with over 200 attendees registered for the October 30th event.

Planning & Zoning Department Update - Permits intake is steady. We've seen an increase in residential projects, including in-ground swimming pools. New commercial / industrial projects include: Dollar Tree at 202 Marketplace, former Harriet Carter building (2 tenants), Ristorante Imperatore at the former Village Tavern location, Pete's Express Car Wash at 1274 Welsh Rd, Tower Urgent Care at Gwynedd Crossing Shopping Center, and the new NWWA Water Tank on Airport Rd. Higher Rock has also submitted permits for the office building and have no user yet for the large pad site. Five Points road project is scheduled for next spring and will be a 2 year project. Vilsmeier Rd & 309 project is scheduled for Spring 2021 construction.

Administration Department Update – The 2021 Budget is presentations are complete. Revenue projections for 2021 are conservative.

Old Business: none

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the BDP, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 am. The next meeting will be held at 8:30 am November 17, 2020 virtually via Microsoft Teams.