

MONROE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 06/05/2023

Location: Monroeton Library Meeting Room, 149 Dalpiaz Drive, Monroeton PA.

The regular meeting of Monroe Borough Council was called to order by Council President Dan Troup at 6:15pm, opening with the pledge of allegiance.

Present were Council President Dan Troup, Vice President Joan Grenell, members Bill Shaw, Brenda Munkittrick, Amy Calaman and Leo Wills. Eric West and Mayor Seth Wills were absent. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer Laura Hewitt, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Kurt Lafy, Borough Maintenance and Roadmaster Al Pronti, Sergeant Joseph Mitchell, Trooper Matthew Santiago, plus members of the public (listed on sign-in sheet.)

Minutes from the May 1, 2023 meeting were passed unanimously by a Shaw/Munkittrick motion.

The **treasurer's report** for May was approved as presented, with a Shaw/Wills motion to pay bills and approve the transfer of \$80,000 from General Checking to PLGIT to capture higher interest rates passing unanimously. A math error on one time sheet was noted, and will be corrected on the June paycheck. April and May reconciled bank statements were confirmed by Amy and Brenda. Budget vs Actual reports for May were delivered to Joan and Dan.

PA State Police update: Trooper Santiago provided an update on the March 26 incidents, noting arrests are pending for arson, vehicle theft and firearm theft. He and Sergeant Mitchell responded to numerous resident questions.

It was noted with regret that **Fred Vanderpool**, who has been assisting Al on streets, buildings and grounds work, passed away suddenly this past weekend. No info is yet available for services.

Correspondence received in May was reviewed. Actionable items have been moved to the below committee reports.

Public Participation: Questions were raised about **Chesapeake's installation of a sound barrier**. Jerry Ogden had requested more specific information regarding the perceived source and location of the noise, and offered to speak directly to any resident who provided a phone number. Residents noted the noises were from beepers on trucks, pumps on trucks, and the regular pumps drawing water. Laura will pass along the phone numbers as they are received.

Borough Reports:

Library: report submitted, on file.

Fire: report submitted, on file. Also noted were dates of upcoming events in June.

Ordinance Enforcement: report submitted, on file. Kurt responded to questions regarding the Decker house, and provided updates on several cases. After lodging a PUC complaint, Frontier Communications sent the requested maps, and their permit fee is expected soon. Work is continuing on reviewing and updating ordinances for codification.

Levee Project: No new information; Ron requested the name of the DEP contact doing the redesign, will meet with Laura between meetings for additional information.

Streets: Al reported work done last month, with several community service workers assisting in cleaning streets, cutting brush, and patching potholes.

Laura contacted Hunt Engineering regarding **grants for street repairs** and is waiting for a reply from their "grants team."

Complaints had been raised to Council members about trucks with trailers using **Willow and Wilcox streets as turn-arounds**, and consequently tearing up yards. Al was asked to purchase and install 'no turn-around' and/or 'no outlet' signs. A suggestion was made to contact the fire department about leasing or purchasing some land for a larger borough garage location. Dan will followup.

Buildings/Grounds: After several phone meetings, Laura met with Kim and Katie (NTRPDC) to begin drafting a project proposal for a CDGB grant application for **brick pointing**. It is due on short notice (June 30). A Wills/Grenell motion was approved to authorize Laura to move forward on the brick pointing grant application and to include a \$10,000 budget commitment if needed. The **community bulletin board** was scheduled to be installed this morning with Fred's help, but with his passing, Al will wait for additional help to complete later this week. Al also noted **new signs** have been placed for the playgrounds.

Fire Escape: remains on Al's 'to-do' list.

Public Utility: no lights out to report. PennDOT notified us that 3 **lights on the bridge** (Route 220 over the creek) are rusting from the inside; they are well past the expected life span of 25 years, and should be removed. Because they illuminate a sidewalk, they might also need to be replaced when feasible, at the Borough's cost since the Borough owns them (per a 1986 Lighting Agreement.) PennDOT can help with specs and vendors if/when the Borough chooses to replace them. Laura was directed to ask Bradford County if their engineers could check the poles to provide additional advice.

Water/Sewer (TMA): Eric Casanave previously requested "a list of specific concerns (with locations and nature of concern – i.e., grass issue, hole in yard, pothole in street, etc.)" ALL residents are asked to phone or email the office as soon as possible in advance of a preliminary walkthrough to be scheduled this coming month, to precede the engineers' 11 month inspection which should happen in July.

Finance & Insurance: In response to Laura's inquiry to a fund transfer protocol, Council agreed that review/approval from the President and Vice President is appropriate for transfers between meetings, with affirmation by motion at the following meeting.

Mayor: absent, no report.

EMC: absent, no report.

New/Other Business:

It was noted that **town rummage sales** are not planned by or scheduled by the Borough Council, nor is it known who might be organizing them; however some thought one usually happens during the 2nd weekend in June. This was not confirmed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm by a unanimous Shaw/Wills motion.

(not OFFICIAL without signature and seal)

Respectfully submitted by Laura H Hewitt, Borough Secretary