

MONROE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 07/03/2023

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, and Eric West. Brenda Munkittrick, Amy Calaman, Leo Wills and Mayor Seth Wills were absent. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer Laura Hewitt, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Kurt Lafy, plus members of the public (listed on sign-in sheet.)

Minutes from the June 5, 2023 meeting were passed unanimously by a Shaw/West motion.

The treasurer's report for June was approved as presented, with a West/Shaw motion to pay bills as presented. The Speedradar invoice, pre-approved at a prior meeting, is not on the bill list yet; that will be paid after the unit is set up and tested. June reconciled bank statements are available for review. Budget vs Actual reports through June were delivered to Joan and Dan.

Correspondence received in May was reviewed, none required action.

Public Participation: Concerns were raised about a **dead tree** on Shaw Blvd that could cut out power for days when it falls. Kurt will look into options before approaching the property owner. Discussion continued about how to address a **condemned property** on James Monroe Blvd, with no solutions found. Kurt will replace the condemnation sign on the building. Questions were raised about when police would make arrests for the recent spate of **vandalism**; Kurt will call to get an update.

Borough Reports:

Library: – no report received. Laura noted that past “estimate of library costs” reports underestimated square footage and percentage of use, and will be updated on future reports.

Fire: no report submitted

Ordinance Enforcement: report submitted, on file. Kurt is nearing completion on the proposed ordinance codification, focused on property maintenance.

Levee Project: The consultant believes they can complete investigation on hose company property, and would like to start within the next few weeks. Laura has reached out to Howard to determine if there are any conflicts with events on the grounds.

Streets: Hunt Engineering responded to our request to search for **grants for street repairs**; they were unable to locate any, but will keep us on their list.

Names and contact info of residents who requested a **sound barrier** were passed along to Chesapeake. Residents noted an inspection was done, but have not received a report back; Laura will contact Chesapeake for more information.

Buildings/Grounds: A CDBG proposal for **brick pointing** of the building was submitted; Laura and Karen Troup (librarian) will attend a grant meeting on July 5th. While CDBG cannot be used for "municipal buildings," there is an exception based on "predominant use." Based on library use of 75% of the physical space, and their being open substantially more days and hours per week, we should meet that exception. If the project gets selected by Commissioners, surveying will be needed to demonstrate meeting the qualifying LMI (Low/Moderate Income) threshold.

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

Public Utility: Tim Kerrick reported that a street light in the hose company parking lot is still not working. Dan noted one on Church St. Laura needs specific pole numbers or street addresses with nearest cross road to re-submit to Penelec.

Regarding **bridge lights:** Matt Williams will check with Larson Design Group, (county bridge engineers) to see if they can assess.

Water/Sewer (TMA): Eric Casanave will try to schedule a "pre-walkthrough" on July 10th with Dan and TMA, and the "11-month walkthrough" with contractors on July 17th. Dan repeated the request for "specific concerns," none were reported yet.

Finance & Insurance: C&N fees have increased, including a new printed statement fee which can be avoided by e-banking. (However, Laura noted glitches in June and July when trying to access.) **Selective insurance billing** issues are still unresolved; Kilmer will be following up with them as other clients are also having issues.

Mayor: absent, no report.

EMC: absent, no report.

New/Other Business: Joan has received phone complaints about **vehicles cutting the corner through the hose company parking lot**. AI will set speed bump/curbing in place.

A question was raised about why someone was promoting a local handyman on the borough **Facebook** page. The borough does NOT promote businesses, and a subsequent check of the page showed no personal or business promotions.

An executive session was convened from 7:30 pm to 8:05 pm to discuss potential litigation. The regular meeting resumed at 8:10pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm by a unanimous Shaw/West motion.

(not OFFICIAL without signature and seal)

Respectfully submitted by Laura H Hewitt, Borough Secretary