

## **MONROE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 08/07/2023**

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 Amy Calaman, Leo Wills, and Eric West. Bill Shaw, Brenda Munkittrick, and Mayor Seth Wills were absent. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer Laura Hewitt, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Kurt Lafy, Borough Maintenance and Roadmaster Al Pronti, EMC coordinators Lyle and Jennifer Delp, plus members of the public (listed on sign-in sheet.)

Minutes from the July 3, 2023 meeting were passed unanimously by a Wills/West motion.

The treasurer's report for July was approved, with a Calaman/Grenell motion to pay bills as presented. Amy noted under-calculated hours to be added to next month's timesheet. Budget vs Actual reports through July were delivered to Joan and Dan. A Wills/West motion to sign a 3 year contract with Comcast to retain lower rates was approved unanimously.

**Correspondence** received in July and through August 7 was reviewed, none required action.

**Public Participation:** discussions regarding multiple issues are covered in the below reports.

### **Borough Reports:**

**Library:** report submitted, on file.

**Fire:** report submitted, on file.

**Ordinance Enforcement:** report submitted, on file. Kurt provided updates on property issues, and noted the ordinance section on property maintenance is very complex so is still a work in progress. Leo asked if we have the necessary signs regarding "permits required" in the Borough, Al was tasked with making sure they are installed where needed. Public comment included increasing concern regarding empty/unsafe buildings being illegally inhabited or otherwise used by unknown persons.

**Levee Project:** Shovel test pits (manual excavations with a shovel, soils screened to recover any cultural remains/artifacts) were completed in July on the hose company property. Prior to work, Laura relayed hose company requests that no work would be done on weekends, only one hole would be opened at a time, and NOT left open at end of workday. Tonight, residents requested when the report will be ready; Laura will followup. Residents repeated prior concerns and frustration about the lack of progress; Laura will contact Clint Owlett, since he is our 'new' State Rep' after redistricting last year, and he may be unaware of the long history. There was also discussion again about dredging creeks quickly after flood events, as permissible in emergencies, and whether we have someone on call to do that when needed.

**Streets:** Al reported on work done last month, filling a lot of potholes and other patching, but noted the streets are continuing to seriously deteriorate. He also installed signs as requested at Willow and Wilcox Streets.

**(Streets continued)**

Dan reported on two 'walkthroughs' he did with Eric Casanave (Stiffler/McGraw) related to the paving issues surrounding the **water line replacement**, noting some 'small issues' will be fixed (timeframe unknown), but we are still largely dissatisfied with the lack of reasonable repairs after tearing through the middle of paved streets.

In addition to the damage to those, other streets also need paving. Via email, Eric Casanave suggested seeking an LSA grant if he can confirm with DCED that paving projects meet their funding criteria. He noted that putting an application together, with cost estimates, maps, narrative/justification, etc, would range between \$3k and \$4k and would be due between 9/1 and 11/30. A Wills/Grenell motion passed unanimously to contract with Stiffler/McGraw to prepare a grant application for **street paving** on our behalf if DCED confirms paving is an applicable use of funds.

Chesapeake contacted our office and residents with the result of the sound study and will be installing a **sound barrier** at the water takeout location.

**Buildings/Grounds:** – Laura and Karen Troup presented a CDB grant request for **brick pointing** at the county meeting on July 6th; the county should announce their decision on October 11th. A Keystone Public Library Grant window has opened; Katie (Northern Tier Planning) confirmed with the Dept of Education that brick pointing would be an eligible use, but with a formula to address proportional shared use of the building, and with a match requirement. It also requires a resolution stating the building will remain a library for the next 50 years. A West/Wills motion was passed unanimously to adopt RESOLUTION 2023-02 ensuring the undisturbed use of the Monroeton Public Library for fifty years.

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

**Public Utility:** Eric Casanave is checking with Stiffler/McGraw's transportation engineers to see if they can meet PennDOT's requirements for an inspection and recommendation letter regarding the **bridge lights**; if not, we will need to pay the county bridge engineers (Larson Design Group) to get their 'seal' on a report.

**Water/Sewer (TMA):** "walkthrough" notes listed above with "streets" discussion; no report from Bill as he is absent tonight

**Finance & Insurance:** A Grenell/Calaman motion to move ACT 13 funds and State Savings funds to PLGIT to gain their much higher interest rates was approved unanimously.

**Mayor:** absent, no report.

**EMC:** Lyle and Jennifer Delp noted we are currently under a tornado watch until 11pm. The cricks are up, but not expected to flood. However, ANY flooding (as some residents noted past flood issues) should always be reported to 911 and/or the Borough office, who would then relay it to them so data which may support later claims is collected.

**New/Other Business:** none

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm by a unanimous West/Wills motion.

(NOT OFFICIAL WITHOUT SIGNATURE AND SEAL)

Respectfully submitted by Laura H Hewitt, Borough Secretary