

MONROE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – April 1, 2024

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, Bill Shaw, Brenda Munkittrick, and Leo Wills. Councilman 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, Fire Chief Matt Walter, Assistant Chief Tim Kerrick, plus members of the public (listed on sign-in sheet.)

Minutes from the March 4, 2024 meeting were passed unanimously by a Shaw/Grenell motion.

The **treasurer's report** for March was approved, with a Munkittrick/Shaw motion to pay bills as presented. Timesheets and reconciliations were taken by Brenda for review.

Correspondence included a request for help locating burial site, which was passed along to Cynthia Brown; a reminder of the PennDOT Outreach Program on April 4, 2024; and the monthly Borough News. That magazine will now be available the Library.

Public Participation: Ron Ferguson inquired about the Levee (see Levee report below); Jerry Howard asked for an update about ordinances (see Ordinance Enforcement report below); Rosemary Menarsky asked again about a noise ordinance because engines are being revved as early as 6 am and as late as 10pm. It would be difficult to enforce an ordinance because of 'decibel measurements' needed. She also asked about rules for ATV's, which prompted a lengthy discussion. Many in attendance expressed frustration, and worries about potential accidents. Kurt noted they are not legally permitted on borough streets, but identifying drivers to enforce regulations seemed impossible. State police should be called.

Borough Reports:

Library: no report this month; Laura followed up with Leah Chisum (BC Library System Admin), they should vacate the upstairs room by the end of April, and the Borough may keep the desk and chairs.

Fire: Matt Walter presented the Incidents Report for March, with a copy on file. He noted the first Chicken BBQ was successful, and there was also a good turnout at their Easter Egg Hunt. There were some resident questions about the county burn ban, and the fire department shared frustration at the lack of state police enforcement.

Ordinance Enforcement: In response to Mr. Howard's question, Kurt reported he has a draft of a proposed Solar Ordinance ready to share with the committee for review, which is the final piece of the ordinance revisions before public review and passage. With his monthly report, Kurt noted two properties with multiple violations have changed owners again, and out of state ownership makes it more difficult to bring to court in a timely way. He also reported on the complaints regarding the cemetery fencing, that one association member told him fence parts were no longer available. But as that does not resolve the problem, Bill Shaw agreed to provide Kurt with a list of cemetery board members to follow-up further.

Levee Project: – Nothing new to report this month; Laura needs to contact Rep. Owlett's office to arrange the next visit.

Streets: Al is getting the truck 'ready' before the cleanup, removing the salter, but may leave the plow on in case of a late snow. Rosemary noted Berwick Drive is breaking up again from the truck traffic in and out of the Towanda Creek water takeout. Laura was directed to contact **Chesapeake** to get it repaired. Regarding the paperwork for the **speed display sign**, on March 15th, we received an email from J. Lyons (PennDOT Assistant Traffic Engineer) that we "may now use the device on state roads." Laura was directed to provide the tax exemption form to Al and Leo so they can arrange the purchase of a trailer.

Buildings/Grounds: In response to Council's inquiries about progress on the delay of sale on the **new borough property**, Matt Walker reported that the Hose Company treasurer had been off for 10 days, but in conversation with her today, she had called the solicitor and had no reply yet. Al noted the ballfield is being prepped by the **Towanda Little League**; Laura needs to be sure we have received their insurance binder.

Regarding the Keystone Grant award for the **brick pointing**, after lengthy discussion, a Wills/Grenell motion to accept the Keystone grant was passed with 3 in agreement and one opposed. Dan and Joan signed the necessary paperwork, and directed Laura to followup on a list of questions to insure we do not incur costs if we are unable to find a contractor within the budget limits. We have an opportunity to withdraw before spending any money. Bill Shaw believes we can find a qualified mason and will reach out to one that he knows of, and/or will seek suggestions from other municipalities who must have had similar projects.

Vandalism – no incidents reported.

Spring Cleanup: Flyers for the April 12th & 13th were posted on March 6th at the library and the bulletin board, and will be published in the Daily Review on April 6.

Public Utility – Lights that were reported last month have not been repaired yet; two more lights are out on the bridge. Laura will follow-up again.

Water/Sewer (TMA) no report

Finance & Insurance: Laura picked up the 2023 files from the accountant's Troy office. The financial report has been published in the Daily Review. A couple more "Statement of Financial Interests" were returned this evening; the rest are due by May 1st.

EMC:

Mayor Seth no report

New/Other Business:

The petition to request Timothy Kerrick's appointment to fill the **vacant seat on Council** was mailed to a wrong address and returned to the solicitor. Laura will pick it up personally this week and hand deliver it to the courthouse.

As a reminder, our solicitor is retiring before the end of the year, so Council needs to find someone to replace him.

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