

## **MONROE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 6, 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, Council members Brenda Munkittrick, Tim Kerrick (newly appointed by judge), Leo Wills, Eric West and Mayor Seth Wills. Councilman Bill Shaw was absent. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer Laura Hewitt, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Kurt Lafy, Borough Maintenance and Roadmaster Al Pronti, Fire Chief Matt Walter, plus members of the public (listed on sign-in sheet.)

Minutes from the April 1, 2024 meeting were passed unanimously by a Grenell/Wills motion.

The **treasurer's report** for April was approved, with a West/Munkittrick motion to pay bills as presented. Timesheets and reconciliations were taken by Joan for review. Budget vs Actual reports through April were delivered to Joan and Dan.

**Correspondence:** The signed judge's order appointing Timothy Kerrick to fill the Council vacancy was received on April 9. (Thanks were expressed by all council members present tonight.) In addition to the monthly PSAB Borough News, we received a reminder from Scott Pelling, our solicitor, that he will be retiring in November. The insurance binder for the Towanda LL was received. There was also an invitation to a Public Meeting regarding the Northern Tier Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update

**Public Participation:** Rosemary Menarsky asked for an update on the greenhouse (addressed in Kurt's report), and again about an ATV riding up and down the road with multiple riders and no helmets. She was advised to call the police and, if possible, to provide photos as evidence.

### **Borough Reports:**

**Library:** the monthly report was submitted and is on file.

**Fire:** Matt Walter presented the Incidents Report for April, with a copy on file.

**Ordinance Enforcement:** Kurt reported that of 73 cases so far this year, 15 were closed this month. The greenhouse along 414 has reportedly been sold and "will be taken away soon." The new owner of 362 James Monroe Ave has requested additional time to address violations due to distance and health issues. Because open access to the building is an immediate danger, he has agreed to be billed by the borough for costs to quickly and temporarily secure the doorway. We are still waiting for a reply regarding repair to the cemetery fencing.

**Levee Project:** New maps were just received from PennDOT. Rep Clint Owlett met with several Council members, public, and BCCD to tour the proposed levee. He requested a time line with specific tasks listed from DEP, and he suggested a special meeting with landowners in the levee path. BCCD offered to provide video tech at their office, to enable questions/answers with DEP representatives. Joe Quatrinni (BCCD) noted on the tour that cutting, removing and/or burning brush on top of dry gravel can be done without a permit, and in some locations, some gravel can be removed with a permit

**Streets:** Leo picked up the trailer for the **speed display sign**, and provided the title. In response to our notifying **Chesapeake** of road damages, they have scheduled repairs for May 20<sup>th</sup>. They will do base repairs to the bad areas and a 1-1/2" overlay from the

intersection of the Source Point entrance to the intersection of Berwick Drive and SR220. After repeated inquiries about closing the flow of the creek into the Kerrick property, PennDOT has determined the **pipe under Berwick Drive** was installed between 1984 - 86 under a temporary Right of Way that expired at the completion of a bridge project. They assert that the pipe is owned by the Borough, and they cannot make any repairs. Laura has requested signed documents to reflect this past agreement. Al noted the **truck is ready** and they are beginning street repairs. The sight line on the corner of Ames and Canton Avenues has been cleared. **Bees** have been heard on the second floor, presumed in the hollows between the brick walls. Al also noted **mulch** will be needed for the playground; Laura was asked to contact Benscoter Forestry Products for the cost of a load of hardwood chips.

**Buildings/Grounds:** The paperwork has finally been completed for the purchase the **new borough property** from Monroeton Hose Company. The title company needs to know if the Borough will waive the Real Estate Transfer Tax before they can calculate closing costs. A Wills/Grenell motion passed to waive the Real Estate Transfer tax and finalize the previously approved purchase of 234 Shaw Blvd (parcels 24-99.03-109 and 24-99.03-110) at the bid price of \$13,025 plus the closing costs. Tim Kerrick abstained from the vote, as he is a member of the Fire Company. Closing is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 13.

Dan, Leo, Seth and Laura met with the County Commissioners on April 26<sup>th</sup> to request funding assistance toward the required match for the **brick pointing**. While no determination could be made at that meeting, they will get back to us after their deliberations. Andy Harding was suggested as a potential contractor. A grant application was also submitted to Endless Mountains Heritage Region, for \$10,000; their decision is due by May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Vandalism** – no new reports.

**Spring Cleanup:** was held on April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, Karl Cook will set up fall dates.

**Public Utility** – Lights reported in March have not been repaired; Laura will follow-up again.

**Water/Sewer (TMA)** The Towanda Water Authority tore open a paved stretch of Berwick (laterally and crossing the road) with no prior notice to the Borough and no indication of when they will finalize work. There was discussion regarding requiring a “permit” in advance of planned work; and the condition left after tearing up pavement. The current damage they left behind will require followup.

**Finance & Insurance:** Laura needs to contact the Caplinger's for a Certificate fo Insurance from “By the Bridge.” All but one “Statement of Financial Interests” are now on file.

**EMC:** no report

**Mayor Seth** Welcomed Tim Kerrick to the Borough Council.

**New/Other Business:** Laura was directed to contact Chris Jones to inquire if he would consider acting as **Borough Solicitor**, and to find out the cost.

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

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Respectfully submitted by Laura H Hewitt, Borough Secretary