

WEB COPY MONROE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 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, Council members Bill Shaw, Leo Wills, Eric West and Mayor Seth Wills. Council members Brenda Munkittrick and Tim Kerrick were absent. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer Laura Hewitt, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Kurt Lafy, Borough Maintenance and Roadmaster Al Pronti, plus members of the public (listed on sign-in sheet.)

Minutes from the June 3, 2024 meeting were passed unanimously by a Shaw/Wills motion.

The **treasurer's report** for June was approved, with a Wills/West motion to pay bills as presented plus approval for a July reimbursement for hay to be made to Al. Timesheets were taken by Joan for review; bank statements were not available in time to reconcile this month. Budget vs Actual reports were delivered to Joan and Dan.

Correspondence: In addition to the monthly PSAB Borough News, there was a request from the State Attorney General's office for confirmation that we no longer have an active police department. Laura will draft and sign. The 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report from PA DEP for Towanda Municipal Authority was received and posted on the Library Entry Bulletin Board.

Public Participation: In response to last month's inquiry, Laura confirmed the borough is automatically included in **black fly spray program**, we do not need to request it every year. Spraying this year was scheduled for June 5th. John T inquired about the lack of publicizing the **'town garage sales'**, but the sales are organized by residents, not as a 'borough' event. Tammy H inquired about zoning for home businesses, if allowed for a **dog grooming trailer**. Kurt will research further. She also raised concerns about a **tree in the cemetery** that may fall on her house, with the cemetery organization noting they have insufficient funds to remove the tree. Is it in the borough right of way? Tim Kerrick will be asked for a price, to discuss further.

Borough Reports:

Library: the May report was distributed and is on file; no June is available. The County Library System has vacated the upstairs office space, and donated a desk, two chairs and computer monitors at Laura's request.

Fire: June Incident Report received from and presented by Chief Matt Walker.

Ordinance Enforcement: Kurt noted the penalties have been updated, and he is making final additions to the solar ordinance to send to the committee. There was also discussion about the frustration of enforcement with absentee landlords

Levee Project: The first of the remaining 8 easements has been completed; several of the properties have new owners and require additional outreach.

Streets: Al reported on progress on his work, highlighting drains being cleaned and stocking up on supplies. Chuck Swingle from Towanda Water Authority was working on

cleanup needed at **Berwick/Dalpia** streets in mid-June, but it remains a mess. There have been staff changes/shortages in Towanda; Eric West will follow-up with the Water Authority.

Al will deliver the **speed display sign pkgs** to Leo's house to work on mounting it on the trailer. Tim contacted D&R Steel to contract repairs for the **pipe under Berwick Drive**, progress is in the works.

Buildings/Grounds: Playground mulch has been spread, while still working around issues with the Mahindra tractor which needs a **master controller**. Blokzyl Heating was quick to respond on short notice to repair **library air conditioning**.

Regarding the **brick repointing**, all EMHR questions were resolved, the final contract was signed and sent on June 13. After Laura met with Commissioners on June 25, they agreed to provide \$60,000 in matching funds, voted at their June 27 regular meeting. Dan reported on his meeting with Jerry Gorski, who has a pool of contractors he can reach out to, and believes he can start work now instead of waiting for spring. A Wills/West motion was unanimously approved to contract with Gorski Engineering for their Construction Management Services, and to advertise bidding immediately.

A West/Wills motion was unanimously approved to hire Benish Surveying to have the new borough (Shaw Blvd) parcels surveyed and combined onto one deed. There may be a 3 month wait, but Trish Benish noted they will try to fit us in sooner.

Vandalism: nothing new reported

Public Utility: no reports.

Water/Sewer (TMA): Bill noted that meetings are now at noon instead of 5pm, Matt Akey is the new manager. The paved stretch of Berwick (laterally and crossing the road) torn open without prior notice by Towanda Water Authority remains unfinished; Eric West will follow-up as noted above.

Finance & Insurance: Laura will schedule a phone call with Trey Smith (Guthrie auditors) to review 2023 closing adjustments.

EMC: NIMS training attendance certificates have not yet been forwarded from the County office, but are available there.

Mayor Seth Wills: relayed complaints about bees in the library walls.

Other Business:

Broadband Ready Communities Program: a Wills/West motion was approved unanimously to pass Resolution 2024-03 applying to the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) for designation as a Broadband Ready Community.

New Borough Solicitor: Laura contacted Chris Jones' office, as Scott Pelling is resigning before the end of the year. Mr. Jones office reported back that he is unable to fit us into his schedule; Laura will continue outreach to other firms.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm by a Wills/West motion.

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Respectfully submitted by Laura H Hewitt, Borough Secretary