

WEBCOPY MONROE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – Sept. 9, 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 Tim Kerrick, Leo Wills, Eric West and Mayor Seth Wills. Council members Bill Shaw and Brenda Munkittrick were absent. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer Laura Hewitt, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Kurt Lafy, Borough Maintenance and Roadmaster Al Pronti, Monroe Hose Company Chief Matt Walker, plus members of the public (listed on sign-in sheet.)

Minutes from the August 5 2024 meeting were passed unanimously by a Wills/West motion.

The **treasurer's report** for August was approved, with a West/Grenell motion to pay bills as presented. Laura noted difficulty reaching Penelec's customer service, (over an hour to get a copy of the bill never received in the mail), so contacted the "Regional External Affairs Consultant" who suggested registering online "as a way to avoid customer service." August timesheets, bank statements and reconciliations were taken by Joan for review; budget vs actual reports were delivered to Joan and Dan.

Correspondence: Contribution requests were received from Heritage Village & Farm Museum and BSST Area Agency on Aging; Chesapeake sent an "Area of Review Landowner **Survey**" **regarding any legacy wells?** No one in attendance had information regarding "partially buried steel pipes, areas of subsidence, tanks, small diameter piping at the surface re: historical gathering systems...", a **Pipeline Safety Resources** and survey was received from Howard Energy; Office of Open Records (OOR) is hosting a "**Basics of the Right-to-Know Law**" **webinar**. Laura noted that keeping up to date with the many changes to municipal law are adding hours to the requirements of the job.

Public Participation: Judy asked about complaints regarding rats; there was discussion on how more have been seen this year everywhere, with no clear indication of cause/effect for the increase.

Borough Reports:

Library: received, included in packet.

Fire: The August Incident Report was received from and presented by Chief Matt Walter. He also noted an "Open House" will be held on Wednesday, October 9th.

Ordinance Enforcement: Kurt reported 26 new cases were opened last month, mostly regarding grass and weeds. He also gave an update on 362 James Monroe Ave. Leo noted a fallen tree on Wilcox Street, and requested Kurt to check into it. Judy Kerrick complained that Kurt did not phone her about the logs on the Howard property, noting they are for their home heating and were moved to higher ground in advance of forecasted heavy rains. Because of possible conflicts between an ordinance regarding potential rodent harborage (wood piles) vs the established past precedence of using wood for home heating, Council will review the ordinances.

Levee Project: One more easement has been signed; Laura is continuing to move forward on 3 others. Questions were sent to DEP regarding one parcel that was split, with dig locations now on both of the separate parcels.

Streets: Al gave an update on work in progress; he had replaced one street sign before we were notified of a County program to replace damaged, worn or missing **road name signs**. He will compile a list to order the signs through the County. The trailer for the **speed display sign** has been assembled; Al will work with Leo to wire the light. A platform & pole is still needed, along with trailer jacks.

Buildings/Grounds: Endless Mountains Heritage Region is holding their annual meeting on Oct 2, and has requested a representative from the Borough to provide a 5 minute update on the **brick pointing** project at that meeting. Leo and Seth Wills will attend. MAC builders response to Jerry Gorski was late, did not follow bidding guidelines, and remains way over budget. Other contractors have expressed interest if we rebid this fall for spring work. We will advertise before the end of September, with a prebid meeting in October.

Selective provided payment to cover the Borough's hours to remove the tree debris from July's **storm damage**, and to replace the swingset and basketball backboard, based on their 'best' estimates. A Wills/Grenell motion passed unanimously for Al and Laura to purchase replacements at a cost not to exceed \$6,000. Selective may make revisions if our estimates come in higher. Tim Kerrick provided a proposal for additional tree removal; a Wills/West vote was passed to accept Tim's estimate of \$2,500 to remove the maple tree and clean up. (Tim Kerrick abstained from the vote.)

Bruce Benish is willing to meet on site at the **new borough (Shaw Blvd) parcels** to respond to questions regarding placement of the stakes. Dan will contact him to arrange a meeting date.

Vandalism: Laura was directed to renew the expired camera subscription.

Clean-up – Laura will advertise on Sept 28th for October 4th& 5th Fall Cleanup.

Public Utility: no outages reported.

Water/Sewer (TMA): There is still no progress on cleanup work needed due to damage left behind by Towanda Water Authority work at **Berwick/Dalpiaz**. Eric will follow up again.

Finance & Insurance: Joan reminded all present that our budget work will begin soon, with two meetings scheduled for October.

EMC: We still do not have the certificates for attending the January 9 NIMS training session; staff changes at the County Office have likely delayed that. Laura will check to be sure the County does have our attendance recorded,

Mayor Seth Wills: nothing additional to report.

Other Business:

The **office will be closed from Sept 18 through 25th**, and no messages will be checked until Thursday, September 26th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm by a West/Wills motion.

NOT OFFICIAL WITHOUT SECRETARY SIGNATURE AND BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted by Laura H Hewitt, Borough Secretary