

MONACA BOROUGH
Council Meeting Minutes
November 28th, 2023 at 7:00pm

The Budget and Council Meeting of the Monaca Borough Council was held on the above date and time in person & virtually via Zoom application. The Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Mrs. Majors-present-left meeting @ 7:29pm	Mr. Colville- present
Mr. Mitchell- absent	Mr. Yothers- present
Mr. J. Wilson- present	Mr. Michel- <i>present virtually</i>
Mr. LaPearle- present	Vice President Shotter- absent
Mr. Wilson- present	President Booher- present
Mayor Antoline- present	

Others Present

Dave L. Kramer, Jr.; Rich Urick, Esq.

Engineers Report: Borough Engineer Tony Sadaka gave his report. Solicitor Urick updated council on the letters that have been sent to Exchange Right (owners of CVS) that he states he has revised three times now and waiting on a response for the Right-of-way agreement. Tony goes on with his report.

Mr. D. Wilson asked Tony for clarification on the water tower and the electrical if he is aware that it keeps tripping. Tony said he is not aware, but Dan Sell might be. Jared McKay, Monaca Water Dept foreman, was virtually in attendance and spoke and said he talked to Dave Halama recently and he will be up to check on it. Tony had nothing further to report.

Visitors: None.

Minutes- Mrs. Majors **motioned** to approve the regular Council Meeting Minutes of November 14th, 2023. Second by Mr. D. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. D. Wilson **motioned** to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes of November 21st, 2023. Second by Mr. J. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

Fiscal and Contractual- Mr. Colville **motioned** to approve the monthly bills. Second by Mr. Yothers. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications: None

Manager Report- Mr. Kramer gave his report. He began by bringing up the recent fence variance request from resident Shane Fabian located at 1120 Atlantic Avenue and that council was leaning towards denying this, but nothing was officially said at the meeting. Pres. Booher reiterated his hardship that his daughter has epilepsy, and they are in the process of having their dog trained to be a service dog. Mr. Kramer said to have a service dog you have to have a 6-foot fence. Pres. Booher explained that VP Shotter researched and said he has a back entrance and wouldn't need that 6-foot fence. Mr. Kramer said Shane also gave the option if he could make a 4-foot fence, with a 2-foot truss. Council discussed the ordinance and what they felt was right to do. Pres. Booher said a decision can be made at the next council meeting and to add it to the agenda. Next, Mr. Kramer then touched base on the Civic Center plans. He gave the four options that was given to him by the designer. He said he will email council these options. He explained the options and their costs for each.

>>**Mr. D. Wilson motioned to stop the meeting at 7:29pm.** Second by Mr. Colville. Motion carried unanimously.

>>**Mr. LaPearle motioned to resume the meeting at 8:02pm.** Second by Mr. D. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

Civic Center discussion continued: Mr. D. Wilson continued by asking Mr. Kramer to provide more in depth details about the options given for Civic Center. Mr. Kramer elaborated; council discussed. **Streetscape:** Next, he brought up Streetscape saying he had passed some notes onto SGA which they are now working on. The most expensive part of Streetscape is the lighting and laying of the brick, which is labor intensive. He states next week he will have more info on streetscape and more concrete numbers on the civic center building costs for each option. Mr. D. Wilson said what is the borough's next ask. Mr. Kramer said to re-advertise for the bid for Streetscape. Mr. D. Wilson asked about the civic center as well. Mr. Kramer said, he will ask for costs of the following options 1, 2, 3 and 4 and let council know once he knows more. Funding was briefly discussed and what they would like the cost to be for Streetscape. Mr. D. Wilson said they have 3.3 million in grants. They need to make the decision before they lose the 3.3 million. Pres. Booher said SGA

needs to make the most obvious changes to get the cost of Streetscape down, it then needs to go out for bid, and then aim for the lowest bid. **LSA Grant:** Next, Mr. Kramer said in tonight's meeting under new business there is a motion to adopt the Resolution for Streetscape allowing him to ask for the money. After approval, he can hit submit for this grant with the Resolution attached. **Dump Truck:** he mentioned they just signed a five-year lease for the new dump truck. This Saturday is the Borough's Hometown Christmas and everything is moving forward. The parade is coming together and everyone is doing a great job and they are excited for the day. Last three days he's received calls from three different municipalities what to do with new tax assessment and how to go about getting the new rate/millage. He thanked Solicitor Urick for being on top of it and that Monaca is well ahead of the game. **Cemetery:** Lastly, Mrs. Majors got notification that the Baker Baldwin Cemetery has been designated as a historical land site. She raised funds to get a fence put up and took the kids down there to get this area cleaned. There will be a ceremony and she'll keep us posted. Mr. Michel asked if Mr. Kramer will let the Legion know about the cemetery. Mr. Kramer said he will.

Borough Solicitors Report- Solicitor Urick gave his report. He explained once more about the Ordinances to be adopted tonight and the ones for the final Real Estate and Fire Tax Ordinances to be adopted later in December. He explained the final millage rate. Last, in a recent court case it was decided a week ago that there is a statute on what is to be on council meeting agenda's and what you can and cannot act on. As of now, if it's not on your agenda, you cannot act on it. News is, they are saying if you must act on an item, to possibly post a new agenda on the front door and at the following meeting make sure it is brought up and on that agenda. Solicitor Urick says he feels if you have a real emergent matter, act on it and show this on the next meeting agenda that you acted on it. He said as of now, nothing was decided yet but wanted to let council know.

New Business:

1. Mr. Colville **motioned** to adopt Ordinance No. 989; Beekeeping. Second by Mr. D. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Mr. D. Wilson **motioned** to authorize Borough Solicitor to advertise **final** Real Estate Tax Ordinance. Second by Mr. J. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Mr. D. Wilson **motioned** to authorize Borough Solicitor to advertise **final** Fire Tax Ordinance. Second by Mr. Yothers. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Mr. LaPearle **motioned** to adopt Resolution No. 9-23- Streetscape Grant. Second by Mr. Colville. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kramer said circling back with CJ Mangin. He did have a talk with the Daycare to let them know it was discussed they may put this building out to bid. He did tell them; this could happen in 3 months or 3 years. It is on the table. In that same sitting, the heat went out. They had to close for the day. It is fixed now, but he will give them a discount on that day they had to shut down. Daryn was there and watched Guys Mechanical fix this. So he now knows how to do this for the future. He couldn't talk to Library as they were not in yet but has talked with Mr. LaPearle, Library rep about this. He will make a point to talk to the library. The building still needs appraised, too. President Booher added they signed the loan papers today for the dump truck and tomorrow the truck will be delivered.

Citizens: None

Announcements: Mr. LaPearle read the following announcements: Fall Leaf Collection-last week for pick up is December 4th. Thurs. Nov 30th- COG Christmas Social at Frank G's Place from 6-9pm. Sat. December 2nd -Hometown Christmas Celebration, 5-7:30pm. Parade begins at 5pm marching from St Johns down to the borough building where festivities will take place; lighting of the town Christmas Tree will take place after the parade at the plaza. Santa Cops Program has begun. Donations and nominations can be submitted at the borough office. Donations and unwrapped toys can also be brought to Hometown Christmas.

Executive Session: Mr. Colville **motioned** to go into Executive Session under Real Estate, Legal & Personnel at 8:36pm. Second by Mr. J. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.
Mr. Michel **motioned** to come out of Executive Session at 8:50pm. Second by Mr. D. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.
Mr. LaPearle **motioned** to resume the Public Meeting at 8:50pm. Second by Mr. Colville. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Mr. Colville **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 8:51p.m. Second by Mr. LaPearle. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Bologna, Secretary