

MONACA BOROUGH
Council Meeting Minutes
March 26th, 2024 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	Mr. Colville- present
Mr. Mitchell- present	Mr. Yothers- present
Mr. J. Wilson- present	Mr. Michel- absent
Mr. LaPearle- present	Vice President Shotter- absent
Mr. Wilson- present	President Booher- present
Mayor Antoline- absent	

Others Present

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

Engineers Report: Borough Engineer Tony Sadaka gave his report. Mr. Kramer also added the updated Street paving list. He included the eliminated roads and the reasoning behind each. Washington Plaza, Alexander & Elm Street were eliminated. Pres. Booher stated the borough doesn't just pave a road to pave it. He said the waterline & sewer line must be good underneath. Mr. Colville asked what roads are left over from the 2023 program. Mr. Kramer said the three leftover from 2023 are 14th Street, Beech, and Bechtel to Marshall to Kazar that the gas company will be doing. Mr. Colville said he's a fan of tar and chip and for future not to do tar and chip over a bad road. Mr. D. Wilson said even the newer roads that have "spider'd" can easily be tarred and chipped. Solicitor Urick said he had good news. Today he received the signed ROW agreement from Exchange Right on the 9th Street Project. This took a while, but he finally got it and will get all documents over to Tony as soon as possible. Tony had nothing further to report.

Visitors: None

Attendees:

1. Mr. Kramer introduced **Marty Shafer from PA Department of Labor and Industry/Office of Vocational Rehabilitation**. Marty came up to the podium and introduced himself. He works with a program called "My Work" and he is based in New Castle area. The intent of the program is to help students with disabilities to work at municipalities to gain work experience. These students are fairly independent and highly functioning. The program is normally 8 weeks and they will work 24 hours a week. Marty said he handles the program in Beaver County. They place four kids in each site with a site supervisor always works with them. The only thing the organization needs from the municipality is the work to do. These students can do mostly everything except heavy lifting. They also have their own transportation to get from "A" to "B". My Work also pays the students' wages, so the municipality doesn't pay a thing. They do bring their own food/drink as well. Liability falls on BCRC, which "My Work" also pays. If Monaca decides to partner with them, they will get Central Valley students. Mr. D. Wilson asked if they have their own uniforms. Marty said whatever the borough requires them to wear, they will purchase, and they buy all their own supplies. Mr. D. Wilson asked if My Work can provide a list of tasks the kids can do so the borough can be aware. Solicitor Urick asked what the minimum age is. Marty said applications go in at age 14, but because of the wait list, they don't start working until about 15-16 years of age so around 10th Grade and on. Solicitor Urick also asked if they need physical exams. Marty said no. Solicitor Urick asked if they have liability insurance and workers compensation. Marty said they do have both and are through the BCRC program. Lastly, Solicitor Urick asked if they had some kind of written agreement. Marty said no, but he could get one through BCRC. There were no further questions, and Pres. Booher thanked Marty for coming.

2. **Laura Rubino** was in attendance on behalf of the St. Vincent Church in Monaca. She is requesting a memorial tree be planted at Antoline Park in memory of Judith Butchky. She will front the costs but needed some direction of approval. Mr. Kramer said she may do so and to get in touch with himself and Angel, park director as to where it will be placed in the park, he does have three other requests.

Communications: None

Minutes- Mrs. Majors **motioned** to approve the regular Council Meeting Minutes of March 12th, 2024. Second by Mr. J. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Manager Report- Mr. Kramer gave his report: He met with Ed Becker last week who brought up downtown parking signs. He had an idea and stated he would purchase banners or some kind of signage for the borough to place signs up in all borough owned parking lots to allow public to see where they are allowed to park. Mr. Kramer said as of right now there is no signs for Washington Plaza, 12th Street or next to the draft house. Mr. Colville said due to Streetscape project, he would like to revisit this once streetscape is completed to better understand the layout and what they are working with. Mrs. Majors agreed and said she would hate to spend all this money on Streetscape then put up all these signs making it look tacky again. Council all agreed to revisit after project has been completed. Mr. Kramer also added he can certainly put a map on the Borough website to show residents where to park, and to let them know the borough does have yearly parking permits, that currently only 2 people utilize every year. Again, not a lot of people know we have those unless they call or ask, so we will post this on the website/mobile app. Next, he received a call from Penn Dot for ADA curb ramp project that will be underway in about 2 weeks. He will follow up to see direction on this. He currently went to a downtown business meeting regarding the County trying to revitalize the riverfront towns. They meet once a quarter. The county is partnering and trying to find ways to help the riverfront towns. Hearing what they are doing is great and encouraging. Next, he will be applying for another grant for this current building for renovations. Kevin Turkall is finalizing the grant for \$2 million dollars to go toward the current Borough building. Mr. Kramer did confirm he is still waiting to hear back from the other grant submittals in the total amount of \$4.4million dollars. Streetscape contract is in Bronders hands now. Up next will be the preconstruction meeting and will keep all posted on that date. They have already started ordering materials for this project, so this is moving forward. He has a meeting with Penn Dot tomorrow regarding bridge work and 17th Street work and detour. Follow up with Mayor of Kingstown, they are filming on the Beaver Rochester bridge, however they may film another seen at the Monaca-Rochester bridge. He gave them construction company's contact info. H did have a meeting today regarding pension, and he will circle back on this as well. He had nothing further to report.

Mr. D. Wilson asked about grants for library. Mr. Kramer said the borough did not apply for that grant, the library did. They applied for handicap accessible updates to the library. Mr. LaPearle said they are doing updates and anything that they update can be moved. There were no further questions.

Borough Solicitors Report- Solicitor Urick gave his report. Mr. Kramer contacted him about county addresses in some of the downtown area's out of sequence. The post office is correct, but the county office is not. The was in touch with the county assessment office and asked them to do the research for that and for the 911 center to get those changed and have them listed in sequential order as it should be. Former Monaca graduates want to update- Dave has been in touch with School to get a copy of previous title search, and to set up a meeting with other items as they come about. Still need to hear form the school on the Beech Street properties to get resolutions passed. The rest of his items will be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Kramer said on everyone's desk tonight is a Certification of Compliance CDBG application. Nick worked on this and put it on everyone's desk so they can sign in blue pen, agreeing they have no conflict of interest. The borough will be applying for a grant to tear down three borough owned properties.

New Business:

1. Simon Short, President of Monaca CDC, was in attendance to ask Council's permission to use the downtown area to conduct a 5K race the weekend of Community Day this June. He did say pending how the traffic goes due to bridge closure, he would do this on the back streets beginning at 8:30am. He will have a map of the route once he figures out how the route of the detour goes. Mr. D. Wilson **motioned** to approve Community Day 5K Race/downtown Monaca. Second by Mr. Yothers. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Mr. Kramer mentioned in the last Engineers meeting, Larson Design rep was in attendance to explain to the members a Lead Service line system for Jared to use for recording the residents' copper and lead lines in the entirety of the borough. This report needs sent to the D.E.P. He states this company can help better manage and collect this lead service data. Larson Design will create a GIS application to support the DEP report for Jared. Mr. Kramer said due to not having all the information though at this time, he would like to table this until he has more to provide. Mr. D. Wilson **motioned** to table Larson Design Lead Service Line proposal in the amount of \$7,040.00. Second by Mr. Colville. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens:

1. **Kevin Battisti, 924 Indiana Avenue, Monaca**, was in attendance to let it be known that he and his daughter go to the public library often, and while they enjoy this, there is an individual person, perhaps homeless, that stands outside the building often, using the libraries WiFi. This individual has been known to harass neighbors in the area. He asked if something could be done, or maybe have the library turn the WiFi off during non-operational hours. Mr. Kramer said he will investigate this. Next, Kevin said how nice the Monaca Parade event was for St. Patrick's Day. The bounce house was a hit with his family, but he did inquire about one of the vendors at this event. One was a cigar business, but not the one from downtown Monaca, it was a different one. He said he would like to see our own businesses at these events. Mr. Kramer said the businesses in town are always welcome to participate in any event. Pres. Booher said the same. Mrs. Majors added they cannot force these businesses to join in.
2. **David Renner, 1251 Allaire Avenue, Monaca**, was in attendance asking council and the borough manager to please service his alley behind Allaire/Ohio Avenue. He said its been over 10 years since it's been looked at. He also reminded them of a legal dispute that once took place in that area regarding that alley and during that time, only gravel was put down to cover potholes. He asked if more could be done. Pres. Booher remembered the issue in the past. Mr. Kramer said he will get our Road department up there to look at his alley.

Announcements: Mr. D. Wilson gave the following announcement. Friday, March 29th the Borough office will be closed for Good Friday. Saturday, March 30th, Monaca Borough Annual Easter Egg hunt held at Antoline Park, beginning at 1:00pm. April 1st, Spring Leaf collection program begins. Biodegradable bags can be purchased at the borough office. Pick up every Monday in the month of April. April 27th, Bulk Item & Electronic Collection Day. Bulk Items/yard waste will be collected at the Borough Road Garage, 900 Taylor Ave from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Electronics will be collected at Antoline Park from the same time, 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Executive Session: Mrs. Majors **motioned** to go into Executive Session under Legal & Real Estate at 8:19pm. Second by Mr. Colville. Motion carried unanimously.
Mrs. Majors **motioned** to come out of Executive Session at 8:49pm. Second by Mr. Colville. Motion carried unanimously.
Mr. D. Wilson **motioned** to resume the Public Meeting at 8:50pm. Second by Mr. Yothers. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Mr. Colville **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 8:50p.m. Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Bologna, Secretary