

**MONACA BOROUGH**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at 7:00pm**

The 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 @7:17pm	Ken McLaughlin- present
Mr. Mitchell- present	Mr. Yothers- present
Mr. J. Wilson- present	Mr. Michel- present
Mr. LaPearle- present	Vice President Shotter- present
Mr. D. Wilson- present @ 7:23pm	President Booher- present
Mayor Antoline -present	

**Others Present**

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

**Engineers Report:** Mr. Tony Sadaka of Widmer Engineer gave his report. He first stated he had a proposal for the WWTP fence to put a concrete barrier plate in place of the fence, then place the fence above it. He will get this design to council. This will provide safety for that area. Pres. Booher & Mr. Kramer asked Tony if they could use the stones that are on WWTP property. Tony said that may be a liability, and may not just be able to put rock, people could sue. Next, he said they had one bidder for the Monaca Water Disinfection System Replacement. He gave his recommendation that the bid came in too high over \$300,000, which Tony had implemented a cost of \$110,000. He thinks that number was just thrown out there and would not recommend this bid. Pres. Booher suggests possibly purchasing the materials themselves, then put out to bid for the contractors to do the work. Tony agreed and said that way the contractors can go right to work and not have to wait around for materials that may take a year to get. Tony went on with his report.

**Visitors:** None

**Communications:** None

**Minutes-** Mr. McLaughlin **motioned** to approve **Council Meeting Minutes** of August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Second by Mr. Yothers. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Manager Report-**Mr. Kramer gave his report. He reiterated they have been scheduling monthly engineers' meetings which have been helpful planning upcoming projects. He made a call to Youngblood paving today; they should be calling back tomorrow to get a definite start date for the borough's paving project. He mentioned a meeting still needs set up with Stoelzle & CVS for upcoming projects. He then gave a recap of last Tuesday's trip with Pres. Booher, VP Shotter, and Councilman Yothers. They visited Penn Hills and Plum Borough, both of which were designed by Design Stream who is design our borough building as well. Going out and seeing the sites, they did get a lot out of it. Plum is still under construction. Once they saw each of the structures, it answered a lot of questions they had in our design. VP Shotter said the big take away he got from the visit was don't be short sided in decisions, design for the future, not for today. Strategically consider in the future if the borough is going to add any headcounts to the departments. He gave examples of Plum Borough Council's decisions to save money that they regretted after the fact. He has a page full of notes, lessons learned from these municipalities that he will share to council. VP Shotter explained some of the pros and cons moving forward as they continue to design the new civic center. Council posed some questions and concerns. Mr. Kramer also shared each departments requests in seeing the current design/layout of the building. Mr. Kramer discussed grant funds available for the Civic Center and suggested going after the next round of RACP for upcoming projects. During all of this, he made it known that he would like to send a press release soon to give accolades to Representative Rob Matzie for all his support and the help he's given the borough toward receiving grant funding. He's been backing the Borough from day one and Mr. Kramer wants to give him the proper kudos that he deserves. Lastly, he is still working on getting a truck for the Water Department. Most companies are sending prices on used vehicles. Most are certified "new" but they are not COSTARS. Pres. Booher reiterated for the new council members that once you buy a used vehicle, when you go to put it out for bid it just doesn't work out, being used. He announced to the council members in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward they may be getting calls for work being done on Speyer Avenue. They milled a lot of it out and did some patch work today. Mr. Kramer had nothing further to report.

**Borough Solicitors Report-** Solicitor Urick gave his report. He will be meeting with Tony and members of council to discuss some engineering and possible legal consequences. He then announced several weeks ago, the governors found a new bill that relates to what tax collectors can do moving forward. Legislation requires boroughs to allow for individuals to waive any kind of late fees because of tax statements that went unpaid in which they said they never received. If individuals never received a tax statement, they now must fill out an affidavit, answer questions by a form that will be supplied by DCED very soon. The tax collector is then able to waive extra fees, and taxpayer would have to pay face value. Council is to adopt a Resolution authorizing the tax collector to do this. He'll have this ready for the next council meeting. Mr. D. Wilson asked if the school board must do this. Solicitor Urick said the school board will and they will do their own. VP Shotter asked if this was an option. Solicitor said no and confirmed for Mr. D. Wilson that it is only for Real-estate taxes. >Pres. Booher added a comment for items number 3 and 4 under New Business explaining the two payments to Iron City Construction for the 11<sup>th</sup> Street storm sewer project. Prior to this meeting, in speaking with Tony and Solicitor Urick they recommend the borough pays. He explained the extra work was completed by Iron City but done wrong in a business sense. The request for the extra work should have gone back to the Engineers which they would have then given the borough a recommendation and given a change order. The \$18,662.40 payment should have been giving to the Borough in a change order form and was not. But he reiterates the engineers and solicitor recommend they just pay this. Mr. Michel asked about the work that was done. Pres. Booher and Mr. Kramer confirmed the ditch went wider than what they needed, in turn made paving more expensive, so the change order was in the paving. Solicitor Urick confirmed his decision and both he and the engineers suggest making this payment.

**Water Department Report:** Jared McKay gave his report for the past month. He explained Stoelzle Glasses meter getting tested soon. Mr. D. Wilson asked if Stoelzle was aware they are going to cover the cost. Mr. Kramer confirmed they requested the meter get tested and they are aware Stoelzle is going to cover the cost. Jared continued his monthly report. Mr. D. Wilson asked when hydrants were ordered. Jared said it's been nine months and they haven't received them yet. VP Shotter asked for future projects in the coming year, could he identify whether it be hydrants, parts, etc., they order now since it's taking this long to receive these. Jared recommended ordering hydrants now for next year. He had nothing further to report.

**New Business:**

1. VP Shotter **motioned** to reject lowest bid for Monaca Water Disinfection System Replacement project located at the Water pumphouse. Second by Mr. LaPearle. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Mr. D. Wilson **motioned** to approve Monaca Borough to allocate \$50,000 to Monaca CDC for Façade Improvement Grant Project. Second by Mr. Michel. Does there need to be a second motion later approving the application process. Pres. Booher said they are just motioning tonight on this portion. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Mrs. Majors **motioned** to approve payment #2 to Iron City Construction, Inc. for the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Storm Sewer Extension project in the amount of \$18,662.40. Second by Mr. Yothers. Motion carries 9-1. (No, 1, VP Shotter).
4. Mr. J. Wilson **motioned** to approve final payment #3 to Iron City Construction, Inc. for the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Storm Sewer Extension project in the amount of \$8,841.00. Second by Mr. Yothers. Mayor Antoline asked Tony if everything is ok with this payment. Tony confirmed yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Citizens:** None

**Announcements:** Mr. J. Wilson read the following announcements: Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>- Monaca CDC Friday Concert Series at Washington Plaza from 6-9PM, featuring Guaracha - Latin Dance Band. Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> the Borough office will be closed in observance of Labor Day. Garbage collection is scheduled for Tuesday & Wednesday that week. Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> is Food Truck Thursday at Washington Plaza from 4:00PM-7:00PM.

**Executive Session:** VP Shotter **motioned** to enter Executive Session at 7:44pm for Personnel & Legal. Second by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.

VP Shotter **motioned** to come out of Executive Session at 8:59pm. Second by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.

VP Shotter **motioned** to resume the Public Meeting at 9:00pm. Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, VP Shotter **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 9:01p.m. Second by Mr. Yothers. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Bologna, Secretary