

MONACA BOROUGH
Council Meeting Minutes
June 9th, 2021 at 7:00pm

The Regular Meeting of the Monaca Borough Council was held on the above date and time. The Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Mrs. Majors-present	Mr. McLaughlin- present
Mr. Mitchell- present	Mr. Blanarik- present
(Vacant)	Mr. Michel- present
Mr. LaPearle- present	Vice President Shotter- present
Mr. Wilson- present	President Booher- present
Mayor Simon D. Short-present	

Others Present

David L. Kramer, Jr. & Rich Urick, Esq.

Visitors: None

Communications: Borough Manager Mr. Kramer

Minutes: Mrs. Majors **motioned** to approve Council meeting minutes of **May 25th, 2021**. Second by Mr. Blanarik. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McLaughlin **motioned** to approve Workshop Meeting Minutes of **June 1st, 2021**. Second by Mr. LaPearle. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mayors Report- the Honorable Mayor Short gave his report for the Month of May 2021.

Citations and Parking Tickets: **194**

Criminal Arrests: **17**

Call For Service: **504**

Total Miles patrolled: **3,132 miles**

>Mayor Short was excused from the meeting at 7:05pm

Managers' Report: Mr. Kramer gave his report. He touched base on Waterline Project and Pacific Avenue is coming along. Appointment tomorrow morning with Columbia gas. Day or 2 to get across 12th Street. Stefanki's will begin Monday for Phase 1 due to delay in getting materials. Phase II, Dan Sell from Widmer reached out and said they have a bidder that has some questions with the package and asked to delay bid opening a week. They have a few more bids then they thought they would have. Mrs. Majors asked if the yellow flags are a part of Phase 1. Mr. Kramer & Jake Iorio (road foreman) said the yellow lines are Gas Company. She asked if flower beds or islands are going to be ripped out. He's not sure and discussed Gas company's plans that he's aware of so far. He also touched base on how Stefanik's does their work and they shouldn't have to rip out the islands. She stressed how much money is put into the islands from donors/volunteers. Mr. Wilson suggested to save the plants they should probably take them all out and pot them just to be safe. Jake said no need and he will just keep in touch with Stefanik as they go and let them know if they need taken out or not. Mr. Kramer touched base on the American Rescue Plan and the portion of the funds that will be distributed to the borough. Next, he talked about the county's meeting regarding the \$1.5 million dollar HUD funding that no longer is promised to the Borough. He spoke to Marlene from the county who is trying to find other ways on the County level to redirect the funds from somewhere else. They are not promising a number, but they will be able to help out. Connor Lamb's office is also looking in to what went wrong. Civic Center building: he is going to get bids at current building to restore it (HVAC unit, carpeting, etc). He wants to see what the best route to go. He touched base again on Jim Ross's resignation, end date June 25th, 2021. He received everything he needed from new Day care owner, Abby Bernard came back and everything including credit check looks excellent. He confirmed rent price is the same as it's been. Audit is still underway and once completed they will sit down with Pres. Booher and himself.

Solicitors Report: Solicitor Urick gave his report. Once approved tonight, he will advertise the Ordinance to amend the Police pension plan. Next, he mentioned that he sees the fireman's MOU with the borough is on tonight's agenda to motion, good conclusion to a long drawn out matter. He will forward Mr. Kramer Rural Pennsylvania Water Authorities Association. They are commenting on a piece of legislation that is before the PA Senate. He explains this will require water service provider, sewer, and so on to do a comprehensive study of its system set forth in a planned document. Certain benchmarks for inspecting main water lines, aging waterlines and so on, removing lead pipe from the main line into an individual property. He states Pennsylvania Avenue is an issue currently. Also they mentioned getting main valves in critical places and exercise those valves on a set schedule and reporting that to the state on a recurring basis. Ultimately, if you are bound to be in violation three times, you will immediately become subject control by the PUC. He stated if this passes, it could be a good thing, but also be a financial hardship to the communities. Pres. Booher reiterated they had already bought a valve turner machine, so they are ahead of the game. He mentioned Mr. Kramer implemented this year to start doing it on a yearly basis. Council discussed. Solicitor Urick reiterated this is just in the Senate right now and hasn't been sent to the House yet. Mr. Michel asked if the DEP is involved. Solicitor said no, this is up for vote in the Senate of PA. There was nothing further to report.

Department Report – Curt DiGiovine, WWTP Supervisor was in attendance and gave the May 2021 report. He did explain to the audience that due to excessive amounts of rain, an "act of God", this is the reason they were in violation that month and nothing can do about it except notify the DEP, which he has done. Mr. Michel thanked Curt for the explanation. Mr. Wilson also thanked Mike Castronovo and Todd Haller for all their hard work.

Ordinance Review Committee Report- VP Shotter stated he now has several ordinances he is working on. The first is to legally bring dogs back into the parks. Second, street opening ordinance may need amended. He stated the one they recently passed may have had some details overlooked that would help with some of the issues at hand. Lastly, there has been some issues with outdoor dining in the business district.

Monaca Recreation Report- Mr. Blanakrik gave a brief summary of their last Rec Board meeting. He updated council on Community Days and that all is going accordingly while in the planning stages.

President Booher asked Brittany moving forward to include Monaca Library Report to the agenda. Mr. LaPearle then gave a recap on the last Library meeting he attended.

Monaca Library Report- Mr. LaPearle gave his report. He stressed concerns that the Library had. They request designated spots outside the building specific for Library only. They also request if the elevator can be used only for Library. Lastly, they asked if the front door could be repaired or looked at least. Mr. Wilson asked if they could possibly write a grant for the front door.

New Business:

1. Mr. Michel **motioned** to authorize Borough Solicitor to advertise Ordinance No 976, amending the Police Pension Plan. Second by Mr. Blanakrik. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Mrs. Majors **motioned** to adopt Resolution No. 4-21 Authorizing to accept MOU and Fire Services agreement between the Borough of Monaca and the three departments comprising Monaca Fire. Second by VP Shotter.
Motion carried 8-1, Mr. Blanakrik No.
3. Mr. Wilson **motioned** to approve Ball Furniture Outlet to host the 10th Annual Catfish Masters Tournament – use of Pumphouse/Boat Launch. Second by Mr. LaPearle. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **(4.) a.)** Mr. Wilson **motioned** to accept resignation of Sherri Webber from Library board. Second by Mr. LaPearle. Motion carried unanimously.
(4.) b.) Mr. Mitchell **motioned** to appoint Judy Scassa to the Library Board, with a term ending December 31st, 2021. Second by VP Shotter. Motion carried unanimously
5. Mr. Wilson **motioned to table** to advertise for full-time Laborer for Public Works Department until after Jimmy Ross's last day of work. Second by Mr. LaPearle. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Mr. Wilson **motioned** to accept resignation of Public works full time laborer James Ross, Jr. Second by Mr. Mitchell. Pres. Booher asked the audience three times if they had any questions regarding the new motion. There were none. Motion carried unanimously.

7. VP Shotter motioned to authorize Solicitor Urick to draw up a contract for the day care at CJ Mangin. Second by Mr. Michel. Pres. Booher asked the audience three times if they had any questions regarding the new motion. There were none. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens:

- 1.) **Anthony Santilli- 1050 Linden Street, Monaca**, was in attendance to provide council with three issues. The first issue being he asked about 3-4 weeks ago that the alley behind his house be looked at for high grass, weeds. Next, the rental house at 1041 Elm Street next to his had put up a fence. He knows they have a permit but they need to know they have to maintain the other side of the fence as well as the inside. Lastly, he stressed that the house beside him, 1037 Elm, is an eye sore, fire hazard with the high grass/weeds. He said it's a nuisance with rats, mice, raccoons and he goes on how this property looks. Mr. Kramer said he knows Nick Vorrias, NSO, has been looking at these properties for a while and the issues but he himself, will be sure to take a look at the area tomorrow.
- 2.) **Bob Lubert-1053 Elm Street, Monaca**, was in attendance to stress his concern about his road issues. He mentioned they have a pothole that fill ups with water if it rains or turns to ice when it snows on cold days. He asked why his road keeps getting missed and if it could be paved. He also stressed concern with neighbors and high grass. Mr. Kramer said they will take a look at road tomorrow and they have informed him the neighbors have been notified by NSO officer and he trace back and check status on high grass issue with Nick Vorrias, NSO.
- 3.) **Angel Zampogne-1266 Eckert Road, Monaca**, was in attendance to let council know of a concern with Leaf Pest Control and who owns the flower box in front of their building to maintain. She made it known for years they have maintained the flower box on a condition of Leaf Pest control providing a water buffalo. But, for years, they do not see or know where the water buffalo is. She mentioned Theo Polce doing this for years and Mrs. Majors also stressed that she had maintained this flower box as well in the past. Angel wanted to know who owns this, the borough of leaf pest control. VP Shotter said Leaf owns the box, not the Borough. Angel said the borough office gets phone calls every year to ask the "happy weeders" such as herself to maintain it when it gets overgrown. She does not appreciate this and thinks it's the owner's responsibility to maintain it due to the fact that they do not provide the water buffalo to them any longer. Council discussed and told her it's not their responsibility anymore and it is the owners. Angel also stressed some concerns with Antoline Park and insisted the members of council take a walk with her through the park soon to see the problem areas that need addressed. She thanked Mr. Kramer for walking the park with her before the rental season began this year. Pres. Booher and council thanked Angel for all that she does around town and for maintaining the park as well.

Announcements: Mr. Blanarik read the announcements: June 11th—Monaca Friday Concert Series is back. Live music located at Washington Plaza featuring Charlie Barath from 6-9pm, sponsored by the Monaca CDC. June 26th- Monaca Mad Dash 5K Run/Walk at Antoline Park. Registration will begin at 7:45A.M. Race will begin at 9:00A.M. June 26th, Monaca Community Day event, new times are from 5pm to 10pm, located on Atlantic Ave by the Pump house. Fireworks will display at 9:45pm sponsored by the Beaver County Boom. Added to the announcement, YMCA "Y on the Fly" summer program starting June 14th Monday through Friday, locations Washington Ave Basketball court and Antoline Park, meals are included.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Michel **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm. Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Bologna, Secretary