

MONACA BOROUGH
Virtual
Workshop Meeting Minutes
March 16th, 2021 at 7:02pm

The Work Shop Meeting of the Monaca Borough Council was held on the above date and time via Zoom communication remote application. 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- absent
(vacant)	Mr. Michel- present
Mr. LaPearle- absent	Vice President Shotter- present
Mr. Wilson- present	President Booher- present

Others Present

Mayor Short; David L. Kramer, Jr.;

Visitors: None

List of Attendees: Michael Pehur (TIF representative) with Duane Morris Government Strategies was present to update council on the tax increment financing of the Monaca Gateway project. He pulled up a presentation of the overview and first defined a tax increment financing which is an economic development tool that allows for the financing of public infrastructure and other improvements within a specified boundary. Mr. Wilson asked, during the presentation, if all three entities, Borough, County & School board, been on board yet and approved this. Mr. Pehur said back in 2018, all three entities approved resolutions to develop the TIF. Mr. Wilson understands volume of taxes from the Borough will be the lowest. Mr. Pehur said overall, the feasibility of the TIF is dependent upon the School Districts participation. Mr. Pehur then went over the graph that shows the break out of the tax revenue. More questions were asked. Mr. Pehur said overall, if the school district does not approve this makes it very challenging. Pres. Booher asked if the amount of the School District could be lowered to the amount of the Borough. Proposed rates were discussed. Mr. Pehur

Manager's Update: Mr. Kramer gave his report. 1.) He mentioned he would like to possibly sell the large rocks sitting down at the WWTP. He said they could put them on Municbid and see what they get instead of just sitting there. He stated the price range would be preferably \$5,000 up to \$10,000 dollars. Council discussed the rocks and the value of the rocks and where they came from. 2.) Mr. Kramer then gave a brief overview of the Monaca-Rochester Bridge Rehab that is going to occur in 2022. He gave the options and routes in which they would like Monaca to take during construction. Option A, full closure of bridge for one month and then open it back up for one month, then after that closed for two more weeks to finish project. Option B, Northbound lane would be maintained and the Southbound would be detoured for 7 months. He stated options A or B is what they need to decide. Council discussed the options. 3.) Mr. Kramer said one bid for the Vac Truck came in at \$10,000. Mr. Michel **motioned** to accept \$10,000 bid for the Vac Truck. Second by Mr. Wilson. President Booher asked the audience three times if they had questions regarding the motion. There were none. Motion carried unanimously. 4.) Lastly, he gave a recap of the 14th St Water Valve Replacement project. He thanked the downtown residents for their cooperation with water being shut off for the entire day, and he thanked the borough workers for a job well done. Mr. Kramer then said next on the valve replacement list is 16th Street, Penn Ave and 9th Street. President Booher also thanked the office staff and borough for their great team effort during the 14th Street project. Mayor Short asked if these particular spots that are being worked on could be added to the paving program. Mr. Kramer said he's hoping and has already been in contact with Tony Sadaka for this. Laterals are ready to be put out to bid. Advertisement was sent to him. He's thinking mid-April opening bids and this is for Phase 1 of the streetscape. Mr. Michel posed some questions about the bid.

New Business/Items to Discuss:

1. Mr. Kramer first brought up his discussion with SGA on the Streetscape options for 12th Street additions. He said SGA's proposal that would save the Borough time and would be a better fit is if SGA works the 12th Street curb cuts and the Borough works with Widmer Engineers to do the two way. They said this is the smartest route to go. Mr. Kramer talked to Tony Sadaka and they agreed.
2. Next, Pres. Booher brought up the free pantry happening at VFD #4 called "We Choose Joy program". VP

Shotter **motioned** to approve “We Choose Joy program”-Free Pantry #4 VFD. Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Council then discussed the 2021 YMCA Summer program. VP Shotter asked if his questions were answered regarding the contract verbiage pertaining to social distancing and face masks. He said where the liability would fall if Covid should spread. Council debated and discussed the masks. President Booher read Mr. Blanakrik’s email that gave the answers. He did say they will be following CDC guidelines with Covid-19. Each playground will be sanitized after each use, hand sanitizer will be given out to participants upon arrival, games and activities, and being outdoor the face masks will not be mandatory. VP Shotter said they could vote on it tonight and he’d like to take a pause on that clause and re-evaluate it when time comes closer. Mrs. Majors **motioned** to approve 2021 YMCA Summer program, “Y on the fly”, at Washington Avenue and Antoline Park in the amount of \$5,120.00, plus an additional \$1,000 for additional staff if needed. Second by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.

President Booher went around the room for council’s comments on old/new business.

-Mayor Short brought up adding to the next agenda the Monaca CDC summer event, First Friday concert series held at George Washington Plaza. They have requested council’s blessing to proceed with having this event.

-Mr. Kramer brought up summer events for the year such as Food trucks and Movies in the Park. VP Shotter stated he’ll get together with Brittany and Gabby and this can be furthered decided closer to summer. If decided, they can get the word out by social media and the website and app.

President Booher said the way things are going, the Governor is starting to get more relaxed with community events. Therefore, he feels they should be optimistic and proceed planning Community Days for Monaca and let everyone have something to look forward to. The Boom is happening on June 26th no matter what.

-Mr. Wilson also asked about Food Truck. Pres. Booher said CDC asked all the restaurants in town if they would be ok with food trucks and all said no. Mrs. Majors explained they want to be in support of the community but they still didn’t feel comfortable yet having food trucks.

-Mr. Michel also agreed with planning for community days. He asked about contracts. Pres. Booher said contracts for vendors are with the planning process and if they have to cancel they would get refunded.

Announcements: Mayor Short read the announcements: Easter Egg Hunt “Drive By” Saturday, April 3rd between 1:00pm-2:00pm, Antoline Park. Leaf Collection in the borough will begin Monday, April 5th. We ask that residents call the borough office to schedule pick up.

Executive Session: VP Shotter **motioned** to go into Executive Session for Personnel & Real Estate matters at 8:44pm. Second by Mr. McLaughlin. Motion carried unanimously.

*Due to being unable to let the Public back into the Zoom meeting, the Executive Session and meeting of **March 16th, 2021** was continued to the next regular meeting of **March 23rd, 2021** council meeting which a quorum was present. Council voted to adjourn Executive Session and returned to regular session at which a motion was made by VP Shotter and second by Mr. Mitchell to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Bologna, Secretary