

**MONACA BOROUGH**  
**Telecommunications via Zoom Application**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:01pm**

The Regular Meeting of the Monaca Borough Council was held on the above date and time via the 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- 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:** None

**Minutes:** Mr. Blanarik **motioned** to approve February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 **Virtual Council** Meeting Minutes. Second by Mr. McLaughlin. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Mayors Report-** Mayor Short said he will give his report for February 2021 at the upcoming meeting.

**Managers' Report:** Mr. Kramer gave his report. He first touched base on the Valve replacement preparation and the water main break that happened this week with low water pressure in the downtown. They fixed the leak and ready to go with valve replacement tomorrow at 8am. They will also have to set a Boil Water Advisory for the entire downtown for 24 hours after work has been completed, residents will be notified and will continue to be notified and updated as much as possible. VP Shotter reminded council to please refrain from posting anything on social media. Mayor Short also asked that SwiftReach, which is used for notifications to the residents, be pushed again to residents maybe in the upcoming newsletter to remind those to sign up for Swift to get notifications and alerts. Mrs. Majors personally thanked Mr. Kramer, Gabby, Brittany and all those involved for their organization getting the message out to everyone about the water valve replacement. Mr. Kramer thanked her for the comment. Mr. Kramer then gave an RCAP update in regards to new application if they are to be submitting one. Phase two of the Civic Center will be submitted for more grant monies. And he touched base on the TIF district which he spoke more with Michael Pehur (TIF Rep) that day. He would like to come to Workshop meeting March 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the TIF. Meeting with County on March 23<sup>rd</sup> for their approval and then submit on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for the borough to approve as well. Mr. Kramer then announced the new owners who bought Anchor Hocking called Stoelzle Glass. He had a meeting with them and explained they fit it well with our town. They own many plants in Europe in small towns such as Monaca. He added they are sustainable business, which Mr. Kramer told them Monaca is Gold labeled sustainable community as well. Overall, good meeting. Pres. Booher added they may also be interested in recycling Monaca's glass and possibly all of Beaver County. Mr. Kramer added that all their other plants, they do recycling those communities glass, so it caught his attention to ask since the community does not recycle glass anymore. Solicitor Urick asked when that transaction gets closer to closing, they should look for any transfer taxes on the sale of the property. Mr. Kramer said they already closed on March first. Solicitor said to keep an eye out on that transfer tax. Mr. Kramer said he will for sure. Mr. Kramer then brought up the four options sent by SGA in regards to 12<sup>th</sup> street updates. He discussed and gave all four options.

Questions: Mr. Michel asked to consider portions of pipe that go under the railroad tracks of the two major lines that feed the downtown, could they consider, getting the lines "camera'd"/surveyed under the RR tracks while the company is in town doing the main street. Could they consider both the 8 and 12 inch lines under the tracks and transmission line? Pres. Booher said good question and they will put that on their radar.

Mr. Wilson then asked if there was a precise plan for the Civic Center. VP Shotter said Kevin Turkall with Design Stream reached out to him that day in regards to the Civic Center design. Mr. Wilson asked what the next step is. Pres. Booher said it will be discussed in Executive. Mr. Wilson said he would rather see it then just talk about it. Pres. Booher said he understand and also when they discuss this is executive, Mr. McLaughlin and VP Shotter will have to excuse themselves since they have financial interest. VP Shotter said he has no financial intersect. Solicitor Urick explained they do have a superior interest to the tax payers of the community who elected them and serve admirably on the fire department but they weren't elected by the citizens so when you try to do both they have a conflict and cannot make decisions about agreements involving both entities. Solicitor Urick explained further why they cannot vote or make decisions. VP Shotter and Solicitor discussed. VP Shotter and Mr. McLaughlin both announced and made it public that they will both step aside from the fire department merger committee and fulfill their duly elected responsibilities to represent the borough moving forward.

**Solicitors Report:** Solicitor Urick gave his report. Oxendine matter is done and settled. Next, he said the rezoning request for Atlantic Avenue is still in progress per Mike Jones. He then mentioned the email he sent to Mr. Kramer regarding Mr. Halama's possible request to vacate Johnson avenue. He gave a brief historical background of that street. Council discussed. Pres. Booher said Mr. Kramer will talk with Mr. Halama about this. Solicitor Urick said they have 2 decisions to make, 1 to approach Mr. Halama and tell him what the price is, and two, to make a decision whether the Borough wants to do it or not. And then a third decision, how much would the Borough want to vacate. Lastly, he touched base on Jackson Avenue property sale. He sent all documents to Mr. Kramer but he hasn't advertised anything yet. Mr. Kramer said he has not received the appraisal back yet. Solicitor Urick said he will coordinate which day to open bids either in Workshop or Regular meeting. VP Shotter formally announced that he does not have any interest and will not be placing a bid on the previously announced Jackson Avenue property. Mr. Wilson asked aren't they able to put out the bids without having the appraisal back since the Borough would accept the highest bid regardless. And if they receive five bids and do not like any of the prices, he wanted confirmation that they do not have to accept any bids. Solicitor Urick said that is correct. He said to not further delay this, they can advertise and maybe push out the date in which they want bids to be submitted by and considered, and after that, appraisal should be back. If the Borough does not want to act on the bids in which the appraisal hasn't been received yet, they can always defer action and hold the bids until they receive the appraisal.

**Department Report** – Curt DiGiovine, WWTP Supervisor was in attendance and gave the February 2021 report.

**Ordinance Review Committee Report-** VP Shotter had nothing to report.

**Monaca Recreation Report-** Mr. Blanakik announced the Rec Board decided to do a "drive by" type of Easter Egg hunt this year. With council's blessing the date will be set for April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Antoline Park between 1pm-2pm. The Easter Bunny will hand out gift bags to those driving by. He asked for councils blessing. Mrs. Majors made a **motion** to proceed with recreations event to do a "Drive-by" Easter egg hunt this year at Antoline Park. Second by Mr. McLaughlin. Pres. Booher asked the audience three times if they had questions on the new motion. Mayor Short asked if Mr. Blanakik could forward him the route and any information on the event in case he needs to call an extra officer in. There were no more questions. Motion carried unanimously. He then said Beaver County Boom is still going on, and should Rec should rec plan maybe a 5pm-10pm Community Days event with shorter number of vendors and spread them out per the CDC guidelines. Children's activities will not happen due to covid restrictions. Pres. Booher hopes they are able to. Mr. Blanakik said by early May they will have more of an understanding what they are able to do.

#### **New Business:**

1. Solicitor Urick explained the Brady Giglio Resolution 2-21 and why council should initiate this. Also, Chief Piuri was in attendance and gave a comment stating they have been working on this for quite some time and he said this if finally something that is workable and they have his blessing to pass the Resolution. Mr. Wilson **motioned** to adopt Resolution 2-21 relating to Brady-Giglio material. Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.
2. President Booher first asked if anyone else was interested in being the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate. There were no responses. Mr. Michel **motioned** to appoint Patricia Majors as Primary COG Delegate, James Blanakik as the 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate and John Booher as 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate. Second by Mr. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Mrs. Majors **motioned** to approve SGA's proposed drawings for Streetscape project. Second by Mr. LaPearle. Mr. Blanakik asked that this does not include 12<sup>th</sup> Street changes. Pres. Booher said correct. VP Shotter asked

that this also does not include amenities, this is just to submit to Penn Dot to proceed. Pres. Booher confirmed that is correct. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Mr. Blanarik **motioned** to approve Borough Manager Contract. Second by VP Shotter. Motion carried unanimously.

**Citizens:** Edwin Becker-345 E Shaffer Road, Aliquippa, PA, was in attendance to ask the status of the Zoning for Atlantic Avenue. Solicitor Urick explained this is still in progress and waiting for Mike Jones to complete proposal.

**Announcements:** Mayor Short read the announcements: Reminder: Water service for downtown residents will be disrupted tomorrow, Wednesday, March 10th, beginning at 8 am. Please make preparations such as filling water bottles and containers ahead of this. Once completed, a boil advisory will be in effect for 24 hours. Leaf Collection in the borough will begin Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. We ask that residents call the borough office to schedule pick up.

**Executive Session:** VP Shotter **motioned** to go into Executive Session for Personnel matters at 8:22pm. Second by Mr. Michel. Motion carried unanimously.

\*Due to being unable to let the Public back into the Zoom meeting, the Executive Session and meeting of **March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021** was continued to the next regular meeting of **March 16<sup>th</sup>, 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