

MONACA BOROUGH
Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2019 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

Mr. Snyder-absent	Mr. Rebich- present
Mrs. Majors - present	Mr. Blanarik- present
Mr. McGown- present	Mr. Michel- absent
Mr. LaPearle- present	Vice President Shotter-present
Mr. Wilson- absent	President Booher- present

Others Present

Mayor Simon D. Short
Mario N. Leone Jr.
Rich Urick, Esq. (entered meeting at 7:48pm)

Visitors: None

Communications: None

Minutes- Mr. LaPearle **motioned** to approve the **Regular Meeting Minutes** from the December 11th, 2018 Council Meeting. Second by Mr. McGown. Motion carried unanimously.

Fiscal and Contractual- Mr. Blanarik **motioned** to approve the monthly bills. Second by Mrs. Majors. Vice President Shotter stated due to a financial interest, he and Councilman McGown abstains only from one item in the bills pertaining to fire department. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayors Report- Mayor Short gave his report for the month of December 2018.

Monetary Receipt's: **\$2,184.00**
Citations and Parking Tickets: **60**
Criminal Arrests: **14**
Call For Service: **398**
Miles patrolled: **4,359 miles**

Managers' Report- Mr. Leone touched base on the end of the year items the he will follow council up on at the next workshop meeting. These items include PennDot roundabout update, result of Multimodal Grant for 14th Street intersection, and TIF district update.

Department Report -WWTP Curt DiGiovine gave his monthly report for December 2018. At the end of his report, he thanked Councilman Blanarik for his recent first tour of the WWTP. Mr. McGown also asked for an update on the testing of the Bobcat machinery. Curt said employee Daryn, one of the best operators at the Borough, tested the machinery. He said it was hard for him to operate and maneuver as he was testing. Curt believes eventually something will break on it for how much strain was going in to it to do the job. Mr. Leone also spoke with Jake Iorio, road foreman and due to holiday vacation he will need to touch base with Daryn on the equipment as well. Mr. Leone suggested this be put on next workshop meeting for discussion as to what direction they want to go in.

Ordinance Review Committee Report-Mr. Shotter had nothing to report. He did mention they need to revisit Street Maintenance soon. He then asked council if anyone had Ordinance suggestions for 2019. Mr. Leone spoke up and said he would like a "Street Opening" Ordinance with the Gas Company coming in town doing work on the main street. The ordinance will help maintain any restoration. And then he added they will have to update Water Rules and Regulations too and both these ordinances he will have for council by February. Mayor Short also said he will have more information for the new "Art Ordinance" next workshop meeting. Mr. Shotter brought up with all the work being done on the main street this year, he suggests looking into an ordinance pertaining to wireless transmitters. Mr. Leone said Solicitor Urick



would need some technical assistance due to its complexity.

Monaca Volunteer Community Outreach Report- (on sabbatical until Spring)

Monaca Downtown Business District Authority Report- Mrs. Majors brought to council's attention some research that had been done between herself and Solicitor Urick and Mr. Leone on what they found for the name change of the MBDA. She said back in 1980, the Monaca Downtown Business District Authority was created. However, they had put the name as a non-profit rather than a Municipal entity. She reiterated a Non-profit cannot be an Authority. He said since this glitch, they have the Solicitor looking into how the name can be changed. Mr. Leone also found that in 1981 an ordinance was passed for this establishment to act as a municipal authority. But as time went on, the actions of this establishment were never fulfilled. Bylaws were never created of actually how they were supposed to act. The Borough does not have these bylaws and Mrs. Majors who took over for presidency from Ms. Rubino was never given bylaws. Mr. Leone pointed out they did have a checking account. The records indicated it was set up as a non-profit. He reiterated a non-profit cannot be an Authority. He stated how this will be cleaned up will be determined by the Borough solicitor. The Monaca Business Association was also established according to Mrs. Majors but she stated she is unsure of which establishment came first. Lastly, Mr. Leone said the year 1981 was the last time Streetscape was brought up which they had received monies from the DCED. To receive these monies, it may have had to go through a borough entity that was an employee of that authority rather than sending it directly to an employee of the Borough. Mr. Leone said, moving forward, as they sit now in 2019 it may be more prudent to make this a non-profit rather than leave it as an Authority.

New Business:

1. Mr. Leone first announced that Ordinance No. 963 pertains to amending the Borough code that will allow Corporal position to the Police Department. Mr. McGown **motioned** to adopt Ordinance No. 963- Amendment to Chapter 50 of Monaca Borough Code. Second by Mr. Rebich. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Mr. Shotter **motion** to re-appoint Widmer Engineering Inc. to the position of Borough Engineer for the calendar year 2019. Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Mr. Shotter **motion** to re-appoint Richard Urick as Borough Solicitor for the calendar year 2019. Second by Mr. Rebich. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Mr. Blarrik **motion** to re-appoint Michael J. Groves from A G-Squared LLC as Sewage Enforcement Officer for the calendar year 2019. Second by Mr. LaPearle. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Mr. Shotter **motion** to accept resignation of Tom Karczewski from the Civil Service Commission Board. Second by Mr. McGown. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Mr. McGown **motion** to accept resignation of Thomas Scarpone from the Civil Service Commission Board. Second by Mr. Rebich. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Mr. LaPearle **motion** to re-appoint John P. Antoline to Vacancy Review Board with a term ending December 31st, 2019. Second by Mr. Blarrik. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Mr. Shotter **motion** to re-appoint Mark Giannetti to Zoning Hearing Board with a term ending December 31st, 2021. Second by Mr. McGown. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Mr. Shotter **motion** to re-appoint Glenn Rambo to Board of Appeals with a term ending December 31st, 2021. Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.

New/Old Business: President Booher went around the room and asked each Council member if they had any old or new business to discuss.

-**Mr. Blarrik** asked council to please remind their constituents to call the Borough office with any trash/recycling issues. He also asked that Waste Management managers come to a meeting at the end of their contract to hear the public's voice on their concerns with their services. Council discussed passed experience holding a similar meeting. Mr. Shotter also suggested the office compiling a file of passed complaints within the next month so council can visually see the complaints and how many come into the office on a regular basis.

-Mr. Rebich then asked about the street sweeper maintenance and schedule to run for the year. Mr. Leone said the sweeper is functioning. A formalized schedule has not been established yet. As far as the schedule goes, council debated the weeks it will run and how to keep a consistent schedule for the public's sake.

-**Vice President Shotter** ran through a check-list of Old Business items. He first asked when the next NSO report will be submitted. Secretary Brittany answered he will have it by the end of January. Mr. Shotter asked that he include in his report the Quality of Life information. Mr. Leone said they are actually having difficulty getting tickets printed and Nick will keep council posted once they are ordered.

(Solicitor Urick entered the meeting at 7:48pm)

Mr. Shotter then asked if they have a strategy yet for Pittsburgh Tool (old building in town). He said it's becoming hazardous in that area and after 20-30 years, they need to do something about that site. He also states they are putting millions of dollars into the main street and need to consider Pittsburgh Tool is only 100 yards away from the main street. He asked if this could also be put on Nick's agenda for the year. He then asked if there is a strategy for Rental Inspection. He said what's being regulated and inspected in the Borough. Mr. Leone said Officer Hogue is the present rental inspector and President Booher recalled talking to council about officer Hogue possibly not wanting to be the inspector anymore but no legal action was made. Mr. Shotter asked this to be put on the next workshop meeting for discussion. Mr. Shotter asked if Nick could have some type of monthly focus whether it be educating people, expenses for the month, tall grass, etc. Whatever the major problems may be in the borough, hopefully this could help rectify ongoing issues in the Borough. Mr. Leone also brought up that he and Nick were at the Magistrate's office that day for an issue on one of the main street buildings in town. He went over the visual problems on the building and how the owners are going to fix the problems and have 90 days to do so. He will keep council posted on these actions. Mr. Shotter said the SYRP Committee will meet Tuesday Jan. 15th at 6pm before the town council workshop meeting to discuss reviews given by Borough Manager Mr. Leone to the administrative employees. He then asked for Vacuum truck status. Mr. Leone reported it's being worked on and they should be receiving it in March. Mr. Shotter next asked for update on Leaf Pick-up Truck they requested from the Recycling grant they will be receiving. Mr. Leone received the grant documents which stated they will fund 100% of the totes they had requested and 60% of the cost of a leaf truck. Mr. Leone will get numbers for that and whether or not they want to execute that going forward. Mr. Shotter then asked if Truck was purchased from VFD #5. Mr. Leone said yes and title was transferred Friday. The truck is at Herzogs now being serviced. They purchased a flatbed, thanks to Officer Hogue for finding this for the Borough. Mr. Shotter then asked for update on the School Resource Officer. President Booher said they are waiting on the School. Mr. Leone said contract language should be completed by the end of the month per Dr. Perry, but he will reach out to the superintendent just to make sure. Finally, Mr. Shotter asked each council member to bring to the next workshop meeting a list of 2-3 items that are most important to them to have accomplished in the Borough through the year 2019.

Honorable Mayor Short asked if the new parking signs could also be installed at the parking lot next to the Draft House and to make it known that the new parking permits can be purchased at the borough office which consist of monthly or yearly and where people can park using their permits. Also, catch basins need attended to and cleaned especially when it rains.

Mr. McGown first asked about the universal change in recycling for the future that Mr. Leone briefly mentioned earlier. Mr. Leone gave some feedback on what he recently learned nation-wide and what to expect in the future as far as what you can recycle. Glass may be one of the items that residents won't be able to recycle anymore but he will keep council posted on any changes when they arise. Second, he asked status update on the Valve Turner that was recently demo'd by the public works department. Mr. Leone confirmed they could not find a price on Costars so they now have to put a package together and put it out for bid. Mr. McGown then said he recalled a couple bars in town had some issues with their recent water bills. Mr. Leone explained the issues and how they are resolving them in the office. Lastly, he said the business owner of Starr Styles in town had questions/concerns about the new parking ordinance in town and the permits and so on. Mr. Leone was unaware but will make sure he and the office touch base with her.

Solicitors Report: Solicitor Urick first thanked Council for his reappointment as the Borough Solicitor for another year. He then gave his report. He stated Life steps tax appeal is back on the front burner. A conference has been set up with Judge Quidis that he will attend. He's hoping some sort of agreement is reached. He then elaborated on the letter he had sent to Mrs. Majors, President Booher, Mayor Short and Mr. Leone on the Monaca Downtown Business District Authority. He explained how there is a slight problem on the name and explained. Once council passed the Ordinance in 1980, the entity was formed as an authority under the Municipal Authorities Act. The State law states if you want to create an authority, you do it pursuant to this law. It also has to have a creator which is the Borough. Once created it's protected by laws protected by the municipality for legal reasons if any may arise. Solicitor Urick then explained in detail the way the Authority was filed. It was filed as a non-profit. After reading over the Ordinance, he said the Borough intended it to be an Authority but was just cited the incorrect way. This being said, the Borough has the choice to let it "die" automatically in 2030 which is the 50 year life span, or correct the initial way it was filed and renew its life for another 50 years, or make it into an organization instead of an authority. Solicitor Urick said any way they choose is a procedure. Council discussed what they would like to do. Mrs. Majors said she wants to first bring this to the MBDA's attention at their upcoming meeting Wednesday January 16th and she will report back to council.

Citizens: None

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Announcements: Mr. Leone announced Christmas tree recycling has begun. Residents are to place bare Christmas trees at their front curb & to call the Borough office for pick-up.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Shotter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40p.m. Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brittany Bologna, Secretary