

**Monaca Borough
Workshop Meeting
October 15th, 2019 at 7:01pm**

The Work Shop 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

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| Mr. Snyder- absent | Mr. Rebich- absent |
| Mrs. Majors - present (VACANT) | Mr. Blanarik- present |
| Mr. LaPearle- present | Mr. Michel- absent |
| Mr. Wilson- present | Vice President Shotter- present |
| | President Booher- present |

Others Present

Mayor Short-**absent**; Mario N. Leone, Jr.;

Being that there is a motion to be made on the agenda, President Booher asked the audience three times if they had any questions or concerns in regards to the motion. There were none.

Proclamation of Recognition: VP Shotter **motioned** to approve the Proclamation of Recognition for Zechariah Cartledge. Second by Mr. Blanarik. Motion carried unanimously. VP Shotter briefly explained Zechariah started an initiative to run a mile for every Fireman and Police officer that fell in the line of duty in 2018 and 2019. He ran a mile before the race with First Responders and then he ran the 5K race and did the obstacle course as well. They presented the proclamation to Zechariah after the race on October 12th and those present were VP Shotter, Sergeant Nicol, President Booher, Mayor Short, & the Fire Chiefs too.

List of Attendees: **Monaca Library-Mike Rubino-756 Indiana Avenue, Monaca**-introduced himself as a resident of Monaca and a Library card holder, an advocate of the Monaca Library board, and as the appointed President of the Beaver County Library Association. He was in attendance to speak on behalf of the Monaca Library to seek answers as to why the borough supposedly cut 8% of their annual budget for 2019. He explains the normal donation to the Library of \$15,000 was cut to \$10,000. He stated the 2019 budget was already determined. Mr. Rubino then went over the packet that was handed out to council of the statistics of the library such as number of cardholders, how many EBooks were used, programs and so on. He asked again why the \$5,000 was cut three quarters of the way through the year. VP Shotter reiterated that in 2018 it was discussed to reduce the library budget for 2019 which would be later discussed during the 2019 timeframe. He said in 2018 a number of council members asked for specific numbers what the library was spending, which they hadn't received until now. VP Shotter gave data why the budget may be cut such as utility costs that are now the borough's responsibility since the Library moved to the Community Center building. He referenced a few more figures. Mrs. Majors said she strongly believes if a student needs the library for education reasons, a senior citizen needs access to a computer for their taxes or health portal and so on, the \$15,000 is well worth it. Mr. LaPearle clarified that cutting of the funds was never about a burden. It was making sure in general the rest of the population is minimizing the cost that they are contributing to the library. Mr. LaPearle also mentioned council discussed once before that they'd like to see some form of the library pivot. This might mean a loss of some funds to pivot elsewhere or less books and more tech in the budget. Mr. Rubino agrees and said for example if they have to cut library hours and add more EBooks then so-be-it. He also compares other municipalities in the area and what they contribute to their libraries. Mr. LaPearle lastly clarifies that the only councilmatic action the board made was to disperse \$10,000 to the library, and no decision has been made yet as to what to do with the other \$5,000. He states the assumption that council has already made the decision of cutting \$5,000 is inaccurate and incorrect. Pat Smith-Library Director-was in the audience and states she got an email from Borough Manager stating that they had to address council stating why they needed the \$5,000. Mr. Wilson said those council members who disagreed with giving the full amount just want clarity on what they need the other \$5,000 for. Mr. Wilson said the numbers aren't matching up from Mr. Rubino's packet to Librarian Pat Smith's 5 year financial statements that were given to council this year. Mr. Wilson stated council is also looking for the actual number of how many people came into the library this year. He also confirmed last year it was discussed about adjusting the budget due to moving to a different building. Council and Mr. Rubino briefly discussed the council representative that sits on the Library Board now. Mr. Rubino thanked the board for letting them come tonight and he just asked going forward where do they stand. Mr. Blanarik confirmed there is not a set decision yet. Before Mr. Rubino took his seat, VP Shotter asked

him what the unique number of those users is for the Library. Mr. Rubino said you'd have to break down the number of programs, people that went to those programs, times the computer was used, service hours that were given and so on. VP Shotter suggested maybe the library card could be swiped each time to keep record which would help create a customer management system for them. Jody Oliver-117 George St, Beaver Falls-director of the Beaver County Library System-was in attendance on behalf of the Monaca Library to add to the comments for the decrease in the funds. There are certain state standards each Library has to comply with and one is the percentage they have to spend on their materials, have to be open a certain number of hours each week, so cutting the funding may not be in compliance which would disqualify them from their State Aid. She also added in regards to the cardholders, there may be people that come in to use the printers or programs that do not have a card. She wanted council to consider that. Mr. Wilson then asked could this affect the library getting the state aid if they decrease the funds. Ms. Oliver was not certain because the State has to rerun the formula which they haven't done in years, so when they do so, this could potentially affect the Library, but again, she's not entirely sure. VP Shotter asked for the percentage. She couldn't predict that. Lastly, VP Shotter gave an example how the Purchase Order process works between the Fire Departments and the Borough for the library board to understand, should they go this route.

Manager's Update/Items to Discuss:

Mr. Leone first gave a recap of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Fall Conference that he attended at State College last weekend. The theme was Teamwork and he explained. He also stopped at Harrisburg before the conference to lobby for the grants submitted for the Streetscape project.

-Mr. Leone then discussed the **Garbage bid results** that were opened up October 14th at 10:00am. There were two bids. One from Valley Refuse Services and the other from Waste Management. The bids included both garbage and recycling pick-up costs for Traditional pick-up, Semi-Automated, or Fully-Automated. He states Waste Management came in as the lowest bidder in all three categories, and Mr. Leone surprisingly stated the Semi and Fully-automatic pick-ups were less than Traditional pick-up. Council discussed which option they would like. Mr. Leone explained the Semi-Automatic and Fully-Automatic prices were the same. After much was analyzed and discussed about pick-up schedule, trash can sizes and whether to go Fully or Semi-automated, President Booher asked that the garbage bids be placed on the first council meeting agenda in November for approval. VP Shotter agreed they should have all the logistics and answers squared away by then.

-Next on the list, Mr. Leone touched base on the **2020 Budget** that he and Mr. Kramer, Borough Treasurer, put together as the preliminary budget for council to review. President Booher was proud to announce the Borough has not raised the Tax rates since year 2014. VP Shotter ran down a list of items he would like clarity on before the budget gets approved for 2020. Mr. Leone stated he would get the answers for him.

Mr. Leone had distributed to council a quote with a picture of a piece of equipment recommended by Road Foreman, Jake Iorio. This is an attachment for the new Excavator. President Booher asked for it to be added on the next meeting agenda for approval.

Lastly, Mr. Leone said they have to go into Executive session for Real Estate, and President Booher added for Personnel as well.

Old/New Business:

VP Shotter gave a recap of the Stop, Drop & Run Fireman's 5K race that was held October 12th. He said they had around 250 participants and raised between \$18,000 and \$20,000. He also added, for full disclosure, on Thursday night there were brown water complaints in the 5th Ward area before the Fire Department hit any hydrants, and then the fire dept. did hit a hydrant that night for 6 minutes at Cascade and Ridge. The VFD did hit hydrants in the 5th Ward for 2 hours the day of the race. As part of the race, he explains they always include which hydrants they are hitting so residents know and so council knows going forward. In the years prior they hadn't have any issues.

Mr. Blarrik commented that the Recreation had some mistakes on the current newsletter. For the Hometown Christmas they are still not sure if the horse and buggy will be there. He confirmed there will not be a parade either. Also, he made it known the little league pony baseball league will not be using Stone Quarry field again next season. The Borough will have to find a way to maintain the grass as they did this year.

Mr. Leone also added the Hometown Christmas Celebration is relocated this year to the Community Center as opposed to the fire hall. He states this location is more suitable.

Announcements: Mr. Blarrik read the following announcements. Saturday, October 19th is the 35th Annual Monaca Hall of Fame banquet. Saturday, October 26th from Noon until 2PM is the annual Community Halloween Party located at St. Johns Church. Also on October 26th is Monaca's 1st Halloween Movie & S'mores at Antoline Park. Bring your

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blankets, chairs & enjoy the Halloween favorite- *Hocus Pocus* beginning at Sunset. Thursday, October 31st, Trick-Or-Treat will be from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Executive Session: VP Shotter **motioned** to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Real Estate and at 8:58pm. Second by Mrs. Majors. Motion carried unanimously.

VP Shotter **motioned** to adjourn Executive Session at 9:17pm. Second by Mr. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

VP Shotter **motioned** to resume the Public Meeting at 9:17pm. Second by Mr. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business, VP Shotter **motioned** to adjourn at 9:44pm. Second by Mr. Blanarik. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brittany Bologna, Secretary

