

MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2016

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Greg Erosenko at 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at this time.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary, Sharon McIndoe, called roll and the following were present: Mayor Erosenko, Linda Gaydos, Nick Gresock, Ron Harvey, Jim Johns, Paul Caliarì, Steve Duncan, Tom Wilson, Tim Little, Bob Wratcher, Paul Hugus and Joe Sedlak.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council conducted an executive session for personnel and litigation reasons prior to the council meeting beginning at 6:15 p.m. until 7 p.m. Council legislative action, if any, shall be taken at the November 9, 2016 Council Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED AGENDA

Mr. Leonard Young, resident, came forward to question the item on the agenda to appoint the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as Monroeville's official newspaper for general circulation. He inquired when does a municipality endorse or support one newspaper over others. Mayor Erosenko answered that it does not but explained the Tribune Review will now only be available on line. He stated by state law the legal advertisements must be in a public circulation. He added it will be more expensive in the Post-Gazette but it is the only newspaper available in circulation. Further discussion ensued.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes of the Citizen's Night Meeting of October 6, 2016, Council Work Session of October 6, 2016 and the Regular Council Meeting of October 11, 2016, a motion was duly made by Messrs. Wilson and Caliarì to approve them, as submitted and Mrs. Gaydos seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS OF TAX COLLECTIONS

Council then considered approval of the Reports of Tax Collections. Whereupon, Mr. Johns duly made a motion to approve and Mr. Harvey and Dr. Gresock seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

LIST OF BILLS, BUDGET TRANSFERS AND PAYROLL

Council then considered approval of the List of Bills in the amount of \$4,389,921.61, Budget Transfers and Payroll in the amount of \$907,128.14.

Whereupon, Mrs. Gaydos duly made a motion to approve the payroll and Mr. Wilson seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Harvey requested the manager explain why the list of bills is so large this month and Mr. Little answered because the pensions are included. Whereupon, Mr. Wilson duly made a motion to approve the list of bills and budget transfers and Messrs. Johns and Harvey seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND AUTHORITIESZONING HEARING BOARD

There being no discussion, Mr. Duncan duly made a motion to nominate Mr. James Rosipal from Ward Six to the Zoning Hearing Board and Messrs. Johns and Wilson seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Further, Mr. Johns duly made a motion to nominate Mr. Ed Diel from Ward Four for reappointment to the Planning Commission and Mr. Duncan seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

CONVENTION VISITORS BUREAU

Furthermore, Mr. Johns duly made a motion to nominate Ms. Christian Fyke from Rivertowne Pour House for reappointment to the Convention Visitors Bureau and Mr. Wilson seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION

There being no discussion, Dr. Gresock duly made a motion to nominate Dr. Daren Morgante from Ward Two for reappointment to the Planning Commission and Mr. Johns seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gresock announced that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is seeking a volunteer from the second ward. He encouraged anyone interested to contact him or the manager.

MONROEVILLE FINANCE AUTHORITY

Whereupon, Mrs. Gaydos duly made a motion to nominate Mr. Frank Pekarek from Ward One to the Monroeville Finance Authority. Dr. Gresock and Mr. Wilson seconded it and upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MONROEVILLE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Further, Mrs. Gaydos duly made a motion to nominate Mr. David Magill from Ward One to the Monroeville Municipal Authority. Mr. Wilson seconded it and upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

BIDS AND PROPOSALSSTORM SEWER PROJECT

Mr. Little reported the Dahlia Drive and Garden City Drive Storm Sewer Project was discussed at the work session and the bids were higher than expected. He stated the lowest bid was Insight Pipe Contracting at \$315,063.85. Mr. Hugus recommended this project be rebid using alternative pipe lining technologies. He explained this could mean a savings of \$75,000 and the bid specifications included newer technology at a higher cost which is not what has been done in the past. He stated there is not much difference in the two products.

Mr. Harvey added part of this project is being paid for with a grant and Mr. Hugus agreed. He added there is a \$200,000 grant going to be used and he has applied for a six-month extension. He projected it be rebid immediately, have it ready for council's approval in January and have it done by the end of March. Mr. Harvey clarified that he recommended it be rebid with the new technology and Mr. Hugus concurred. Whereupon, Mr. Harvey duly made a motion to rebid this project and Mr. Wilson seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDAMOTIONSAUTHORIZATION OF ADVERTISEMENT

A motion to place a quarter page advertisement in the amount of \$75 in the 2016-2017 Yearbook of the Gateway Hockey Club.

Whereupon, Mr. Johns duly made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gaydos seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

A motion to appoint the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as Monroeville's official newspaper for general circulation effective December 1, 2016.

There being no discussion, Mr. Caliari duly made a motion to approve and Dr. Gresock seconded it. Mr. Wilson pointed out this is the only option available for advertising in the area. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR BRIAN REED

A motion to enter into a Settlement Agreement in the matter of Brian Reed versus the Municipality of Monroeville (and other defendants).

Whereupon, Mr. Wilson duly made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gaydos seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried with five affirmative votes and two negative votes. The voting was as follows: Mrs. Gaydos, Messrs. Gresock, Harvey, Johns and Wilson voted affirmatively; Messrs. Caliarì and Duncan voted negatively.

RESOLUTIONSRESOLUTION 16-41

A resolution authorizing the Municipality of Monroeville to pledge \$50,000 to match the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office contribution towards the video surveillance initiative project by Allegheny County that will be used in the Municipality of Monroeville to fight crime.

There being no discussion, a motion was duly made by Mrs. Gaydos to approve and Dr. Gresock seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCESORDINANCE 2656

An ordinance repealing Ordinance Nos. 690, 738, 874, 1308 and 1939 and establishing the requirements, standards and qualifications for approved electrical inspection agencies within the Municipality of Monroeville.

Mrs. Gaydos inquired whether this is a housekeeping item and Mr. Hugus answered affirmatively. Whereupon, Mr. Caliarì duly made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gaydos seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2657

An ordinance amending and restating the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

Whereupon, Dr. Gresock duly made a motion to approve and Mr. Caliarì seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL STAFFREPORT OF MUNICIPAL MANAGERRECYCLING CONTAINERS

Mr. Little reported the recycling cans are now available for pick up at public works. He briefly reviewed this is because the municipality is now collecting newspaper and corrugated cardboard at

curbside. He stated the cans can be picked up between 6:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. and extras can be purchased for \$15 for a lid and a can or \$3 for just the lid. He stressed having the lids on the recycling cans because the newspaper and cardboard get very heavy when wet. Mrs. Gaydos inquired about the deadline for pick up and Mr. Little answered Labor Day 2017.

HOME RULE CHARTER AD HOC REVIEW BOARD

Mr. Little reported the Home Rule Charter Ad Hoc Review Board is concluding their meetings and have drafted a report to submit to council. He stated they are proposing to give their report at the December Council Meeting and will be available to answer any questions. He explained council will receive a copy of the proposed changes for review and then they will decide when to place it on the ballot. He estimated the deadline would be the middle of February to get on the ballot and Mr. Wratsher stated it will not make the primary election deadline. He suggested the first questions will probably appear in the general election in the Fall. He added it will be a process where there will be several questions on the ballot of each election until all the questions have been exhausted. Mayor Erosenko inquired whether a public hearing will take place and Mr. Wratsher explained the first step is that council has to decide on the final product then there will be a public hearing.

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Mr. Little reported the Annual Tree Lighting Festivities are scheduled for November 22, 2016 at the Old Stone Church.

VETERAN'S DAY

Mr. Little reported there will be refuse collection on Veteran's Day. He added Thanksgiving Day will run as normal and refuse and recycling will be done on November 25 and 26, 2016. He added there will be refuse and recycling collection on December 26, 2016 and January 2, 2017. He reported all this information will be available on the website.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MUNICIPAL ITEMS

REVEREND ED SCHOENECK

Dr. Damayant Agrawal from Hindu Jain Temple came forward with Reverent Ed Schoeneck from the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium (MIM) to invite everyone to the Thanksgiving Eve Service. He reported it will be held on November 21, 2016 so it would not conflict with Light Up Night and will be hosted by the Hindu Jain Temple at 7 p.m. Dr. Agrawal added there will be a tour of the temple beginning at 6 p.m. Rev. Schoeneck reported there will be refreshments which will come from the different traditions. He explained how they do interfaith ministry in a unique way at the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium allowing each tradition to speak in its authentic voice. He reviewed some of their activities. Dr. Agrawal encouraged everyone to attend the Thanksgiving Eve Service and felt it would be an encouragement to all of the community leaders.

Reverent Schoeneck explained how he wanted to make a statement but it was not on behalf of MIM or Monroeville United Methodist (MUM) Church but as a Christian leader of the community which concerns the use of the Lord's Prayer. He reviewed how this dialogue began with a law suit and he thanked council for not being reactive to it and allowing everyone time to speak and listening to the community and responding. He explained as a Christian pastor he seeks to glorify God and the teachings of Jesus Christ and follow the scriptural teachings. He was concerned about the scriptural teachings and the way some are using the Lord's Prayer. He referred to the teaching of Mathew 6 and read part of it. He voiced his concern about standing up in the mist of this in front of the Jewish Rabbi saying the Lord's Prayer. He also referred to scripture on Jesus's teaching on how people treat their neighbors and referred to Luke Chapter 10. He expressed his deep concern because this is extremely diversive to the community because it has diverse people. He felt it was immensely disrespectful to stand up in front of the rabbi and speak the Lord's Prayer and suggested it was a show that they will not be controlled. He also felt that it shows disregard for the scriptural teachings given by Jesus about how to use the Lord's Prayer. He suggested as a Christian to be spiritual it needs to stop. He was aware that council has no power over it because it is during the free speech period. He reported that when the Lord's Prayer is said and the rabbi is present, he will sit with her and pray with her. He stated he would sit with Dr. Agrawal so they might build a community together and they might be the neighbor that God calls them to be.

Rev. Schoeneck thanked everyone for listening and their faithfulness. Mayor Erosenko explained no thanks was necessary because it is his right to come forward to talk. He also pointed out that he invited any other member of the miniterium to come forward once a month. He explained anyone can come forward to say whatever prayer they wish and he felt no one is trying to force their beliefs on anyone and he thanked him for everything he said. Further brief discussion ensued.

PASTOR MATT COGLEY

Pastor Matt Cogley from Grace Life Church and the manager of Peace, Love and Little Donuts came forward to speak on behalf of Pastor Buck to thank everyone for all the work they do. He thanked them for their time and effort and the many things that are unseen to make the community strong and to move it forward. He said a prayer over the mayor and council. He then led the reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

GEORGE LAPCEVICH

Mr. George Lapcevic, resident, came forward to inquire about a street light. He reported he had requested a street light be installed on Monroeville Boulevard by Rudy's Subs where a fatal accident happened a year ago. He stated it has not been installed and he almost hit someone the other night. He felt something has to be done before something else happens. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Little indicated he would contact Duquesne Light.

Mr. Lapcevic inquired about the settlement agreement with Brian Reed and questioned whether it was insurance and how much was paid out. Mr. Wratsher answered affirmatively that it was insurance but explained the details cannot be disclosed until the manager signs the actual agreement.

Mr. Lapcevich recognized the veterans that have served and died for us.

CHAD STUBENBORT

Mr. Chad Stubenbort, a resident, came forward to comment. He referred to a Times Express article about "Gators Give Back" and he explained the program. He referred anyone interested in helping can go to the Gators Give Back Facebook Page. Further discussion ensued about the information being on the school's web site.

Mr. Stubenbort reported that he had questions last week about sustainability, utilization of the fund balance, and whether any cuts could be made to the budget. He pointed out the total proposed budget is \$31,360,000 which includes \$500,000 fund balance utilization. He suggested that none of the fund balance would need to be used if every department cut 1.59 percent. He also mentioned another place the budget could be cut is the mayor and council member's pay and \$5,000 to \$6,000 that could be cut from the zoning hearing board. He reported the senior citizen's center is \$467,000 and it has 5,000 members. He agreed that it is good for the residents and non-residents are allowed to participate but he recommended dividing the costs. He stated if the \$467,000 is divided by the 5,000 members, any non-resident could be charged \$93. Mrs. Gaydos pointed out they also bring in the proceeds from the Silver Sneakers and the Silver Fit programs that are run through the hospitals. She added the senior center saved over \$60,000 in the budget this year. Mr. Stubenbort stated the proposed budget was increased over the actual budget and the proposed budget from last year was underestimated.

Mr. Stubenbort suggested another avenue is to work with Gateway Schools with their refuse collection because they currently spend \$40,000 for garbage collection which could be changed to using the municipality. He recommended looking at the longevity pay and pointed out it is at a cost \$150,000. He indicated longevity pay is usually used to retain top end people in corporations and suggested \$150,000 could be used for another police officer.

Mr. Stubenbort referred to the right-to-know officer at \$15,000. He reported there were 174 requests last year or 14.5 per month or 3.6 per week. He inquired about how long, approximately, it takes to answer a right-to-know request. Mr. Sedlak answered it depends on what information is being requested and sometimes it can take all day. Mr. Wilson inquired about the number this year and Mr. Sedlak answered 186. Mr. Wilson questioned the number the one person requested and Mr. Sedlak answered 98. Mrs. Gaydos pointed out the one person is requesting over 50 percent of the requests when he could have volunteered to participate in the home rule charter committee. She stated he is costing the taxpayers a lot of money with the number of right-to-know requests. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Wilson added if the individual does not like the answer given in the right-to-know requests he appeals it and takes the municipality to court which incurs additional costs. Dr. Gresock also explained that would be discussed further under the manager's budget.

Again, Mr. Stubenbort recommended all the departments look for 1.59 percent to eliminate the use of the fund balance to allow for a sustainable budget moving forward. He also recommended against anyone using profanity towards citizens because the microphones in council chambers pick it up.

LEN YOUNG

Mr. Len Young, a resident, came forward to make a comment about the tree pruning in Monroeville. He reported Nelson Tree Service came through under contract of Duquesne Light to do pruning. He stated after some research he found there are no regulatory requirements for this activity and referred to a publication by the American National Safety Institute called the ANSI 300 which covers all aspects of tree work, removal and pruning. He indicated the arborists followed the recommendation in that ANSI 300 Manual. Further discussion ensued about how the trees were pruned and it was done for safety reasons.

Mr. Young referred to the traffic light at Route 286 and Old Frankstown Road and complimented whoever redesigned it because it is much improved with the traffic flow. He also noticed the new school signs located close to North American Martyrs Church on the week day mornings. He felt there would be a big problem if the effort is to slow the traffic down to 15 miles an hour because it would back up. He disagreed that should be a school zone. Mayor Erosenko indicated it is state law when a school is located in the area. Mr. Wratsher felt there was a standard for it. Mr. Hugus added all school zones are approved by PennDOT and Mr. Young felt they overstepped their bounds because it does not belong there.

Mr. Young mentioned the tree lighting at the Old Stone Church and he suggested the Christmas Tree is a Christmas Tree not a holiday tree. He requested that it be referred to as a Christmas Tree.

Mr. Young recommended that people walking along that dark area mentioned earlier on Monroeville Boulevard could wear light clothes or reflective vests. He felt it is not common sense to wear black clothing when crossing a road at night and additional lights in the area would not help.

Mr. Young reported a new president has been elected and will take office in three months.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERSSEVENTH WARD COUNCILMAN TOM WILSON

Mr. Wilson thanked the police department for the great job they did the previous day with a bank robbery. He reviewed some of the particulars about the incident. He also thanked Mr. Sedlak who reported that the safety committee is state certified which will give the municipality a 5 percent credit on the worker's compensation insurance which amounts to approximately \$15,000. He suggested that \$15,000 savings could be used to assist in the right-to-know requests.

Mr. Wilson said a special thank you to the veterans which is the greatest generation. He also thanked everyone who voted and expressed his amazement at the great turn out.

SIXTH WARD COUNCILMAN STEVE DUNCAN

Mr. Duncan thanked the veterans for their service.

FIFTH WARD COUNCIL PAUL CALIARI

Mr. Caliari expressed his sincere thanks to all the veterans.

FOURTH WARD COUNCILMAN JIM JOHNS

Mr. Johns thanked all the veterans.

Mr. Johns then reviewed the calendar for the Convention Center as follows: Greensburg Train and Toy Show, November 12-13, 2016; Pittsburgh Arts and Crafts Spectacular, November 18-20, 2016; Showmaster's Gun Show, November 26-27, 2016; and Steel City Con, December 9-11, 2016. He reminded everyone of Santa's Kids on December 5, 2016 at Palmerie's on Old Frankstown Road. He reported it would be hosted by Bill Hillgrove which raises money to buy toys and food for families in the area. He invited everyone to join the Santa's Parade at the Monroeville Mall and announced how the male baton twirler from the Fourth of July Parade will be there to amaze everyone.

THIRD WARD COUNCILMAN RON HARVEY

Mr. Harvey referred to a study done concerning comparison of radiation levels from smart meters with other wireless devices. He stated smart meters only transmit data 1.4 seconds a day at a low wattage and the microwave exposure is 550 times less when standing less than three feet from a smart meter than when standing in front of a microwave oven. He indicated it would be 1,100 times less than having an active cell phone to your ear. He reported there are studies available that contradict what has been said.

Mr. Harvey then referred to information provided in the Borough's Magazine and he mentioned the grant program opening for gardens and greenescapes. He pointed out every municipality in the United States is eligible.

Mr. Harvey reported the Pennsylvania Senate has passed a local police municipal radar bill to control speeding by a 47-3 vote but it did not make it through the House of Representatives. He encouraged everyone to let their local politicians know how they feel. He noted that Pennsylvania is the only state in the country whose local police cannot use this technology and Pennsylvania has the worst record in the United States for speeder related fatalities.

Mr. Harvey then referred to an article about how to manage wireless facilities in your borough. He stated that pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the construction, placement and modification of all wireless facilities are subject to municipal zoning regulations which are upheld by the Federal Communications Commission. He explained the article provides things that can be done for protection or have regulations on the mini towers which claim they are under the exemption of the public utility commission. He felt they could be charged for maintenance if they are put on public right-of-ways. He stated the mini towers can be controlled in the neighborhoods through the zoning. Mr. Hugus asserted that has already been done.

Mr. Harvey reported of a speeding problem on Brunner Drive and inquired whether the vehicle counter has been put in place. Mr. Hugus indicated it would be installed on Monday.

SECOND WARD COUNCILMAN NICK GRESOCK

Dr. Gresock expressed a big thanks to all the veterans and everyone who voted. He pointed out how the veterans have had a lot to do with our freedom to be able to vote.

FIRST WARD COUNCILWOMAN LINDA GAYDOS

Mrs. Gaydos thanked all the veterans that gave us the opportunity to get out and vote. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She reported Friday is the deadline to purchase tickets for Soup Day at the senior center on November 18, 2016 at 12 noon for \$5. She reviewed the menu and encouraged everyone to participate. She also reported the seniors are also selling pizzelles as their fundraiser for \$6 and she reviewed the flavors. She added the deadline to order is November 23, 2016 and the pickup date is December 9, 2016.

Mrs. Gaydos wished her father, Mike Kelly, a special Happy 80th Birthday this month.

MAYOR GREG EROSENKO

Mayor Erosenko thanked all the veterans for all they have done for the country. He also sent Happy Thanksgiving wishes to everyone. He reported that of the three polling places he went to on Election Day there was almost 80 percent turnout and the other was 60 percent. He wished that could be the voter turnout at every election. He encouraged everyone to do their civic duty and vote because a lot of people gave their lives so we have that freedom.

Mayor Erosenko addressed some comments made by Chad Stubenbort, President of the Gateway School Board. He referred to comments made about the senior center, garbage pickup and other items. He reported those issues were discussed a few years ago and the residents spoke loud and clear that they did not want any changes. Mayor Erosenko mentioned the mayor and council's salary. He reported the \$452 he gets paid per month is usually used in gas. He added he answers his phone seven days a week and meets residents anytime, anywhere. He felt he represents the municipality well in all his travels and felt all of council does the same at \$350 per month. He was shocked that anyone would have an issue with that. He mentioned how he attends the Sevens Springs Conference once a year and the municipality pays his dues for the Allegheny County Mayor's Association and the Chamber of Commerce. He encouraged anyone to call him if they have concerns of overspending with the budget. He felt there could be a lot of cuts at the school district.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before council, at this time, a motion was duly made by Mrs. Gaydos and Mr. Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. and Mr. Johns seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Little
Municipal Manager

TJL/sam