

MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE

CITIZEN'S NIGHT MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2017

MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at this time.

ROLL CALL

The following were present: Mayor Erosenko, Nick Gresock, Ron Harvey, Jim Johns, Paul Caliari, Steve Duncan, Tom Wilson, Paul Hugus, Joe Sedlak and Jason Straley. Mrs. Gaydos was absent.

ROBERT SERAFINI

Mr. Robert Serafini, a resident, came forward to express his concerns about the trees being removed with the Point Circle Association. He felt it was eminent but nothing that could be done. He mentioned the landslide prone soil and he encouraged everyone to contact the state representatives to try to change the state law for trees. He explained how the issues about the soil were discussed but Mr. Davis appealed to the state and the tree cutting will be allowed. He reported a tree planter has to be available when the trees are cut and he inquired whether there will be a Monroeville representative to oversee their activity. Mr. Hugus explained the municipality will make sure they comply with the erosion and sedimentation control plan and they do not bring any mud onto the road but there will not be any on-site inspection of the timbering operation. He stated they have hired a forester who oversees it. Mr. Serafini was concerned that there will be trees cut that should not be cut. Mr. Hugus answered they could clear cut it because the rules have changed. Mr. Serafini was concerned about the landslide prone area. Mr. Hugus reported they are proposing a select cut but with the rules and the timbering harvesting ordinance they could do a clear cut. Mr. Serafini verified that the municipality could not do anything and Mr. Hugus agreed the municipality has restrictive powers.

Mr. Serafini felt everyone worked really hard on this issue and he disagreed with the state allowing them to do whatever they want. He reported they only pay \$80 a year in property tax for 29 acres because it is landslide prone soil. He questioned since it is going to be used for business whether a larger tax could be imposed. Mr. Wratcher explained the tax department can determine whether the act of removing the trees is taxable under the business tax ordinance. He reported the real estate tax is regulated by the county. Mr. Johns pointed out they are removing the trees for a profit. Mr. Serafini felt there had to be some money to be paid if they are willing to pay \$20,000 for the road security bond to do that one mile on West Patty Lane, Bert Drive and Jerry Lane. He also suggested that the money issue should be further reviewed.

Dr. Gresock inquired whether earned income tax is collected on that money. Mr. Fulkerson, the tax collector, came forward to indicate that it would not be earned income tax but it could be business privilege tax. He added his office would have to review it and he recommended it be discussed with the solicitor.

Mr. Serafini inquired about the distance from the right-of-way to the property line or the buffer. Mr. Hugus was uncertain whether any relief was given on the buffer. Mr. Serafini reported he got a list of the people who live across the street that will be affected by the tree cutting. He questioned whether he could get the names of the people in the homeowners' association. Mr. Hugus indicated he can only require what is in the ordinance and the list submitted to the municipality was all the abutting landowners. He added the names of the association members are not a requirement. Further discussion ensued about getting the names of the people in the association. Mr. Wratcher suggested he would have to get them from the state or the corporation bureau because the municipality cannot compel them to disclose them. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Serafini was concerned because only a few people have negatively affected the entire street. He also mentioned how he was concerned about who was paid in the association. Mr. Wratcher stated the flow of the money is beyond the municipality's authority. Mr. Serafini encouraged anyone with ideas on how to contact those people to call him.

Mr. Harvey inquired whether the homeowners' association is tax exempt and Mr. Wratcher was uncertain. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Serafini reported that he would not be intimidated and he would do everything he could to stop it.

KEN HUNKLE

Mr. Ken Hunkele, a resident, came forward to inquire whether there were any governmental issues he could help solve. He explained that he is taking a class in college about civic leadership and he questioned what issues the community is facing. He reported his job is to create a team to build a resolution from the type of leadership ideas they are learning. Mr. Little mentioned the newly formed police department in the school district and the recent shootings at the mall. He reported the crime rate has gone down in Monroeville but he felt the shootings at the mall are interesting with how they are coupled with the incidents at malls nationally.

Mr. Hunkele questioned what has been done as a community to try to get the citizens to come together. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Harvey suggested he review the budget. He explained previous councils balanced the budget by using the municipality's fund balance but the current council wants to continue to improve the infrastructure and not go back into debt by using cash. He stated that would allow smaller projects and the infrastructure is deteriorating faster than cash is made available. Mr. Hunkele referred to the same type of issue in Denver, Colorado and how the mayor brought the citizens together to solve the problem without the council. Mr. Harvey again stated the issue is that council wants to continue to improve the infrastructure without going further into debt by using cash which is not coming in fast enough. Mr. Hunkele inquired what has been done to get the citizens more involved in a resolution for these problems. Mayor Erosenko felt this could turn into a long discussion

and he suggested contacting the municipal manager for further information. Mr. Caliri volunteered to meet with him to discuss the issues.

JANETTE BEIGHEL

Ms. Janette Beighel, a resident, came forward to thank the mayor, council and the administration for addressing the safety issues on Noel Drive in University Park. She mentioned how they are waiting for PennDOT to do traffic studies. She also thanked public works for their work that morning for clearing the roads. Mayor Erosenko thanked her for voicing her concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no one further come forward at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Little
Municipal Manager

TJL/sam