

MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 13, 2017

MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed.

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

ROBERT GORDON

Mr. Robert Gordon, a resident, came forward to address the home rule charter. He indicated he was on the Home Rule Charter Ad Hoc Review Board and disagreed with the chairman. He felt the municipality should look at the employee issues first to put on the ballot, i.e., the manager, the chief of police, the deputy chief of police and the assistant manager. He pointed out there are educational requirements and specifics that should be addressed. He suggested the things that are against the law, like recall, nothing can be done about them and they could go at the end. He felt if those things are dealt with first, the voters will say no by the time it gets to the real items. He stressed the "five votes" issue and explained how the previous council fired a manager with three votes. He suggested the five votes would give the manager some leeway and make it more difficult to fire a manager. He pointed out a half a million dollars would not have been spent on firing the previous managers with the severance pay and the lawyer's fee if there would have been a five-vote requirement. He recommended council consider it carefully because they are setting the example for the future councils.

Mayor Erosenko agreed council should look at the employee issues and felt the municipality had a very difficult time during that one council period. He suggested if the educational requirements for each of those positions could be agreed upon, it will never be an issue again. He was uncertain about the five-vote issue and wanted to give it more consideration. He felt it was good in some respects but not so good in others. He agreed the issues with the manager, assistant manager, chief of police and assistant chief of police should go first on the ballot.

Mr. Gordon explained how there are requirements for the assistant police chief if one is hired that are currently not there. He stated the municipality would pay for the education of the assistant

chief of police but if the requirement is there before they take the post, the municipality would not have to pay for it.

Mrs. Gaydos agreed with him on the employee issues but was uncertain about the super vote. Mr. Gordon disagreed with calling it a super vote but suggested council should consider it. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Little suggested there are pros and cons to having the five-vote requirement.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council conducted an executive session for personnel and litigation reasons prior to the Citizen's Night Meeting on June 8, 2017 from 6:40 p.m. to 7 p.m. Council legislative action, if any, shall be taken at this June 13, 2017 Regular Council Meeting.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes of the Citizen's Night Meeting of May 4, 2017, Council Work Session of May 4, 2017 and the Regular Council Meeting of May 9, 2017, a motion was duly made by Mr. Johns to approve them, as submitted, and Mr. Harvey seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

#### APPROVAL OF REPORTS OF TAX COLLECTIONS

There being no additions or corrections, Mrs. Gaydos duly made a motion to approve the Reports of Tax Collections, as submitted. Mr. Caliarì seconded it and upon a roll call vote, it carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

#### LIST OF BILLS, BUDGET TRANSFERS AND PAYROLL

Council then considered approval of the List of Bills in the amount of \$1,862,672.86, Budget Transfers and Payroll in the amount of \$921,168.25. Whereupon, Mr. Harvey duly made a motion to approve the payroll and Mrs. Gaydos seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously with five votes. There being no questions or comments, a motion was duly made by Mr. Harvey to approve the list of bills and budget transfers and Mr. Johns seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

#### VACANCIES ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND AUTHORITIES

##### LIBRARY BOARD

There being no further discussion, Mrs. Gaydos duly made a motion to appoint Mr. John Shea from Ward One as a member at large to the library board. Mr. Caliarì seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDANEW BUSINESS

17-1-Z

JAMES A. RUTTER

The applicant is requesting rezoning of properties totaling 41.852 acres from S, Conservancy to C-2, Business/Commercial. The parcels are located at 4917 Old William Penn Highway known as Allegheny County Lot and Block Nos. 1244-F-365 and 1244-C-287 and are owned by James A. and Janet Rutter.

The planning commission recommended denial of this application. The applicant requested tabling and waived all time limits. Mr. Little added the letter requesting tabling is attached to the agenda.

Whereupon, Mr. Johns duly made a motion to table Rezoning Application No. 17-1-Z and Mr. Harvey seconded it. Mr. Caliaro questioned whether it was tabled because it was denied and Mr. Wratcher answered negatively. He indicated the attorney for the project requested additional time. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously with five votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-21

17-2-SUB

UNISOURCE PROPERTIES, LP

The applicant is requesting final subdivision approval of Tax Parcel 855-F-355 to create two proposed lots labelled "1-A" and "1-B"; Lot 1-A consists of 0.4384 acres and Lot 1-B consists of 0.2887 acres. The property is located at 501 Beatty Road in the R-2, Single-Family Residential Zoning District.

The planning commission recommended approval.

Mr. Ray Gusty from Fahringer, McCarty and Grey came forward with the applicants from Unisource Properties. Mr. Gusty explained the location of the property and stated this is a simple two-lot subdivision of the property. He stated Lot 1-A would consist of 18,768 square feet and Lot 1-B would be 12,575 square feet which would be the new lot created.

Mrs. Gaydos questioned what was proposed for the second lot and Mr. Gusty answered they would sell it for a new home. Mr. Wilson inquired whether it would be residential or commercial and Mr. Gusty answered it is zoned R-2.

Whereupon, Mr. Johns duly made a motion to approve Subdivision Application No. 17-2-SUB and Mr. Caliaro seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously with five votes.

RESOLUTIONSRESOLUTION NO. 17-22

A resolution for slums and blight approving the demolition of a vacant and dilapidated structure located within the Municipality of Monroeville known as 1610 Lynn Avenue, Lot and Block No. 544-J-73.

There being no discussion, Mrs. Gaydos and Mr. Caliari duly made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Johns seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCESORDINANCE

An ordinance of the Municipality of Monroeville, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania adopting proposed amendments to the Home Rule Charter and authorizing the submission of such amendments to the Allegheny County Department of Elections for placement on the ballot of the November 7, 2017 general election and subsequent elections as determined by the Department of Elections.

Whereupon, Mr. Harvey duly made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gaydos seconded it. Mrs. Gaydos explained this does not say what is being requested to put on the ballot just that it is open to put something on the ballot. Mr. Wrat cher added the intent is to either act on it or table it and deliberate over issues of concern. Mr. Caliari questioned the time period for it to be tabled and Mr. Wrat cher advised that it must be acted on next month because time is running out. Mayor Erosenko questioned whether everyone was okay with what was discussed. Mrs. Gaydos inquired whether the language for the four positions should be discussed further. Mr. Wrat cher explained council has to decide the order of the questions for the ballot. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Wrat cher recommended that within the next month council has to decide what to do and how to do it then develop the order of the issues before making a submission to the county with the priority items. Mr. Caliari did not want to approve it now if that puts the discussion off the table for what was just discussed. Mr. Wrat cher recommended that council consider tabling it so that these adjustments can be made. Whereupon, Mr. Caliari duly made a motion to table the ordinance and Mrs. Gaydos seconded it. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion ensued. Mr. Wilson questioned whether council will be able to review the proposed items and Mr. Wrat cher answered affirmatively. Mayor Erosenko suggested the manager and solicitor put language together for council's review. Mr. Wilson inquired what would be put on the ballot and Mr. Wrat cher indicated it is in the report that the ad hoc review board submitted. He explained the only thing the committee did not do was prioritize what items should be considered first. Mr. Wilson suggested council prioritize the items from the solicitor and include that on the ballot. He felt council should review the order of the ballot and continue to move forward with the proposed items for a vote. Mr. Wrat cher stated council would review the order of the proposed amendments. Mr. Wilson stated council can make changes and Mr. Wrat cher agreed. He indicated council can do that until the next council meeting if it is acted on at that time. Mr. Caliari asserted the next council meeting

is the drop dead date to make a decision. Mrs. Gaydos stated the manager and solicitor would put language together for council's review to determine how the county will prioritize the items then council can make changes before it is voted on next month. Mr. Wilson felt it was important to consider the proposal from Mr. Gordon.

Mr. Harvey felt Mr. Gordon's comments were valid but he questioned why Mr. Kucherer recommended it the other way. Mr. Wilson explained that it could be difficult if there was a person in a position that was not doing their job and they wanted to get rid of him but could not. He felt if the person is not doing their job they could get seven votes. Mayor Erosenko commented about the legal issues and felt the chairman wanted that done first because of the new laws in Harrisburg. He agreed that it would in time but it is council's choice. He agreed with doing the personnel issues. Further discussion ensued. Mrs. Gaydos inquired whether the entire proposal is submitted to the county or whether it should be done in sections per election. Mr. Wrtcher answered that it could be done in sections and indicated he would get guidance from the county. He explained how only so many characters can be included because of the size of the ballot so that may help to make a decision with the initial submission. Further discussion ensued. Mayor Erosenko pointed out that for the legal issues that Harrisburg already changed the solicitor would advise council.

Mr. Harvey suggested a mailer be sent to the residents and Mayor Erosenko felt there would be more public hearings. Further discussion ensued. Mrs. Gaydos pointed out how the proposed changes have been on the agenda for months. Mayor Erosenko suggested the proposed issues for the ballot should be included on the website. Again, Mr. Harvey suggested something should be sent to the residents to inform them to go to the website to review the home rule charter changes because they will be on the ballot. Mayor Erosenko recommended it be included on the water authority bills. It was the consensus to have it on the water authority bills referring residents to the website to review the proposed changes.

Mr. Wilson suggested the proposed changes and how important they are should be explained to the residents by council before the election. Mrs. Gaydos suggested it not be included in the water authority bills until closer to the November Election. Further discussion ensued. Mayor Erosenko suggested it to be included in the water authority bill in September or October.

#### REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL STAFF

#### MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S REPORT

#### GRASS CUTTING

Mr. Little reported several residents attended the last work session complaining about receiving citations from the code enforcement office for high grass. He explained how the complaints were mostly about the timing of the letter before the Easter Holiday and the recipients were only given seven days to rectify the problem. He recommended changing the wording in the violation to read seven business days instead of seven days. Mrs. Gaydos reported that wording has already been included in

the violation letters and that 388 letters for grass cutting violations were sent last month. Mr. Hugus added they were violation letters not citations.

#### MONROEVILLE FOUNDATION

Mr. Little reported that the Monroeville Foundation will hold its second annual golf outing on September 11, 2017 at the Meadowink Golf Course.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Mr. Little reported the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics came through Monroeville. He showed a photograph and explained how the Monroeville Officers picked up the torch at Sheetz on Route 22 from the Penn Hills Police Officers and ran it to the Marathon Gas Station by Alpine Village Drive and handed it off to the Murrysville Police. He reported it starts in downtown Pittsburgh and ends at State College over a five-day period. He commended the police department and the officers who ran.

#### SEISMIC SURVEY

Mr. Little reported that he met with Huntley and Huntley who have hired two outside firms to do gas exploration in Monroeville on a 200 square mile area starting in Armstrong County. He stated it is just to explore for gas and does not mean there will be drilling. He referred to a brochure and explained how it is a process with geophones on the sides of different roads but he does not know which roads yet to detect whether or not there is gas in the area. He pointed out the large trucks that would be used to collect the information from the geophones and analyze the information. He indicated all the information is available on the website. He encouraged anyone who is uncertain about the representatives coming around the neighborhoods to call his office or the dispatch center. Mr. Caliaro inquired how intrusive it would be on private property and Mr. Little was uncertain how much it would affect Monroeville. He suggested it may be in the more rural areas where the coffee-can sized holes will be drilled 30 feet down. Mayor Erosenko inquired whether residents could refuse and Mr. Little answered affirmatively. Mr. Wrtcher explained if the resident signed a gas lease, it would give the seismic company permission but absent that, it could be refused. Further discussion ensued regarding gas leases.

#### GARDENING VOLUNTEERS – HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Little reported that the Historical Society is seeking gardening volunteers. He read a paragraph describing what is required and the information for anyone interested. He added it would be on the website.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MUNICIPAL ITEM

Mr. Robert Gordon, resident, inquired whether the seismic survey people would be allowed to go in the parks to survey and Mr. Little was uncertain. Mr. Gordon pointed out that it is a lucrative

amount of money for fracking. Mr. Little stressed this is not fracking and they are looking for gas. Mr. Gordon pointed out the parks are open tracts of land.

#### REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

##### SEVENTH WARD COUNCILMEN TOM WILSON

Mr. Wilson wished all the fathers a Happy Father's Day.

##### FIFTH WARD COUNCILMAN PAUL CALIARI

Mr. Caliari reported that school is officially out and cautioned everyone to be careful. He encouraged everyone to go to the library.

##### FOURTH WARD COUNCILMAN JIM JOHNS

Mr. Johns reminded everyone of the parade on the Fourth of July at the Miracle Mile at 9 a.m. He encouraged everyone to get involved and get into the parade. He referred to the hotline at 412-856-3334. He reported of a meeting at the park that day to review how it would be done. He stated the fireworks are scheduled for 9:30 p.m. sharp and prior to that from 6 to 9 p.m. the food truck festival will be there. He reviewed some of the trucks and entertainment. He was hopeful that there would be a large crowd. He thanked all the committee people, Mr. Estock and his staff and Mr. Logan and the Monroeville Convention Visitors' Bureau.

Mrs. Gaydos inquired whether a shuttle service will be available for parking and Mr. Johns answered that is being worked on. Further discussion ensued.

##### THIRD WARD COUNCILMAN RON HARVEY

Mr. Harvey inquired about the hiring of new police officers and reported the civil service commission stopped the process until another test is administered to the applicants. Mr. Little explained part of the agility test could not be conducted at the academy in the North Hills so it will be conducted in Monroeville. He stated then the civil service commission will certify the list of officers then the chief and manager can recommend the officers and then council can hire the number of officers desired. He pointed out two are budgeted. Mayor Erosenko indicated he was informed that it would be done in August.

Mr. Harvey addressed the information provided by Mr. Chad Stubenport at the previous meeting concerning crime in Monroeville as reported on the website. He explained there are two sets of numbers on the website; the first set is the calls received by dispatch and the second is the UCR numbers or the actual crimes committed in Monroeville. He stated the numbers Mr. Stubenport reported on were the first set or the numbers received by the dispatch. He pointed out that it was reported that the stabbings went up to ten but there was only four and this year there has been two. He explained if someone is stabbed in another jurisdiction and driven to a hospital in Monroeville, the ER is required by law to report it to the local law enforcement. He pointed out the call was handled and

received but it did not happen in Monroeville and it does not appear on the UCR report. He stated all the numbers reported by Mr. Stubenport were wrong and were the numbers received in the dispatch center not the crimes in Monroeville. He explained every call received by the dispatch center is logged and recorded even if it did not happen in Monroeville.

Mr. Harvey commented on some of the statements made before the election. He stated the crime in Monroeville will never be fully eliminated and there will be criminal acts as long as there is free right to travel and people are going to the shopping centers and visiting Monroeville. He questioned what can be done about it. He felt even though Monroeville has a great police department, police chief, communication center and the cooperation and support of the residents, council and mayor and the support and teamwork supplied by the district attorney's office crime will never be eliminated in Monroeville. He suggested it can be deterred by letting the actors and criminals know that the community will not stand for it. He also recommended that the police department should know that their job is supported and they should be encouraged to strict enforcement that will send a message that offenses committed in Monroeville will be strictly enforced. He suggested this message can only be sent with the support of everyone previously mentioned and it will deter crime. He felt people should stop picking out things that show weakness and make suggestions on how the elimination of crime can be supported.

#### FIRST WARD COUNCILWOMAN LINDA GAYDOS

Mrs. Gaydos sent happy Father's Day wishes to her father, husband and son and to all the fathers. She announced there will be a Strawberry Social at the Senior Center. She reported June 14, 2017 was the last day to purchase tickets for \$5 and the social is scheduled for June 21, 2017. She mentioned the Laua Bingo.

#### MAYOR GREG EROSENKO

Mayor Erosenko sent happy Father's Day wishes to everyone. He reported his dad will be 102 years old this August.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before council, at this time, Mr. Wilson duly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and Mr. Johns seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Little  
Municipal Manager