

MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE

CITIZEN'S NIGHT MEETING

JUNE 6, 2023

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nick Gresock at 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary, Sharon McIndoe, called roll and the following were present: Mayor Gresock, Joe Hyzy, Eric Poach, Bob Stevenson, Mike Adams, Bob Williams, Dennis Biondo, Tim Little, Bob Wratcher, Josie Rock, Paul Hugus, Joe Sedlak and Paul Whealdon. Mr. Wolfram was absent.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE

Mr. Little introduced the new employee, Lisa Saksun, GIS Coordinator. He briefly reviewed her experience.

CITIZENS' REMARKS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Gresock requested that everyone keep their remarks to a five-minute timeframe and stated there will be another opportunity at the end of the regular council meeting for additional comments.

TONI WALKER

Ms. Toni Walker, a resident of Ward Four, came forward to express her concerns. She pointed out Route 22/William Penn Highway on a map and the intersection of Elliott Road, Levin and Sheetz. She explained when Elliot Road passes Illini Drive there is a blind spot. She reported Elliott Road is posted 35 miles an hour but people go faster. She explained it is a blind left-hand turn from Illini Drive to Elliott Road and there is a 25-mile per hour sign after a vehicle passes Illini Drive on Elliott Road. She requested a sign be posted before Illini Drive that says Approaching Blind Road or Approaching 25 Mile and Hour Zone to let motorists know there are people waiting to turn right or left. She submitted the maps (see attach). She appreciated any help that could be provided.

DAVID MINTZ

Mr. Mintz followed up on Ms. Walker's comments. He stated unfortunately one of the invasive species abundant everywhere is the Japanese Knotweed or the Russian Knotweed which causes a lot of blind turns around Monroeville. He mentioned off of Leslie Drive where it meets Haymaker Road there is a blind spot where the knotweed is growing out. He stated there are dozens of other intersections around Monroeville like it. He requested public works cut them back for safety reasons.

Mr. Mintz wished his wife a happy birthday.

Mr. Mintz expressed his appreciation for last month's meeting when the comprehensive zoning plan and draft were discussed. He reported Messrs. Biondo and Poach brought up some of the issues concerning oil and gas development. He mentioned there would be another public hearing on August 1, 2023 to speak about the zoning ordinance. He stated based on the recommendations of Councilmen Biondo and Poach to have changes that include taking oil and gas development that includes injection wells as a separate line item in the M-2 zoning district and the conservancy zones and the expanded landfill zone as well as the separate line item called oil and gas development that is still included in M-2 Industrial and the conservancy zones and the expanded landfill in the old draft. He questioned whether those changes that take all of that out the conservancy zone and landfill were delivered to Councilman Poach and Mr. Whealdon answered affirmatively. Mr. Mintz inquired whether it would show up on the website as an updated draft because it currently shows the old wording.

Mayor Gresock stated it has been pulled out and the website needs to reflect that. He reported there is another public hearing because it would be going to the county for review.

Mr. Mintz wanted this wording included. He stated the map that is currently on the website shows the expanded landfill from the current landfill which has an old name but the new zone is LF Landfill which is much larger than the previous one which takes away the buffer from neighborhoods in Monroeville and Pitcairn. He wanted verification of whether that has been part of the changes that are being submitted to the county and changed in the draft to keep it at the current landfill size or whether it is going through as an expanded landfill. Mr. Whealdon explained the landfill will not be rezoned as it is shown on the current draft and it will remain as it is. Mayor Gresock again stated the website should be updated with the date.

MICHAEL KANE

Mr. Michael Kane, a resident of Mount Vernon Drive, came forward to express his concerns. He read a letter into the record (see attached). He was concerned about his street and the safety and well being of the community because of the practice of tar and chipping. He reported his street was tarred and chipped last August to improve it but it has been far from it which has loose gravel and puddles of hot gooey tar. He asserted that it is damaging their vehicles, personal property and posing a threat to the well being of their community. He reported his vehicle has \$3,500 damage because of the tar and chipping and submitted a invoice for the repairs (see attached). He pointed out the invoice stipulates that the damage was due to tiny rocks and tar. He noted no one has taken responsibility for the damages or reimbursed him for his car and he was concerned with the lack of accountability. He was concerned that the responsible citizens are left to bare the burden of the damages caused by substandard roadway which was intended to improve their quality of life.

Mr. Kane reported stated their road poses a threat to their personal property but also to their children and the elderly. He suggested the loose gravel and hazardous road surface creates an environment for accidents and injuries. He felt it is our duty to protect the more vulnerable members of the community and ensure their safety by providing well maintained streets. He mentioned the children can no longer play on the streets or the cul-de-sac because they will break their bones if they fall.

Mr. Kane demanded the tar and chipping program be discontinued for neighborhood roads in Monroeville and suggested saving the money. He submitted a petition that was signed by every

household on Mount Vernon Drive demanding that their road be milled and paved as soon as possible this Summer 2023.

Mr. Kane referred to the dagger to the tar and chipping program and he reviewed the paving process as explained by Mr. Hugus. He stated the municipality is trying to prolong the life of their roads to 15 years and reported Mt. Vernon Road has not been paved for 15 years. He reviewed how their road had no pot holes, nothing was breaking apart and only had minor cracks. He pointed out Red Oak Court is on the list for this year and it has not been paved in 25 years. He requested a response and verification of the time lines and he requested an explanation. He stated if they are true the 15-year program is contradictory to what occurred on his street. He questioned why their road was tarred and chipped because it was in good shape. He felt this proves that neighborhood roads and specifically cul-de-sacs are lasting far longer than the goal. He suggested the municipality admit it is wrong and move forward by putting an end to this in the community and fix the nightmare. He played an audio of his wife's car with the tar and chips stuck in her rotors.

LOIS DRUMHELLER

Mrs. Lois Drumheller, a resident, came forward to express her concerns. She referred to motion No. 4 on the agenda to authorize to advertise to a public hearing for August 1, 2023 or September 5, 2023 for public comment for amendments to the proposed zoning ordinance and map. She thanked the municipality for that motion. She referred to last month's meeting to comments made after additional changes from the current draft of the zoning ordinance and there were additional substantive changes made to that and how everybody would have to receive a certified mail letter. She pointed out the zoning officer incorrectly stated that no public hearing would be needed and she referred her councilman to the municipal planning code as to why it was not true. She was pleased there was further thought on that. She felt the municipality needs more time to review it further.

Mrs. Drumheller referred to Ordinance No. 2482 which concerns the kind of decorum, behavior, due process and Robert's Rules and everything that needs considered during a council meeting, citizen's night and work session. She suggested it needs to be reviewed from time to time and referred to the five-minute duration that everyone is allow to speak. She felt citizen's night is different and suggested the latest interpretation of the ordinance for five minutes that all comments should be held to five minutes should be reviewed. She explained the time period may be a bit longer and it is not always the mayor's call and the councilmember should have a say in the decision of whether or not they are also be willing that takes longer. She thanked the municipality for reviewing that and felt decorum should not be used to oppress speech.

Mrs. Drumheller referred to the planning on the Capital Improvement Plan and the comments about the \$500,000 for seed money to install cameras at the municipal building. She inquired who needs to be safe when the police are in the building and from whom. She felt adding vestibules for the general public to be buzzed in or giving the police department the same thing would be a problem if someone was in trouble and needed to get away and had to be buzzed in because of safety provisions. She requested it be considered and suggested improving or fixing the FOBs to enter the building might be the solution and not adding money from the capital improvement plan. She pointed out the fee that is now a tax on storm water has a number of places such as the mall or the hospitals that are not going to pay the fee. She suggested drawing the money from those sources.

ELIZA BECK

Dr. Eliza Beck, a resident of Trotwood Drive, came forward to express her concerns. She inquired whether she should be sworn in and whether she would get a transcript of the meeting. Mayor Gresock indicated she does not need to be sworn in and she can have a copy of the minutes when completed. Dr. Beck reported the reason she was at the meeting was to let everyone know about some honors that were awarded to over 20 people in attendance which are residents and non-residents on behalf of Sustainable Monroeville. She explained Sustainable Monroeville is a non-profit group that she founded in 2009 which familiarized people with the word sustainable. She pointed out it is now 2023 and mentioned some new words, regenerative and biodynamic. She reported working in the context of the hometown girl, Rachael Carson, who spoke of the web of life and how everything is so connected is located a short distance away and is the author of Silent Spring (see attached). She explained how they are gathered to honor council and she distributed a newsletter. She continued it is to honor those in attendance and she encouraged those in attendance to stand if their name or organization is on the paper. She felt this is an incredible group of people and explained how the individuals have been outstanding and they have all collectively been working. She mentioned Mayor Gresock and Manager Little put the Westmoreland Heritage Trail together. She pointed out there are so many people in attendance that have been creating their beyond sustainable regenerative future where we give back more than we take where we recognize that we are part of nature not apart from nature.

Dr. Beck thanked Kevin May and Team Pachamama for being in attendance and all the people who have been involved with Sustainable Monroeville. She mentioned Marilyn Skolnick who held everyone accountable and how to learn from other people and she thanked Madeline Havrilla, and Kate O'Brien.

Dr. Beck closed with a visualization concerning a green environment. She also thanked several other people.

Mayor Gresock thanked Dr. Beck and congratulated everyone that was honored. He inquired whether there is a way for people to get more information. Dr. Beck reported that she would post on the Sustainable Monroeville Facebook page, the Reimagine, the Turtle Creek Water Shed and Air Shed Communities Plus which is www.reimagneticwag.org and all the organizations listed on the paper distributed. She mentioned there is a milia network that is a fungus and explained how mushrooms have nerve networks under the soil which is what this about which is connecting everybody.

JAY WRIGHT

Mr. Jay Wright, a resident, came forward to inquire what is happening with the pickle ball courts and Mayor Gresock answered it is being reviewed. Mr. Wright inquired whether taxpayers money is being spent to do them and Mayor Gresock answered negatively but it is still being reviewed. Mr. Little reported the municipality would be paving the existing courts this year. Mr. Wright inquired whether basketball courts would be taken for pickleball courts and Mr. Little answered negatively. He explained what is splitting and cracking will be repaired. Again, Mr. Wright inquired whether the municipality would be spending taxpayer's money for less than 1 percent of the people and Mr. Little indicated that has not been decided.

Mr. Wright reported there is a car that parks on park property on grass and was uncertain where the people go. He wanted to know what is going on and the engineering department informed him there is no parking on park property but there are no signs. He explained when they call the police they are told nothing can be done because there are no signs. He requested someone do something about the car because they are worried about it in the neighborhood. He felt the problem should be fixed when it is still a problem not when something happens.

Mr. Hugus reported that parking area will be removed and signage will be put up.

JAYME MATKOZICH

Mrs. Jayme Matkozick, a resident, came forward to express her concerns. She came forward as the owner of J.A. Rutter Company in Monroeville and reviewed the purpose of their company. She wanted to remind the municipality of her request to look at the rezoning of her property when reviewing the zoning ordinance. She briefly reviewed the history of the company concerning her father started the business before zoning mandates were in place and they are operating as a non-conforming use. She requested as the municipality reviews the revising of zoning ordinance that the zoning of the three parcels on her property, two which she owns and one is company owned to reflect what they are doing. She showed a drawing and pointed out the old black outline shows the outline of the three parcels. She pointed out Parcel 365 is the main operating location of the business, Parcel 310 is owned by J.A. Rutter Company, then the parcel that contains her residence. She requested the portion of the property with her residence be changed to R-1 so it is congruent with the Shangri-La neighborhood and the remaining piece of the Parcel 287 be the M-1 which would be consistent with what they are doing and the surrounding areas. She pointed out it has been a financial roadblock for them in the past when discussing upgrades of equipment or land because they are operating as a non-conforming use. She asserted it would be beneficial for them from a financing perspective to have everything clarified. Again, she indicated this is just a reminding for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no one else come forward at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Little
Municipal Manager

TJL/sam