

MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

JUNE 6, 2023

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nick Gresock at 7:44 p.m. immediately following the Citizen's Night Meeting.

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.

Mayor Gresock explained this is not a voting meeting but he inquired whether council had any issues or questions about the Rutter Property or any of three parcels previously outlined. Mr. Whealdon explained it is intended to be updated and the property owner made another presentation to council as a reminder because the zoning ordinance process is months long. Mayor Gresock wanted to make sure that is included in the edit. Mr. Whealdon was uncertain whether he changed the map yet. Mayor Gresock wanted to make sure it is in the updated zoning ordinance before it is voted on and before the public hearing in August or September.

Mayor Gresock mentioned Ordinance 2482 concerning decorum and the rules and regulations of the municipality that governs the functions of council meetings and committees. He referred to Rule 7B that states the presiding officer, the mayor, and the majority of council may limit discussion within a reasonable timeframe. He reported it was decided that five minutes was a reasonable time for individuals to make comments. He pointed out everyone at this meeting was able to stay within that timeframe. He stated the five minutes is a fair timeframe and it also allows the meeting to move forward. He encouraged council to contact if they would like to modify it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council conducted an executive session on May 24, 2023 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. with the public Partners Consultant and before Citizens' Night on June, 6, 2023 from 6:15 to 7 p.m. for personnel and litigation reasons. Council legislative action, if any, shall be taken at the June 13, Regular Council Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council consider approval of the minutes of the Citizens' Night Meeting of May 2, 2023, Council Work Session of May 2, 2023 and the Regular Council Meeting of May, 9, 2023. There were no questions or comments at this time.

REPORTS OF THE TAX COLLECTIONS

Council considered Approval of the Reports of the Tax Collections. There was no discussion.

LIST OF BILLS, BUDGET TRANSFERS AND PAYROLL

Council considered the List of Bills in the amount of \$1,355,112.80, Budget Transfers and Payroll in the amount of \$1,035,781.96. There were no questions or comments at this time.

#### VACANCIES ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND AUTHORITIES

Council will consider the vacancies on the boards, commissions and authorities for 2023 at the Regular Council Meeting.

#### BIDS AND PROPOSALS

##### DPW BUILDING FUEL STATION CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Little stated this was authorized by council to have a fuel station at the public works department recreated. He reported a lone bid was received from Total Tank Works, LLC in the amount of \$63,000 and explained it is at council's discretion as to whether or not it should be rebid or awarded.

Mr. Hugus reported the project involves removing existing dispensers, installing new dispensers, and putting in a new cloud-base data collection system so that reports can be prepared for permitting and inspections. He stated it is a total package just for the dispensers not just the tanks.

Mayor Gresock inquired whether it was a fair price. Mr. Hugus answered affirmatively. He pointed out two companies picked up specification packages but only one was submitted. He added it is not a popular type of construction.

Mr. Stevenson mentioned those current two pumps are dinosaurs and it is time to do something.

Mayor Gresock questioned who uses the fueling station and Mr. Hugus answered it is used by the police, fire, EMS, public works, the engineering department and the municipal authority. He reported they typically use about 200,000 gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline per year from that fueling station.

##### RFP FOR PARKS – PARKS AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Little reported this is the Requests For Proposal (RFP) for the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. He stated four RFPs were received from Environmental Planning and Design, Pashek, Mackin and HRG. He pointed out the lowest bid is \$46,940 from Environmental Planning Design but it does not have to be accepted because this is a professional service. He reported he has questions for some of the vendors and he will not make a recommendation until the council meeting.

Mr. Biondo pointed out one is for six months and all the others are for twelve months. Mr. Little indicated that is one of his questions. Mr. Biondo inquired whether Pashek did the Active Transportation Plan and Mr. Little answered affirmatively. He added they also did the Joint Comprehensive Plan with Churchill and Wilkins and the Park and Recreation Plan in 2000. He felt four bids is good and he was pleased with the prices. He suggested council peruse the RFPs.

CONSENT AGENDAMOTIONSMOTION

A motion to approve the property disposition for the Tri-COG Land Bank for the property located on Interlaken Drive, Lot and Block No. 1108-H-218 (vacant lot).

Mr. Little reported there is supporting documentation in the council packet.

MOTION

A motion to approve the property acquisition for the Tri-COG Land Bank for the property located at 736 Patton Street Extension, Lot and Block No. 544-R-18.

Mr. Little pointed out this is an acquisition not a disposition.

MOTION

A motion to authorize to advertise an ordinance to adopt a proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter to delete language that requires a residency requirement for the municipal manager and authorizing the submission to the Allegheny County Department of Elections for placement on the ballot of the November 7, 2023 General Election.

Mayor Gresock reported the manager is retiring and the municipality is doing a manager's search for early next year. He pointed out currently the Home Rule Charter stipulates that the municipal manager is required to live in the municipality and all the other employees residency are dictated by contracts. He stated most of the employees live within the municipality and now one contract has been added that allows for some latitude. He explained the only way to change it is to provide for it in the Home Rule Charter and the reason for the change is because the residency requirement limits the pool of qualified applicants and candidates. He pointed out council can mandate the manager to be a resident under the contract with the manager. He suggested getting it approved on the ballot would not lose anything and it will be discussed over the next few months because it will be a ballot question in the November Election. He stated it is to open up the candidate pool for the municipal manager. He further explained the issue.

Mr. Stevenson commented that surrounding communities have been doing away with this and he mentioned the City of Pittsburgh has eliminated the residency requirements for fire and police and everyone is looking at doing it. He felt soon it will not be a requirement in any municipality and the municipality is trying to be progressive on this issue so it can have better employees.

Mayor Gresock further explained council would consider the authorization to advertise the ballot question at the Regular Council Meeting. He stated after that a draft ordinance would then be voted on in July then it will be sent to the department of elections then the wording would be changed to their liking and placed on the ballot. He reported the municipality is trying to get it on the ballot.

MOTION

A motion to authorize to advertise a public hearing for August 1, 2023 or September 5, 2023 for public comment for amendments to the proposed zoning ordinance and map.

Mr. Little reported the reason for the double dates is because the municipality wants to wait until it get comments back from the county. He stated the county has 45 days to return comments.

#### RESOLUTIONS

##### RESOLUTION

A resolution for the demolition of slums and blight at the location of 150 Dexter Drive, Lot and Block No. 854-E-363.

Mr. Hugus reported a Show of Cause Hearing was held previously to the meeting and no one attended.

##### RESOLUTION

A resolution adopting the Valley Park Sewage Planning Module.

Mr. Little reported this is for a bridge crossing over from Valley Park across Turtle Creek to Murrysville to the trail. He stated there would be a gazebo and bathroom facility which is the reason for the sewage planning module.

Mr. Williams inquired whether the bridge on the walking trail is in Monroeville or Murrysville. Mr. Little stated most everything is in Murrysville and Monroeville is just touching onto Murrysville. He reported everything is in the Monroeville in Valley Park. He added the skate park would be removed which is the location where the bridge would land and looking at the bridge from Abers Creek Road there would be a gazebo on the right and the left would be the bathroom facilities and the parking lot. Mr. Williams questioned whether is it all Monroeville where the bridge connects to the trail and Mr. Little answered negatively. He stated that is Murrysville and it has already been approved.

#### REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL STAFF

##### MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S REPORT

##### COMMUNITY DAY

Mr. Little reported Community Day is June 10, 2023 and a 5K Race begins at 9 a.m. and anyone interested can register on the Monroeville Foundation Website.

##### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ELECTRONIC COLLECTION EVENT

Mr. Little reported the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Collection Event will be held on June 24, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Public Works Building. He encouraged everyone to register through Nobel Environmental or on the municipal website.

##### FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Mr. Little reported the Fourth of July Parade and fireworks will take place on July 4.

Mr. Little reported he has found a way to disposal of the VHS tapes located in the Municipal Television Department for free. He stated the Historical Society mentioned having some for posterity but they want to digitize them which is a laborious effort. Mr. Poach added this is a people intensive process and the Historical Society is always looking for volunteers. He reported one of the facilities

available is the Carnegie Library and he mentioned it maybe could be an Eagle Scout Project but it fell apart. He requested the Historic Society decide within the next week to get the process moving. Mr. Little reported there are 1,300 VHS tapes and they are taking up a lot of room. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Little reported Mr. Rodriguez from the Monroeville Baseball and Softball Association (MBAS) will be at the council meeting to talk about the new score sign and LED sign that will go up in the park and the batting cages.

Mayor Gresock pointed out the Fourth of July is on a Tuesday so next month's meeting will have to be changed at the council meeting. Further discussion ensued.

#### REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

##### SECOND WARD COUNCILMAN ERIC POACH

Mr. Poach followed up Dr. Beck's presentation and stated she mentioned the participation of ALCOSAN and the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority. He reported on an annual basis when council attends the League of Municipalities Meeting they attend a mandatory meeting of ALCOSAN regarding the municipality's participation in the Turtle Creek Valley Water Shed. He explain the municipality's participation concerns their mandate to control overflow waste and water into the sanitary system. He reported ALCOSAN reports to the municipality as customers regarding everything from their plans to reduce it including descriptions of their large tunnel that is being bore from the Monongahela across the Ohio and to Neville Island. He explained the municipality's participation has also been to reduce storm water flow into Turtle Creek which is what the storm water management program has been about for the last five years. He mentioned the permit will be renewed and it will continue. He explained there will be a number of things to reduce it such as retention ponds to control the flow of storm water and sweeping the streets. He reported the municipality monitors whatever waste that is moved out from retention ponds that the municipality takes and what has been picked up across the municipality. He stated the municipality is informed on it and stays committed to the storm water management plan to reduce the flow into Turtle Creek Valley in terms of stormwater. He felt the people that attended the meeting and participated are an inspiration to a lot of people locally in their environmental groups. He further explained it. He reported it would not end and the programs will expand. He inquired whether the municipality anticipated any new restrictions or new activities in the next permit process. Mr. Hugus reported the municipality's permit is under review by the DEP but he was uncertain about the outcome. He asserted there could be more regulations.

Mr. Poach addressed the issue on Mt. Vernon Drive and he felt the current paving program needs to be reviewed. He reported he did a site visit and has received many emails. He mentioned the length of time and streets but there may be another piece of the time line that is a little different. He reported the current plan began in 2014 so the municipality is not even ten years into it and there are streets that were not addressed. He pointed out the problem prior to 2010 is that there were four to eight years when no streets were paved and nothing was authorized. He stated it has been a massive catch up problem and this has been part of the solution as part of the multi-step program reference earlier. He reported last year there were nine miles of fog seal that were done. He was uncertain what happened on Mt. Vernon Drive. He explained the part of Mt. Vernon Drive that proceeds with heavy traffic then turns down to Arden Drive has worked out okay but it is the portion from there on that is an

issue. He stated how this happened is being considered including Ramsey Road which will not be fogged sealed but Old Ramsey Road down the hill will get done. He took some responsibility in some of this. He referred back to September he visited it and the emails started in October about it. He briefly reviewed the process. He reported of the nine miles that were done this past year it was not done right and there is a reason it is not working correctly. He felt there is some potential for that company to evaluate. Mr. Hugus added the municipality would re-evaluate that specific section of roadway because that is the only one the municipality that has had complaints. Mr. Poach mentioned the serious degradation on there and explained all of that portion of Mt. Vernon Drive stopped before Arden Drive and part of it has been there for years but not the end where the complaints are being made. He was uncertain what the solution to the problem will be but he reported it would not be mill and paved in this paving season. He suggested making these kinds of decisions in December for the coming year. He stated the situation will continue to be monitored and the street will continued to be swept.

Mr. Poach wished Mr. Wolfram a quick and speedy recovery.

THIRD WARD COUNCILMAN BOB STEVENSON

Mr. Stevenson suggested everyone be careful in the hot days with individuals being outside at the parks or in their yards. He recommended everyone to hydrate because heat stroke can sneak up on a person and they can go down in a minute.

FIFTH WARD COUNCILMAN MIKE ADAMS

Mr. Adams sent Councilman Wolfram get well wishes and a speedy recovery.

SIXTH WARD COUNCILMAN BOB WILLIAMS

Mr. Williams reported the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) mandates Duquesne Light to clear all the right of ways underneath the wires. He mentioned how they cut up the logs in 18-inch pieces and leave them on the property and a lot of the homeowners do not want them. He suggested anyone looking for fire wood to just go through the municipality and there is some on Johnson Road for free or a person could request permission from the property owner. He mentioned it would help clean up the right of ways.

Mr. Williams mentioned the light on Cathedral Drive that the municipality had ordered on October 3, 2022 and was installed and now there are complaints about the light shining on a couple houses away in the back yard. He did a site visit and the light is irritating but the problem may be that the pole is leaning making the light shine on their eyes instead of the road. He called Duquesne Light and they will determine whether it can be adjusted or if it needs a shield which would cost the municipality \$250 for installation. He mentioned this so the public is aware but if it has to be done the municipality will do it.

Mr. Williams reported the Canadian wildfires are causing a lot of breathing problems in the area and the lower 48 states.

Mr. Williams thanked everyone for attending the meeting and it makes a difference with council decisions.

Mr. Little inquired whether council approves of buying the light shield for \$250 and it was the consensus of council to do it.

SEVENTH WARD COUNCILMAN DENNIS BIONDO

Mr. Biondo sent get well wishes to Councilman Wolfram and wished him the best. He agreed it is nice to see people in the audience and attend the meeting and for people to engage that care about their community. He thanked everyone for coming. He thanked Toni and Lois for showing up and expressing their concerns.

MAYOR GRESOCK

Mayor Gresock also sent get well wishes to Councilman Wolfram and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and everyone that was honored. He mentioned Dr. Beck mentioning him and Mr. Little concerning the Heritage Trail and reported they only had a tiny part of the trail but did support it. He reported there were a lot people that were involved with it. Mr. Little mentioned Malcolm Silius the Parks and Recreation Director for Westmoreland County. Mayor Gresock asserted the municipality supports it and the grant is in place to expand the trail to connect with the Great Allegheny Passage which would be wonderful for the region to connect from Monroeville to Washington, DC.

Mayor Gresock thanked everyone for attending the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony honoring our fallen military members last week. He congratulated the Gateway Graduates and especially his daughter. He wished his other daughter a happy birthday in June.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before council, at this time, Mr. Stevenson duly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. and Mr. Hyzy seconded it. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Little  
Municipal Manager

TJL/sam