

MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE

CITIZENS' NIGHT MEETING

JULY 6, 2023

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Eric Poach.

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: Deputy Mayor Poach, Joe Hyzy, Bob Stevenson, Steve Wolfram, Mike Adams, Bob Williams, Dennis Biondo, Tim Little, Bob Wratcher, Rosie Rock, Paul Hugus, Joe Sedlak and Paul Whealdon. Mayor Gresock was absent.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Jose Rodriguez from the Monroeville Baseball Association, came forward to give a presentation on behalf of Monroeville Baseball and Softball Association. He gave a brief overview of his history in Monroeville and how he got involved. He pointed out when he reviewed the information it showed BSA raised most of their funding through the concession stand but he felt the league needed to improve its relationship with the municipality and how it served the participants. He stated they were able to get two grants totally \$350,000. He submitted the original form with State Representative Markosek's office and copies of the actual applications submitted and a letter distributed to the Monroeville Baseball and Softball Association prior to the beginning of the season that listed what they were doing. He explained the two grants, one was with the Allegheny County Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund and the other is with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. He reported they wanted to do things in conjunction with the municipality to help revitalize the parks. He explained they are partners with the municipality and the municipality lets them use the facilities at no cost. He pointed out there are things being discussed that are not being addressed right now because they have not raised the funds to help so they will be using the grants. He reported the GEDTF grant is for \$100,000 which 100 percent would be used to put score boards at every field with LED Boards which are badly needed and he reviewed how the score boards were needed for all the activities at the fields with ACB tournaments, in-house games and the two or three other tournaments they host a year. He further explained how they might have an opportunity to help them expand what they can offer the sponsors by promoting their businesses on the LED Board. He added the LED Boards would allow them to stream events.

Mr. Rodriguez reported they also want to get batting cages with the state money which is wanted by MBSA and has been a concern with the groups that visit the fields. He mentioned the tournament this weekend for the Monroeville Baseball Bash. He reported that 100 percent of everything they do goes back into the league and the kids and back into the municipality to update the fields. He mentioned there are things they think will enhance the fields but there are things that need

to happen now to help maintain them. He stated since they have been able to raise the money they are looking to work with the municipality to get those things done.

Mr. Williams inquired about the number of cages and Mr. Rodriguez answered two, back to back. He briefly reviewed what other communities have and explained what is adequate.

Mr. Adams questioned who would take ownership of the score boards and Mr. Rodriguez answered the municipality. Mr. Little explained how this does not need a resolution. Mr. Adams inquired about who the revenue would go to from the advertising on the score boards and Mr. Rodriguez answered when they are using the fields it would go to them. He explained it would be the same way they currently sell sponsorships to people who want to promote within the league. He reported they had opening day sponsors, MBP Day Sponsors, on the athletes' jersey and the website. Mr. Adams inquired whether any of the revenues would go back into the Community Park and Mr. Rodriguez answered affirmatively. Mr. Adams pointed out that on the list of bills last month it was \$3,064.50 for the electric and \$700 for water for the facility. Mr. Rodriguez stated they are not the only ones that use the fields but they are allowed to use the fields at no cost. He reported ACB and the other groups rent the space. He indicated they are open to sharing the revenue with the municipality when they use the fields. He suggested it is also an opportunity for the municipality because they would pay 100 percent of the cost for the ports.

Mr. Little inquired about their status with Smart Signs and Mr. Rodriguez indicated they are available next week to discuss the permitting. He reported they submitted a quote but the score board quote is not included because they have a partnership with BSN that supplies their tournament uniforms and equipment so they could get them a score board significantly cheaper than Smart Signs. He explained for four digital displays the LED boards would be four by eight with the installation at \$20,000 per LED Board. He reviewed how they are not a solid board but made up of one by one squares of lighted LEDs that they assemble which are beautiful. He stated their logo looked incredible. He stated the quote for the project was just under \$119,072. He explained because of what they want to do he is hoping the county will pay for it at \$100,000 because it is a tourism grant. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Little explained the Co-Stars process. Mr. Rodriguez asserted they are a Co-Stars Vendor and the next steps are to get the \$100,000 quote and iron out the details with the permit. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Little inquired whether any revenue from this would go back into the parks and Mr. Rodriguez answered 100 percent of the money that they raise would go back into their participants then it goes back into the parks. He explained they operate the concession stands which is their primary source of revenue other than the grants. He pointed out the grant are a one-time deal and it would be to do something to enhance the experience for the people using the park. He felt the groups that use them will appreciate it which it may encourage what Monroeville utilizes them for beyond letting them use them. He suggested the municipality could come up with ideas for other uses for people to rent them and utilize the LEDs. He stated they would have no ownership of them and would ask the municipality if they could use them when they are on the fields.

Mr. Adams inquired whether their leagues have fees and Mr. Rodriguez answered there is a \$75 registration fee which pays for the uniforms and hats. Mr. Adams questioned whether they do fundraising and Mr. Rodriguez answered negatively. He explained there is fundraising but it happens with the individual teams. He reported when they get up to the 12-year old group, they go to a

tournament but they raise their own money. He again stated their fundraising comes from the concession stand but was concerned if it cannot be open. He explained their registration fee would cover the costs of what they need but they would not be able to do more. He stated this is to be used as a springboard to enhance the offering of MBSA and it is currently being operated by volunteers. He reported they have 420 participants and they are up 12-15 percent from the year before and softball is a growing program. He stated the kids want to get better but not all of them can afford All Americans or the Kane's so they want to raise more money to go back and get professional instruction for nothing. He reported they just launched the first series of free clinics. He mentioned Gamma which just did a three-day clinic free for all their participants that registered for Fall and American which will be doing a night camp for four weeks and he reviewed the details.

Mr. Little asserted they would set up the permitting meeting.

MIKE KANE

Mr. Mike Kane, a resident of Mt. Vernon Drive, came forward to express his concerns. He did not like coming back to the municipality over and over again concerning this issue. He explained the problem is that Mt. Vernon Road was tarred and chipped last August and it still actively damages his vehicles 11 months after. He submitted his receipt to the municipality for his damage that clearly states that the damage was caused by the tar and chip road. He reported the chips are getting stuck in his tires and making them go flat and he has \$3,500 damage. He mentioned one of his neighbors is in attendance with an invoice that shows the exact same issue and he has a neighbor on the other side who has the same issue but is afraid to come forward at a public meeting because he is a Monroeville business owner. He stated he is irritated because no one is taking responsibility for his damaged vehicle and they are stuck on a road that they cannot leave without damaging their vehicles. He felt the damage issues need to be reimbursed and the road needs fixed. He suggested it is troubling to see the list from April 20, 2023 for all the roads proposed to be tarred and chipped that was updated June 16 and the municipality is going in the wrong direction because it has added 16 additional roads to be tarred and chipped since April. He was confused because the residents proved they met the goal of 15 years yet their road was still and tarred and chipped.

Mr. Adams inquired whether the municipality got any answers from Russell Standard for a solution. Mr. Hugus answered he has had conversations with them but they have not started this year's program.

Mr. Kane stated they have facts that the municipality cannot discount and invoices that reflect why their tires are going flat.

ANTHONY MOCK

Mr. Anthony Mock, a resident of Mt. Vernon Road, came forward to express his concerns. He gave a brief overview of his history in Monroeville and explained how he has been here his entire life and has worked hard to get where he is currently. He reported he lives on Mt. Vernon and worked hard to buy his dream car but his road is causing him to have flat tires. He pointed out it is \$600 a piece every time and it is getting expensive. He reported his four children cannot ride their bikes on the street because it is so jagged. He explained how his daughter was injured and lost skin from falling. He brought his invoice and requested reimbursement. He would like to have details of the status of the

road and have it repaved or find a way to smash the sharp edges down so the kids can ride their bikes and scooters. He reported the municipality has had the street sweeper come to get rid of the rocks.

Mr. Little inquired whether the \$600 was per tire and Mr. Mock answered affirmatively. He had the invoice and the video from A & L and he explained how the tar gets melted into the tires. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Mock reported he spoke with someone from the municipality who informed him other streets were done but he pointed out his street is a dead-end and the other streets have additional traffic. He again explained how the heat from the rock melts into the tires.

Mr. Adams inquired whether the insurance company turned down the claims and Mr. Sedlak stated insurance claims would go back to the contractor. Mr. Kane reported they were sent to the contractor as instructed and the contractor indicated it was Monroeville's problem.

TOM CLARK

Mr. Tom Clark, a resident of Harvard Drive, came forward to express his concerns. He gave a brief overview of his history here in Monroeville since 1971. He reported he lives in a friendly and pleasant neighborhood and he has never had a problem with any neighbor until Mr. Yakim moved in across from him. He distributed pictures that show how Mr. Yakim parks his truck directly across from his driveway which creates a safety hazard because they live on the crest of a hill. He suggested it is unsafe for vehicles approaching the narrow lane from both directions. He reported even though they have requested several times, Mr. Yakim insists that it is his right to park there instead of using his two-car garage or long driveway. Mr. Clark also mentioned school buses travel the road. He reported he and his wife have tolerated this inconsiderate behavior despite having many near misses. He explained of an incidence with his wife where she was nearly broad sided by a car coming from the opposite direction. He reported they went to the police department for advice concerning how to rectify the unsafe conditions in front of their house. He requested the municipality have someone assess the situation and investigate what can be done to assure the safety of citizens that use that road. Mr. Clark pointed out if someone is using the speed limit and approaching from both sides the reaction time is somewhere between 1 and 1.25 seconds. He stated they have seen many near misses along that road and he suggested maybe no parking on one side or the other but it is an unsafe condition.

Mr. Clark mentioned how his road is also tar and chip and he did not win his fight five years ago.

LOIS DRUMHELLER

Mrs. Lois Drumheller, a resident, came forward to inquire about the public hearing for the draft proposed zoning ordinance. She assumed since it was not on the agenda that the municipality did not receive the comments back from the county and instead of the meeting being August 1, it would be September 5 and it would be advertised for the second public hearing on the zoning ordinance. Mr. Poach stated it is contingent on the county's response. Mr. Whealdon reported the municipality is still waiting for the county to submit the second round of comments and he was uncertain when they would be submitted so it will be at least one more month.

Mrs. Drumheller mentioned how it looks like the Fourth of July Parade was live streamed and she wanted to know if the municipality has the ability to live stream council meetings because not everyone has cable. Mr. Little reported the municipality is working on it and Mr. Poach stated it has been on the agenda for over a year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no one else come forward at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Little
Municipal Manager

TJL/sam