

MONTROSE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
April 3, 2017
7:00 PM

President Sean Granahan called the meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Mayor John Wilson read a prayer for guidance.

Adoption of Agenda: President Granahan questioned if anyone wanted to make any changes or additions to the Agenda. The following additions were made: Action Item: # 6. Lyme Group Conference Room May 3rd, #7. Northern Tier Conference Room May 16th, CEO to issue NOV's, #9. Adopt Sexual Abuse & Background Check; Discussion Item: #6 DEA. Motion was made to adopt the Agenda as amended by Councilwoman Judy Kelly; Councilman Jamie Holbert 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: President Granahan inquired if there were any changes or corrections to the March 2017 minutes. A motion was made to accept minutes as previously amended by Councilman Todd Chamberlain; Councilman Tom LaMont 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Present for Roll Call: Sean Granahan, Randy Schuster, Jamie Holbert, Tom LaMont, Craig Reimel, Todd Chamberlain, Judy Kelly

Absent: None

Other Officials Present: John Wilson, Mayor; Marion O'Malley, Solicitor; Lillian T. Senko, Secretary

President Granahan took this time to comment on some matters since he wasn't able to make the last Council meeting. He reported he met with the Commissioners regarding the old jail, and it was a good meeting with Alan Hall and Marianne Warren. Commissioner Hall said they are not looking for a nickel from the Borough, and he will personally pay the ninety-nine dollar lease up front as a donation to the Borough. The Commissioners understand the Borough is looking to keep it preserved, not for a reuse, and grant money will be the funds used for the preservation. President Granahan said the Montrose Restoration

Committee is interested in the project, and they will be the public face for fundraising, and other functions.

Misc. Correspondence:

Zoning Hearing Board

RE: January Organizational Meeting

Susquehanna County Voter Registration

RE: Annual Information Letter

President Granahan inquired if there were any questions or comments associated with the miscellaneous correspondence. No questions or comments.

Recognition of Attendees: Corporal Andy Genneken, Sue McNamara, Chief Dale Smith, Ken DiPhillips, Pat Farnelli

President Granahan asked if there were any members in the audience who would like to speak, and are not listed on the Agenda. Sue McNamara stated she would like to be permitted to ask questions throughout the meeting for clarification.

Approval of A/P: President Granahan inquired if there were any questions or comments on submitted Accounts Payable. No questions or comments. Councilman Craig Reimel motioned to approve payment of outstanding bills; Councilman Randy Schuster 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Payroll: President Granahan inquired if there were any questions or comments on submitted Payroll report. No questions or comments. Councilman Schuster motioned to accept the Payroll Report; Councilman LaMont 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Accounts Receivable/Deposits: President Granahan inquired if there were any questions or comments associated with the submitted Accounts Receivable/Deposit Report. No questions or comments.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: President Granahan asked if anyone had any questions or comments on the submitted Treasurer's Report. No questions or comments.

Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Councilman Schuster; Councilman LaMont 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Budget Report: President Granahan inquired if anyone had any questions or comments on the presented material. No questions or comments.

Street Department: President Granahan asked if anyone had any questions or comments on the report provided by Ken DiPhillips, Supervisor.

Supervisor DiPhillips stated the Street Department crew started sweeping the streets this past week. They plan to keep the winter equipment on some of the trucks, since the weather can still produce more snow. President Granahan said thank you to the department for keeping up with the snow during the storm.

Councilman Schuster motioned for funds to be released for the purchase of cinders at a total price of three thousand six hundred eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents; Councilman Chamberlain 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Supervisor DiPhillips asked permission to purchase a few more loads if needed, Council approved.

A motion was made to place an ad for the upcoming Liquid Fuel paving project by Councilwoman Kelly, Councilman Chamberlain 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor DiPhillips said additional work would need to be done to the roads before paving. He will provide to Council at the next meeting information on what the additional work would entail.

Building Code Officer Report: President Granahan asked if anyone had any questions or comments on the Code Enforcement/Building Code Official Report. No questions or comments.

Zoning/Code Enforcement Report: President Granahan asked if there were any questions or comments on the Zoning Report provided by Mr. Watts. No questions or comments.

Councilman Chamberlain asked about converting the street lights in town. He stated Scranton just converted, and the city is projected to save a lot of money. President Granahan said with the new light posts the street lights may be able to be

turned off. Penelec will be contacted to see what can be done with the LED or shutting off the lights.

Police Department: President Granahan asked if there were any questions or comments on the Police Report.

Chief Dale Smith stated the Police Department has been very busy. A group of residents approached him about starting a neighborhood watch. They informed Chief Smith they wanted to go about it the right way, and watch a small area. If they see anything they would send an e-mail or call to the Police Department.

Councilman LaMont said he would be against forming a formal watch group. He said they can watch their area now without it being an organized group. By making the group official they would be subject to court time stated Councilman LaMont.

President Granahan said it wasn't up to Council to say yes or no to forming a neighborhood watch group, they can organize if they want. The best thing to do is to inform them of the pros and cons of an organized group.

Corporal Genneken said he would like to call Council's attention to Officers who volunteered their backs to help out residents who needed to dig out their car during Stella. Many patrol officers who were on duty during Stella helped the residents.

Montrose Police Department were named as citizens of the month for February 2017 Corporal Genneken reported. He said he didn't know whether or not Council heard anything about it, or read it in the paper.

Councilwoman Kelly stated she would like to acknowledge and thank the Officers who went above and beyond at an accident scene to look for the patient's hearing aid.

Municipal Authority: President Granahan asked if there were any questions or comments on the submitted Municipal Authority Report. No questions or comments.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Wilson said he had nothing to report.

Action Items:

- 1. Run for Life; Requesting Officer Assistance:** Councilman Reimel motioned to approve Police Officer assistance to the runners crossing the roads on Saturday, May 20th before the Chocolate & Wine Festival; Councilman LaMont 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- 2. Memorial Park Mowing, Advertise:** A question arose whether or not to advertise for mowing services for the 2017 season. Councilman Reimel said it was advertised for bid last year, and the current landscapers just reduced their price for this year. He said he doesn't see a need to advertise it again. Councilwoman Kelly said they were not the lowest bid last year, so she felt it should have been advertised again to give everyone a chance to bid on the service.

- 3. Cleaning Service – Borough Bldg. Park Restrooms, Advertise:** Councilman LaMont motioned to advertise for bids requesting cleaning services for the Borough building and Memorial Park restrooms; Councilman Reimel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- 4. Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Requested Resolutions:** Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's (PSAB) sent out a request to all members asking each Borough to adopt resolutions on two topics PSAB representatives are looking to bring to Harrisburg. The first one is to allow local police departments to use radar for enforcement of local speed limits. The second is to change House Bill No. 290, Section 2013; eliminating the limit placed on prizes awarded from games of chance.

Councilman Reimel motioned to adopt Resolution 2017-01 whereas; the local police department officers be eligible to use radar timing equipment; Councilman LaMont 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman LaMont motioned to adopt Resolution 2017-02 whereas; there shall be no monetary limit in prizes awarded from games of chance by a licensed eligible organization during any time period; Councilman Chamberlain 2nd the motion. Voting was as follows:

Councilman LaMont – yea

Councilman Chamberlain – yea

Councilman Schuster – yea

Councilman Granahan – yea

Councilwoman Kelly – nay
Councilman Holbert – nay
Councilman Reimel – nay
Motion carried.

- 5. DCNR Grant Resolution:** Montrose Borough is looking to obtain grant funding to revitalize Memorial park. To complete the grant, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) requires a resolution indicating the signatory for the grant paperwork.

Councilman Reimel motioned to adopt Resolution 2017-03 naming President Sean Granahan as the signatory for the grant; Councilman Holbert 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- 6. Lyme Group Meeting:** Councilman Reimel motioned to permit the Lyme Group to use the Borough meeting room on May 3rd from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.; Councilman Chamberlain 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- 7. Norther Tier Alliance:** Councilman LaMont motioned to permit the Northern Tier Alliance to use the Borough meeting room on May 16th from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; Councilman Reimel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- 8. Code Enforcement Officer:** President Granahan stated in the future; people who have not received a prior notice, or citation, for not keeping their sidewalks clear of ice and snow will receive a warning. Chronic abusers will be receiving citations. Councilman Reimel stated it cost the residents twenty-five dollars to plead innocent to the Magistrate.

- 9. Adopt Sexual Abuse & Background Check Policy:** President Granahan stated the Borough's insurance company requires office, and Street Department personnel to have a Sexual Abuse & Background Check Policy. He stated he would like a motion to move to adopt a policy with language Council can agree to at Councils next meeting on May 1st. Councilman LaMont motioned to adopt a policy at the May 1st Council meeting; Councilman Schuster 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

- 1. Fee Schedule – Application Costs for ZHB Continuance:** Council members and Solicitor discussed the current Fee Schedule which was adopted in 2013. Solicitor O’Malley stated it does not have any reference to a fee if the hearing is continued. Councilman Schuster stated if the costs are higher than the fee, maybe Council should reevaluate the charge. Solicitor O’Malley said only five cases have been reviewed by the Zoning Hearing Board since 2012. President Granahan asked Solicitor O’Malley to obtain the cost of those hearings, and bring it to the next Council meeting.
- 2. Trees Planting and Removal:** Councilwoman Kelly stated if we purchase the trees in bulk and receive a discount, residents may be interested in purchasing trees to replace the ones they cut down. She said some people had a misconception about the trees growing so large they need to be cut down; she stated maybe two to three generations from now.
- 3. Side South Main Street Update:** Councilwoman Kelly relayed the information she received from Tad Moser, Engineer at JHA who is helping with the project.

The sidewalk area is very narrow on the west side of South Main Street. Butler’s Pantry and the other three businesses are concerned this project is going to hurt business since they received a hard blow from the 706 Project. Councilwoman Kelly suggested Council consider waiving the permit fees for their share of the sidewalk. President Granahan said it wouldn’t be a problem waiving the permit fee.

The Pennsylvania American Water Company is waiting for a response from PennDot before they start the project. Councilwoman Kelly stated they are holding the project up, and they are going to save a lot of money by jumping into a project that is grant funded. She would like permission to contact the PA American Water Company to see what monetary or in-kind contribution they were willing to give to the Borough.

- 4. Snow Removal:** Borough Secretary passed along a suggestion she received from a resident. The suggestion was to obtain bids from companies to shovel/clear all the sidewalks in the downtown area. The property owners would share in the cost, and this way the walkways in the downtown area would be unified. President Granahan asked the Secretary to get in touch

with companies and see if they would be interested in bidding out the job, and report at the next meeting.

- 5. Adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code:** President Granahan stated Attorney Michael Briechle informed him Susquehanna Borough easily had six properties torn down, and they were able to retrieve the cost from the owner of the property. He said they were able to accomplish this by adopting the International Property Maintenance Code. Councilman Reimel stated John Watts and Jessie Grimm have suggested the Borough adopt that code for a while now. President Granahan said Attorney Briechle could come in and speak with them, to provide information how Susquehanna was able to accomplish the feat.

President Granahan said Council could review the Code, and see whether or not it was too stringent. He reminded Council they could leave out sections they wouldn't want to enforce, and still adopt the Code. They will obtain a copy of the code to review and discuss it at the next Council meeting.

- 6. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA):** President Granahan said a lot of complaints have been received regarding drug issues in the Borough. He attempted to contact the local drug task force with no luck. When he didn't get a response, he phoned the courthouse in Scranton and had a conversation with a member of Lackawanna's DEA.

President Granahan was informed there are two divisions of the DEA; abuse of prescription drugs and sale; and drug use and sale of cocaine, heroin and others. He spoke with a person in the drug use and sale of cocaine, heroin and others. President Granahan relayed to the DEA, Council members have basic questions, need help, and asked if they can come and talk them.

Executive Session:

President Granahan recessed the open meeting at 8:23 p.m.

At 8:33 p.m. President Granahan called the open meeting back to order.

Councilman Schuster motioned to terminate Nate Williams as a member of the Montrose Borough Police Department; Councilman LaMont 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Schuster to advertise for part-time Police Officers, Councilman LaMont 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Kelly motioned to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Reimel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lillian T. Senko

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Borough Secretary