

MONTROSE BOROUGH COUNCIL
September 10, 2018
7:00 PM

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

President Granahan said a prayer for guidance.

Adoption of Agenda: President Granahan questioned if anyone wanted to make any changes or additions to the Agenda. The following changes were made: Discussion Items: #6. Volunteer Fire Fighters. Executive Session: Personnel, and Litigation. Motion was made to adopt the Agenda as modified by Councilman Todd Chamberlain; Councilman Craig Reimel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: President Granahan inquired if there were any changes or corrections to the August minutes. A motion was made to accept minutes as presented by Councilman Chamberlain; Councilman Reimel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Present for Roll Call: Sean Granahan, Jamie Holbert, Todd Chamberlain, Craig Reimel

Absent: Judy Kelly, Tom Follert, Randy Schuster (Arrived at 8:12 p.m.)

Other Officials Present: Michael Briechle, Solicitor; Lillian T. Senko, Secretary

Misc. Correspondence:

Montrose Borough Zoning Hearing Board
RE: April 17, 2018 Minutes

Beirne Wealth Consulting
RE: July Investment Report

Montrose PA Pickleball Club
RE: Thank you letter

Susquehanna County Conservation District
RE: Thank you - goodbye

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

Recognition of Attendees: Chief Dale Smith, Jenny Olin, Ryan J. Coy, Larry Coy, Ellen Mulligan, Cynthia Goodman, Ken DiPhillips, Chad Benedict, Kelly Benedict, Officer James Smith, Joan Eidenier, John Eidenier, Alice Walsh

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 Holbert 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 Reimel motioned to accept the Payroll Report; Councilman Chamberlain 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. Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Councilman Reimel; Councilman Holbert 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 reported the Borough fared fairly well during the last storm which raked havoc all around Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties. A pipe was compromised on Chenango near Spruce Street, and the park had extensive damage which has already been repaired.

Lincoln, Jackson, Chestnut and Beech Street need to have work on the swales before the paving project and Supervisor DiPhillips asked Council if they could rent a milling machine. He stated he thinks it would save money over the long run. Councilman Reimel motioned to approve the Street Department to rent a milling machine for two days for a total expense of one thousand ten dollars; Councilman Chamberlain 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Building Code Report: President Granahan asked if there were any questions or comments on the Building Code Report provided by Mr. Grimm. No questions or comments.

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

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

Chief Smith reported the Police Department had another busy month, and National Night Out held on August 7th went very well. The dumpster that was rented by the Borough for the residents affected by the flood was carefully monitored and there weren't any problems.

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 Tom LaMont did not attend this meeting.

Speaker: Ryan Coy

Mr. Coy said he owns a business named Foolish Pleasures which is a Hot Air Balloon ride. He has been flying the hot air balloon for the past eight years out of a small private airport in South Montrose, and from the Elk Lake School District. Mr. Coy said the airport is no longer in business and he would like to

use Memorial Park as a launch site. He is fully insured and would name the Borough as second insured. Mr. Coy stated his safety record is one hundred percent. President Granahan asked if he would have enough room to launch the balloon from the park, and Mr. Coy responded he had one of his old balloons on site at last years National Night Out and that would be the approximate length and width he would use.

Action Items:

- 1. Benedict Insurance Bond:** Mr. Benedict was in attendance to request the escrow held by the Borough be released. He explained to Council how the disbursement was held up by his mortgage holder M&T Bank. They had certain criteria to follow which is not beneficial to homeowners that need the funds to complete repairs.

Council spoke for a few minutes with the guidance of Solicitor Briechele regarding the current Ordinance and the need for an update version. Councilman Reimel stated Mr. Benedict has expressed and demonstrated his readiness to repair his house.

Councilman Reimel motioned to release Mr. Benedict's Fire Escrow in the amount of twenty-five thousand eight hundred twenty-six dollars and fifty cents; Councilman Chamberlain 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- 2. Town Messaging System:** As a result of the recent flood emergency and a lack of viable communication to the residents of the Borough a town messaging system was once again suggested.

The Borough Secretary found another messaging system that was much cheaper than the previously presented system. This system would be a yearly cost of seven hundred fifty-nine dollars with a one-time setup fee of two hundred dollars compared to one thousand five hundred eighty-nine dollars.

The system could be used to alert residents of leaf pick-up in their area, any events that were being held in the Borough, work on streets and any other multitude of events in the future.

Residents in attendance asked how they would receive the notifications which would be via text or email. Others in attendance stated it was being used by the schools and it was a very good tool to use.

Council asked the Borough Secretary to put it out on Facebook and see how many people would be interested in this form of communication. Tabled until next month.

- 3. Municipal Minimum Obligation (MMO):** President Granahan reviewed the 2019 that the Borough is going to be responsible to meet at a cost of one hundred eighty-one thousand eight hundred three dollars.
- 4. Foolish Pleasures Hot Air Balloon:** Councilman Holbert motioned to approve using Memorial Park as Mr. Coy's launch site pending legal review; Councilman Chamberlain 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 5. Resignation of Patrol Officer Joshua Diddick:** Councilman Reimel motioned to accept the resignation from Joshua Diddick effective August 16th, Councilman Holbert 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

- 1. Cars Speeding on Lake Avenue:** A letter was received from a resident stating there are a number of cars speeding on Lake Avenue on a daily basis. They stated there is a 25-mph speed limit sign at the south end of Lake Avenue and in the middle of Lake Avenue the speed limit sign increases to 35 mph. Chief Dale Smith contacted an officer during the meeting to check and see if there is a sign in the middle of Lake Avenue stating 35 mph, the officer responded negative, no sign in the middle of Lake Avenue that states 35 mph.
- 2. Christmas Decorations for Downtown Area:** Tabled until next month.
- 3. Liquid Fuels Attestation Engagement:** President Granahan asked if Council had any questions on the Attestation Engagement for Liquid Fuels. The Borough received a good audit for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017. No questions or comments.

4. **South Main Street Update:** President Granahan stated there was no update.
5. **Feral Cats – Cliff Street:** Tabled until next month.
6. **Volunteer Fire Fighters:** Councilman Chamberlain brought in an article from the Scranton times to share with Council. Clarks Summit approved a tax credit ordinance that will give their volunteer fire fighters a tax break in hopefully using it as a tool to increase active membership.

Councilman Chamberlain asked Ryan Coy if he felt this would be something they could use to recruit more members. Mr. Coy stated not everyone owns a home so it wouldn't matter to quite a number of their current volunteers.

An earned income tax break is also an option which Mr. Coy said would definitely help recruitment, along with current fire fighters.

Executive Session:

President Granahan recessed the open meeting at 8:13 p.m.

At 8:35 p.m. President Granahan called the open meeting back to order.

Councilman Schuster motioned to remove Patrol Officer Michael Badyrka officially off probation with pay reflecting the change; Councilman Holbert 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Councilman Chamberlain motioned to adjourn the meeting; Councilman Holbert 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lillian T. Senko

Lillian T. Senko
Borough Secretary