

**MONTROSE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**April 1, 2019**

**7:00 PM**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**Adoption of Agenda:** President Granahan questioned if anyone wanted to make any changes or additions to the Agenda. Motion was made to adopt the Agenda as presented by Councilman Tom Follert; Councilman Randy Schuster 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** President Granahan inquired if there were any changes or corrections to the March minutes. A motion was made to accept minutes as presented by Councilman Follert; Councilman Todd Chamberlain 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**Present for Roll Call:** Randy Schuster, Judy Kelly, Craig Reimel, Sean Granahan, Tom Follert, Todd Chamberlain

**Absent:** Jamie Holbert

**Other Officials Present:** Thomas LaMont, Mayor; Michael Briechle, Solicitor; Lillian T. Senko, Secretary

**Misc. Correspondence:**

Beirne Wealth Consulting  
RE: February 2019 Investment Report

Briechle Law Offices  
RE: Montrose Municipal Authority

Margaret Karmazin  
RE: Request for installation of a traffic light

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs  
RE: Information on what members receive

Charter Communications  
RE: Quarterly Franchise Fee Payment

Bardsley, Benedict, Cholden  
RE: Haberle Lawsuit

President Granahan inquired if there were any questions or comments associated with the miscellaneous correspondence. Council spoke for a few moments regarding Margaret Karmazin's correspondence. She is requesting an installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Cherry Street and Route 29. It was noted both roads are owned and maintained by PennDot. The Borough secretary will contact PennDot to discuss the concern to see what can be done.

**Recognition of Attendees:** George Littlejohn, Ken Marino, Chief Dale Smith, David Darrow, Ken DiPhillips, Dolores Foster, Carl Rinyu, David Spence, Dan Zaleski, Rowan Ryan, Brian Lione, Hillori Schenker, Ed Dewitt, Mary Clark

President Granahan asked if any members were here to speak that were not on the Agenda. Carl Rinyu said he was here to speak about the cars and trucks speeding through town; Dolores Foster said she was here about that same problem and would also like to address areas of property neglect.

**Approval of A/P:** President Granahan inquired if there were any questions or comments on submitted Accounts Payable. No questions or comments. Councilman Schuster motioned to approve payment of outstanding bills; Councilwoman Judy Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Schuster 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Schuster 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 stated Ken DiPhillips will answer any questions Council has on his report.

Supervisor DiPhillips stated the paving job they had to scrub in 2018 is on Vestal Asphalt's schedule to start at the end of April. Leeward has to do restoration work on the roads before paving.

Cinders need to be ordered for the 2019-2020 season at a cost of \$16.30 per square yard. Supervisor DiPhillips said he would like to order one hundred fifty yards more or less.

Councilman Schuster motioned to permit Supervisor DiPhillips order the necessary amount of cinders; Councilman Follert 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Kelly informed Council they were entering Phase 3 of the South Main Street project and curbs are not part of the project. She and Supervisor DiPhillips looked at the curbing which needs to be replaced. Supervisor DiPhillips stated its one hundred forty-seven feet and is a straight run with no radius. The east side by Tannery is not bad. Supervisor DiPhillips will obtain pricing for the curbs and bring it to the next Council meeting.

Supervisor DiPhillips stated the backhoe they purchased just a little over a year ago was still not repaired, not for a lack of trying. He said the repair person has been coming up and trying to find the problem. Supervisor DiPhillips said the issue is the backhoe drops the bucket sporadically and he never knows when it's going to happen. The front bucket works great, there is no issues. The Borough secretary wrote a letter to Five Star Equipment regarding the safety of the staff and public and asked them to pick up the equipment and supply a replacement so they could do their scheduled work.

Attorney Briechle said he could look up the details for the "Lemon Law" if the problem continues.

**Building Code Report:** No report was provided by BIU.

**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 Dale Smith stated annual updates is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to be held in the Borough conference room.

President Granahan informed Mr. Carl Rinyu he would be able to discuss his concerns at this time since it involves the Police.

Mr. Rinyu said the speeding trucks and cars have increased especially between the hours of 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. He said they hear them all night long and it sounds like they're going faster than the speed limit.

Another problem was a little boy trying to cross the street at the crosswalk at Maple and Church Street, no one was stopping to let him cross. It was suggested to get flashing crosswalk signs.

Chief Smith said to address the issue of speeding, he can paint Vascar lines closer to Mr. Rinyu's house and have officers sit there.

The crosswalk at the University of Scranton is probably the best choice stated Chief Smith. The person presses a button when he wants to cross the street and the crosswalk lights up with flashing lights.

Ms. Foster asked about the old hospital. She reported there are broken windows and its unsightly. The boarded-up house on Grow Avenue and the house with the cut down tree in the front yard was also mentioned. She said as you're coming into town these properties look terrible. President Granahan asked the secretary to send out letters to the property owners.

**Municipal Authority:** President Granahan asked if there were any questions or comments on the Municipal Authority Report.

Dave Darrow was in attendance to answer any questions Council had in regards to the report the MMA submitted last month listing residents who were far behind with their payments. Mr. Darrow said they received the letter Michael Briechle sent them but they have lawyers contracted to do the service. He said payment agreements are in place and they are getting results. Mr. Darrow said a lean on the property goes nowhere until the house is sold. They are making progress in reducing the debt by the payment arrangements they have made with the residents.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Tom LaMont said he would like the Borough to purchase GPS trackers to put on the Police vehicles for officer safety. He said they cost approximately twenty to twenty-five dollars per car.

Mayor LaMont Proclaimed Montrose Borough's 2019 Earth Day theme as "Spring Clean". He said he was inspired to write this Proclamation by Rowan Ryan a young man attending Montrose High School. Mayor LaMont stated Rowan was picking up trash in Montrose while just walking around. He was very impressed with the young man's ethics to pick up trash in a town he doesn't even live in. Rowan Ryan comes from Lawsville and has never been to a borough meeting stated Mayor LaMont.

Rowan Ryan relayed to Council pollution is a big deal and it's getting worse. Trash is getting into waterways and polluting creeks and streams. By starting the clean up now one day it will keep people and animals safe.

**Action Items:**

- 1. Approve Closure of Maple St. for Chocolate & Wine Festival:**  
Councilman Chamberlain motioned to approve the closure of Maple Street on May 18, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Councilman Schuster 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 2. Approve Two Uniformed Officers for Chocolate & Wine Festival:**  
Councilman Schuster motioned to approve two uniformed Officers to work within the festival limits on May 18<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Councilman Follert 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 3. Review and Confirm Zoning / Map Discrepancy:** Council members stated they didn't have time to review the submitted material. Solicitor Briechele made a suggestion how to handle paperwork. Council will review the material before the next meeting.

**Discussion Items:**

- 1. Review and Discuss Northeast Inspection Consultants Information:**  
Ken Marino and George Littlejohn attended Council's meeting to present their material and provide Council some background and information on their business.

Mr. Marino stated it would be an honor to serve the Montrose Borough. He said they currently service fifty-one municipalities in Wayne, Susquehanna and Lackawanna County. Mr. Marino said he was in the construction business for many years and he is very familiar with the Uniform Commercial Code. For older homes and businesses, they realize standards can not be the same as a new building.

Councilman Follert motioned to add Northeast Inspection Consultants (NEIC) to the Borough's acceptable UCC inspectors; Councilwoman Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Attorney Briechele will review NEIC's contract.

- 2. Review and Discuss Recruiting Volunteers for Borough's Special Events:** Tabled

**3. Review and Discuss Verizon Phone Service Proposal:** Council reviewed the proposal and questioned how Verizon was going to tap into the Wi-Fi system. Borough secretary will inquire and report at a later date.

**Visitors:**

Ed DeWitt spoke to Council about concerns for the safety of the spectators for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and presented to Council the Montrose July 4<sup>th</sup> Committee Safety Procedure and Requirements. He spoke about the procedure and how they were going to enforce it.

**Executive Session:**

No Executive Session was held.

Councilman Reimel motioned to adjourn the meeting; Councilman Holbert 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:10 PM**

Respectfully Submitted

*Lillian T. Senko*

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Borough Secretary