

MONTROSE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
September 13, 2021
7:00 PM

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Mayor LaMont 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 items were added: Action Item #3. Move Covid Money; #4. New Phone System. Discussion Item #2. Zoning and Codes. Motion to adopt agenda as amended by Councilwoman Judy Kelly; Councilman Ed Herd 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: President Granahan inquired if there were any changes or corrections to the August 2, 2021 minutes. Motion was made to accept minutes as presented by Councilman Randy Schuster; Councilman Herd 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Present for Roll Call: Sean Granahan, Ed Herd, Craig Reimel, Judy Kelly, Todd Chamberlain, Randy Schuster

Absent: Tom Follert

Other Officials Present: Lillian T. Senko, Secretary

Misc. Correspondence:

Ralph Perry-Miller
Re: Condemnation Notice

Beirne Wealth Consulting
RE: July 2021 Investment Report

GASB 68 Report
RE: Measurement Date of December 31, 2019

Susq. Cty. Township Officials Assoc.
RE: Convention Invitation

B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc
RE: Requesting Contributions

Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation
RE: Proposed Benedict K Gas Well

Rail-Trail News
RE: Newsletter

President Granahan inquired if there were any questions or comments associated with the miscellaneous correspondence.

Councilman Herd said he would like to discuss the Area Agency on Aging request in Executive Session.

Recognition of Attendees: Sergeant James Smith, Tara Nava, Julanne Skinner, Brian Lione, Hillori Schenker, Jenny Olin, Elaine Petrzala, Ken DiPhillips, Roy Williams

Approval of A/P: President Granahan inquired if there were any questions or comments on submitted Accounts Payable. Councilman Craig Reimel motioned to approve payment of outstanding bills; Councilwoman Kelly 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. Councilman Herd motioned to accept the Payroll Report; Councilman Reimel 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 Schuster; Councilman Reimel 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 on the Street Department Report.

Supervisor DiPhillips reported to Council the Street Department was starting the Public Avenue project cutting tree roots and repairing damaged sidewalks.

Councilwoman Kelly said Asian Jumping worm has reportedly been found in the area and the compost area should be checked. The worm has a light-colored ring around the body and will eat the roots of plants and grass.

Councilman Chamberlain asked how long Cruiser Street was going to be closed and why it was closed. Supervisor DiPhillips provided the reply. Council requested Code Enforcement Officer Roy Williams to go and speak with the project manager and find out how much longer the road will be closed.

Supervisor DiPhillips reported there were drainage issues on Beech Street, and they installed a drop inlet.

Ever since PennDot project on S. Main Street was completed there has been drainage issues and flooding of Dan Backer's business. Supervisor DiPhillips stated he had devised a plan to alleviate the flooding, but PennDot engineer informed him he would have to provide signed engineer drawings which Councilwoman Kelly stated this would not only hold up the project, but it would cost approximately fifty thousand dollars for a possible ten-thousand-dollar project.

President Granahan stated the roads are technically owned by the Borough and we should be the ones making the decision not PennDot. Supervisor DiPhillips will touch base with Brian Small regarding the project, working together as it should be with the Agility Agreement.

Councilman Chamberlain informed Council there was a lot of growth on the side of the road on Ridge Street. Supervisor DiPhillips asked when the last time he saw the growth since they cut it back that morning.

Councilman Schuster motioned to purchase tires needed for the F250 pickup at a price of two hundred forty dollars each, total nine hundred sixty dollars; Councilman Reimel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Zoning Report: President Granahan asked if anyone had any questions on the Zoning Report. No questions or comments.

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

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

Chief Dale Smith is out with Covid, and Sergeant Jim Smith is the officer in charge until he returns. Sergeant Smith provided the report to Council and Mayor.

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

Mayor's Report: Mayor LaMont stated he notified the State Police and the Sheriff's Department regarding Chief Smith's absence. He requested Sergeant Smith to provide a schedule for the remaining time in the month. Sergeant Smith asked Mayor LaMont if he wanted him to pick up more hours and he replied up to fifty hours and if he could cover late afternoon and evenings.

Speakers:

Julanne Skinner:

Ms. Skinner wanted more information on the repairs of the storm water drains the Street Department has been doing. She said as a resident of the Borough for the past 20 years the water has been in different locations. She said in near drought conditions in early spring water has been coming up onto her concrete in the garage and her property has been very wet. Ms. Skinner, Council, Mayor and Supervisor DiPhillips continued speaking for several minutes on water issues in the Borough.

Tara Nava who lives at 11 Wilson Street said her house had severe mold issues and Matt Hawley has been at the house taking care of them. She said she has sub pumps and two dehumidifiers going at all times.

Supervisor DiPhillips will contact the PA Water Company to arrange for a water test for Ms. Skinner's and Ms. Nava's residence to see if its ground water or maybe town water. He will meet with them on September 20, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.

Dave Darrow / MMA:

Mr. Darrow said he is requesting seventy-five thousand dollars out of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund the Borough is receiving. He said funds would be used toward the development of a pump station that is required to replace and relocation of a gravity sewer line that is very old, deteriorated and in some areas sloped incorrectly.

Council and Mr. Darrow spoke for several minutes about the project. At the end of the discussion Council stated they are looking at the fund criteria before they make any decisions. They will let him know.

Action Items:

- 1. Appoint Gary Barnhart as Alternate to Montrose Borough Planning Commission:** Councilman Reimel motioned to appoint Gary Barnhart as an alternate on the Montrose Borough Planning Commission; Councilman Chamberlain 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Approve MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) 2022:

Councilman Reimel motioned to approve the Borough's MMO for the Montrose Borough Pension Plan for the year 2022 in the amount of seven thousand four hundred eighty-seven dollars and ninety-three cents; Councilman Schuster 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Create Account and Move Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery

Fund: Councilman Schuster motioned to open a new bank account for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund; Councilman Reimel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Schuster motioned to move funds of seventy-seven thousand two hundred ninety-eight dollars and twenty-one cents received from General Account to the new bank account for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund; Councilman Chamberlain 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

4. New Phone System: Secretary provided Council information on an upgraded phone system provided by Frontier Business Edge. The current system is outdated, and the phones have been having issues. The Tax Collector's phone has not been working in over a week and the Street Department's phone was working badly for the past two years.

Councilman Reimel had a few negative remarks about Frontier and the outdated system they put into Lee's Furniture a few years back. Councilman Reimel suggested Secretary obtain a few more quotes recommending Guyette Communications as one of the companies to contact.

Discussion Items

1. Brian Leone Regarding Blackman House: The Blackman House located at 467 Church Street owned by Sherman Wooden was condemned on March 26, 2021. The house is falling apart and in dangerous shape.

Mr. Leone came in to speak regarding the property at 467 Church Street and informed Council he has purchased the property and will be working towards renovation and combining the property with his current home at 479 Church Street. By combining the two properties he can transform 467 Church Street from a house to an accessory structure.

A detailed list of changes was provided to Council, Mayor and Secretary. The list included completed and scheduled repairs which Council accepted. Council suggested Mr. Leone come to next month's meeting with an update and they will ask the Codes Enforcement Officer to remove the Condemnation so Mr. Leone could obtain insurance on the property.

2. **Zoning and Codes:** Councilman Chamberlain asked Council what was going on with Progressive Dental. After a few minutes of discussion Councilman Schuster motioned to send a bill to Progressive Dental in the amount of one thousand dollars; Councilman Reimel 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Chamberlain stated his business has had a car on the sidewalk for over seventy years. He said the Montrose Restoration Committee gave his business permission. Councilman Chamberlain stated there is plenty of room to park the car on the fifty almost sixty inches of sidewalk to be able to go around the car safely. Council agreed allowing him to keep a car parked on the sidewalk. Roy Williams, Code Enforcement Officer stated he would like Council's approval to be noted in the minutes.

Councilman Reimel motioned to approve C&F Motor Sales located at 150 Maple Street to allow cars for sale to be parked on sidewalk; Councilman Schuster 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The Notice of Violation on the building was discussed and Councilman Chamberlain stated he was neglectful on getting it repaired sooner but it isn't easily replaced. He will be making the repairs.

Councilman Chamberlain stated he has been complaining since the new sidewalks have been installed water has been going into his business and that is why he was against the project from the beginning. After many minutes of discussion, it was approved to have the Street Department make the needed repairs when they have the time to do it.

Executive Session: President Granahan closed the meeting at 8:57 p.m.
President Granahan opened the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

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

Meeting Adjourned 9:31 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lillian T. Senko

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Borough Secretary