

MONTROSE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
August 1, 2022
7:00 PM

President Judy Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

President Kelly said a prayer for guidance.

Adoption of Agenda: President Kelly questioned if anyone would like to make any changes or additions to the agenda. No changes were made.

Approval of Minutes: President Kelly inquired if there were any changes or corrections to the July 11, 2022 minutes. Motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Councilman Craig Reimel; Councilman Todd Chamberlain 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Absent: Tom Follert

Other Officials Present: Lillian T. Senko, Secretary

Misc. Correspondence:

From the Desk of the Secretary
RE: Recap Municipal Garage Project

Beirne Wealth Consulting
RE: June Investment Report

Beirne Wealth Consulting
RE: Quarterly Investment Report

September 11th Remembrance Ceremony
RE: Invitation

The Kilmer Group
RE: EMC Dividend Check

Montrose PA July 4th Committee
RE: Thank you

Montrose Borough Zoning Hearing Board
RE: April 19, 2022 Minutes

Harrisburg, PA – Wolf
RE: New Laws

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

Recognition of Attendees: Chief Dale Smith, Allyn Hinds, Karen Hinds Stankiewicz, Dan Stankiewicz, Danielle Henry, Eric Henry, Abby Cook, Joel Cook, Kevin Spickerman, Roy Williams, Danielle Lewis, Staci Wilson

Speakers:

Danielle Henry requested to speak again regarding the chicken request in the residential area. She asked Council to review the fifty (50) foot setback and asked to have it reduced to ten (10) foot. Ms. Henry requested Council consider the ten-foot setback, a privacy fence, a maximum of six (6) chickens contained in a coop and no free range.

Ms. Henry provided to Council a short petition of approximately fifty (50) signatures of people who were not against having chickens in the Borough. She said only five (5) people stated no they wouldn't sign the petition but didn't say why.

She stated her children would have the experience of taking care of the pets, the wood chips at the dump could be used for the coup and the eggs would provide protein for the body.

Kevin Spickerman spoke in favor of the chickens and said his mom has chickens. If you take care of the chickens they are clean and he spoke of the responsibility he learned while taking care of them in his younger days.

Zoning Officer, Roy Williams spoke about the Zoning Ordinance in Susquehanna Borough. He said the residents were permitted up to six (6) hens, no roosters and a half dozen people have them throughout the Borough. He said Zoning has been in effect since 1992 or 1993 and they have never received a complaint.

Council said they didn't want chickens because the next thing you know people are going to want to have pigs, goats and cows which Ms. Henry responded she is only addressing this topic of chickens at this time.

Councilman Granahan said he was against chickens because of his neighbors having them years ago and not taking care of them. He didn't appreciate the smell or the chickens wondering around the streets. Ms. Henry stated she offered suggestions for fencing and coops which would eliminate that problem. In turn Councilman Reimel brought up a horse that was on Lake Avenue many many years ago.

Councilman Ed Herd said if it was an enforcement issue Council was afraid of he would be willing to take on the extra responsibility if it became an issue. He said the Borough could fine or end people's permit if they weren't taking responsibility of their chickens.

Mr. Allyn Hinds stated he is in support of the chickens, not free range or roosters.

Councilman Reimel stated renters don't take care of property as well as property owners and not everyone will pay attention to the chickens.

Councilman Granahan informed the audience a possible solution would be whoever would like chickens they can request a variance from the Zoning Hearing Board. Secretary stated the cost for that would be eight hundred and fifty dollars.

Abby Cook said she did not grow up here but she found Montrose to be a wonderful town. She said she is raising three children and she only owns three tenths of an acre and couldn't have a cow or a goat but chickens wouldn't be a problem.

Councilman Herd made a motion to allow six (6) to ten (10) feet from each property line and he would be responsible to enforce the ordinance. President Kelly stated she couldn't 2nd the motion and the motion died with the rest of Council opposing the request to minimize the fifty (50) foot restriction.

Allyn Hinds said he would like to issue a complaint for the sidewalk on Grow Avenue walking south from Turrell Street. The shrubs overhang the sidewalk and it's a very busy pedestrian walkway.

The second issue Mr. Hinds reported are the two (2) utility poles on Grow Avenue. He said Penelec replaced the old poles with taller ones but left the older ones there. They still have wires connected to them and isn't there anything that Council could do to force them to remove the old poles.

Council stated they have already taken steps to have them removed and the telephone company is the one that needs to remove their wires and after removal they are responsible for removing the pole. Since the company is Frontier they have no interest in spending the money to do so.

Approval of A/P: President Kelly inquired if there were any questions or comments on submitted Accounts Payable. Councilman Granahan motioned to approve payment of outstanding bills; Councilman Schuster 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Payroll: President Kelly inquired if there were any questions or comments on submitted Payroll report. Councilman Schuster motioned to accept the Payroll Report; Councilman Granahan 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Accounts Receivable/Deposits: President Kelly 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 Kelly 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 Granahan; Councilman Schuster 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Budget Report: President Kelly inquired if anyone had any questions or comments on the presented material. Councilman Reimel said he spoke to the Bookkeeper and she will move expenses to the correct account.

Street Department: President Kelly asked if anyone had any questions on the Street Department Report.

President Kelly informed Council she attended a meeting with PennDot and the Street Department on the corner of Conference Road and Lake Avenue for a second time. They are willing to pave Lake Avenue from Rt. 29 to Cruiser Street to correct the problem that has been going on for ten (10) years.

Councilman Granahan stated Susie Griffis reported to him the storm drain on South Main Street is collapsing. Councilman Reimel reported the Street Department is aware of the problem, It was fixed eight (8) or ten (10) years ago and the weight of trailers are causing it to collapse again.

Zoning Report: President Kelly asked if anyone had any questions on the Zoning Report.

Councilman Granahan stated he didn't know who was responsible for dogs but there are three (3) dogs at the house Jason Beardsley purchased that is creating a nuisance. Chief Smith stated he only receive one (1) official complaint and there has to be at least two (2) official complaints before they investigate it. He said the best thing would be to get the Dog Warden involved.

Code Enforcement Report: President Kelly asked if anyone had any questions on the Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer Roy Williams reported he met with the landlord of the property on Public Avenue that is and was an issue. The fire escape is a hazard it is not adhered properly to the building, slats of decking loose and there are no smoke or CO2 detectors working. He informed the landlord she needs to fill out the proper paperwork for building and electric work and have qualified people

working on it. Tim Montana is not to do any of the work because he is not qualified.

Code Officer Williams will be working with the Secretary on Wednesday to create an Order of Demolition for the house on the corner of Maple and High Streets.

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

Chief Dale Smith informed Council there has been no major concerns around town and Officer Walter Meany obtained his numbers. National Night Out is the following night and he stated he purchased a new tent to replace the broken one. Chief Smith said the tent was purchased from the same place as the sheriffs and is a good-looking tent with the Montrose Police logo.

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

Mayor's Report: Mayor LaMont did not attend the meeting but sent an email to the Borough Secretary with an update. He stated he attended the meeting at the new Susquehanna Emergency building along with a couple of members of United Fire Company on the EMS shortage and retention crisis. There was a good panel and was able to network with Lisa Baker and Tina Pickett. Mayor LaMont reported a lot of the issue is the extensive training required by the insurance carriers and the state. The Mayor addressed the time and training it takes to "volunteer" in the community.

Action Items:

- 1. Approve Susquehanna County Girls Softball Parade:** Councilman Reimel motioned to allow a parade celebrating the girls win on September 4th at 2:00 p.m.; Councilman Schuster 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- 2. Hire Police Officer George Morin:** Councilman Schuster motioned to hire George Morin starting pay eighteen dollars an hour for the ninety-day probationary period; Councilman Herd 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Schuster motioned to raise Officer Meany's salary to nineteen (19) dollars since his probationary period is over; Councilman Herd 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Approve DB Tree to Cut Canopy Several Streets Approx. \$7,000.00:

Councilman Reimel motioned to hire DB Tree; Councilman Granahan 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Sign Delta Engineering Proposal: Documents not available for this month will hold mid-month meeting on August 15th at 7:00 to review and approve.

5. Hire James Barry as Project Manager for Garage Project:

Councilman Reimel motioned to hire James Barry as Project Manager for the Garage Project; Councilman Schuster 2nd the motion. Voting as follows:

Councilman Granahan: abstained

Councilman Herd: Yay

Councilman Chamberlain: Yay

Councilman Reimel: Yay

Councilman Schuster: Yay

Motion carried.

6. Apply for Zoning Permit for Garage Project: Councilman Reimel motion to apply for a Zoning Permit for the garage; Councilman Granahan 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Apply for Building Permit for Garage Project: Councilman Reimel motioned to apply for the Building Permit; Councilman Granahan 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

8. Adopt Zoning Ordinance Modification: Council vetoed the modification see "Speakers".

9. Approve Advertising Sealed Bids for New Garage: Will discuss at the August 15th meeting

Discussion Items

1. **Upcoming Events :** Next event will be August 2nd 5pm – 8pm National Night Out at Memorial Park followed by the Blueberry Festival August 5th and 6th. Bridgewater Church will host a free event Wet & Wacky on August 10th from 2pm-5pm at Memorial Park. Councilman Herd will start his slip and slide Saturdays on July 23rd.
2. **Update: Mobile Food Vending Ordinance:** President Kelly reported she was working very hard on the ordinance and will be reviewing it with Roy Williams sometime soon.
3. **Update: Chickens:** See “Speaker” listed on pages two and three for information.
4. **Lake Avenue Drainage Issue Update:** See “Street Department” on page 5.

Executive Session:

President Kelly closed the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

President Kelly opened the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

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

Meeting Adjourned 9:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lillian T. Senko

Lillian T. Senko
Borough Secretary