

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF MCDONALD BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Council President Tom Rockwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members answering roll call were Thomas McQuillan, Ray Miller, Amber Wasko, Philip Boggs, Mike Bish, Jodi Robertson, and Tom Rockwell. Others in attendance were Police Chief Dennis Ahlborn, Kim Lauff, Kirk Inskipt, Roger May, Joe Zuccherro, Bill Ciffoini, Tim Thomassy, Celestine Braxton, Mayor David Cooper, Solicitor John Hofrichter and Borough Manager Marie Maximovich.

Everyone joined the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS: Dale Csonka stated that the Christmas lights are going to be hung on Saturday, November 11th. Mr. Csonka stated that if a few people could help to bring the lights down from the 2nd floor of the VFW that would be great. Mr. Csonka also stated that he is there to answer any questions regarding the bridge.

Kim Lauff stated that she is observing.

Roger May thanked Council for the work done on Barr Street.

Joe Zuccherro asked about how to get better updates and answers from Code Enforcement. Mr. Zuccherro asked if the Council could please address this issue with the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Zuccherro asked if the leaves could be picked up on 5th Street.

Kirk Inskipt stated that he is observing.

Tom Rockwell told everyone to remember to vote tomorrow.

Celestine Braxton stated that she is only observing. Tom Rockwell asked her if she was happy with the paving on Barr Street. Ms. Braxton stated that the Miller Street fix was better for her, but she is happy with the Barr Street Road repair.

Bill Ciffoini thanked everyone for their help in the grand opening event for Fuel Required. spoke about the grand opening of his new business Fuel Required.

Tim Thomassy stated that he was only observing.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Ray Miller and carried unanimously to move the discussion of the mattress that is stuck in the storm pipe to the executive session.

MINUTES: The minutes of the October 2, 2023, regular meeting of Council were presented for approval. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Phil Boggs and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

Tom Rockwell reported that before the committee reports he would like to discuss the bridge from unfinished business.

Mr. Rockwell stated that Tom McQuillan found this amazing bridge to be placed in Heritage Park. Mr. Rockwell stated that MARA and specifically Tim Thomassy are working on a tourism grant. Mr. Rockwell reported that letters of support have been written stating that McDonald Borough and MARA will be responsible for the maintenance of the bridge.

Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to move forward with the letters of support for the bridge in Heritage Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY/CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING OFFICER: Tom Rockwell stated that there was no code enforcement report this month.

Phil Boggs reported that Jeep that was sold on Municibid is all complete and that the ford explorer is going back into bid.

Phil Boggs reported that in the Council packets there are two resignation letters. Mr. Boggs stated that the first letter is from Officer Michael Ziemianski going from full-time back to part-time status. Motion by Phil Boggs seconded by Ray Miller and carried unanimously authorize Officer Ziemianski to work in a part-time status and no longer full-time.

Mr. Boggs reported that the second letter is a resignation letter from part-time officer Trent Zank effective November 9, 2023. Motion by Phil Boggs and seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of Officer Trent Zank effective November 9, 2023.

Mr. Boggs stated that 2024-2026 collective bargaining contract is to be discussed in executive session.

Discussion held regarding the Borough parking lot and the time limits on the parking in that lot. This matter will be tabled until next month's meeting.

MAYOR: Mayor Cooper gave the mayor's report for October.

PUBLIC WORKS: Tom McQuillan gave the street department report for October. Mr. McQuillan stated that the water has been shut off at the park and that he had the power shut down in the pavilions. Mr. McQuillan stated that the leaves are being picked up in town and that the black top is complete. Mr. Rockwell stated that there were some issues with what the street department workers are doing in an 8-hour day. Mr. Rockwell has asked the Council for their blessing in implementing an hourly log that is to be turned into the Manager weekly. Mr. Rockwell stated that this will be done moving forward.

PARKS & RECREATION: Ray Miller gave the parks report for October. Mr. Miller stated that the parks board is currently working on the light up night event. Mr. Miller stated that the Halloween parade was a success.

Mr. Miller stated that a \$100,000 grant was awarded to McDonald Borough for new ADA compliant restrooms in Heritage Park.

The Manager presented Council Resolution 13-23 which authorizes McDonald Borough to obtain grant funds for new restrooms in Heritage Park.

Motion by Ray Miller seconded by Phil Boggs and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 13-23 which authorizes McDonald Borough to use the grant funds for new restrooms in Heritage Park.

Mr. Miller stated that he and Phil met with Bozic regarding a new DVR recorder for the camera system in East End Park. Mr. Miller stated that the cost is \$4,939.00 and Bozic will be donating the rest of the equipment and labor.

Motion by Phil Boggs seconded by Ray Miller and carried unanimously to approve the installation of the new camera station appliance and two battery backup units for both East End and West End Parks. The Manager stated that these expenses will be covered by the 2023 LSA grant money.

BUDGET & FINANCE: Jodi Robertson gave the profit and loss through October 2023 and reported that all is in order at this time.

The 2024 Budget is to be discussed in the Executive Session.

The 2022 Audit has been reviewed by the Council. Motion by Jodi Robertson seconded by Amber Wasko and carried unanimously to approve the 2022 Audit.

BILLS: The bills were presented for payment. Motion by Jodi Robertson seconded by Phil Boggs and carried unanimously to approve payment of the bills as presented. The bills were as follows:

GENERAL FUND: CHECKS	00000 THROUGH	00000 TOTAL	\$000,000.00
LIQUID FUELS: CHECKS	0000 THROUGH	0000 TOTAL	\$ 0,000.00
GENERAL FUND EFT:		TOTAL	\$ 00,000.00

ADMINISTRATION & POLICY: Amber Wasko reported that Eric Wonderly's end of probation meeting went well.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/REVITALATION: Mike Bish reported that the School Street property sale went through and the total profit to McDonald Borough was around \$9,551. Mr. Bish reported that Laurel Hill was listed at \$15,000 and that the property has been sold for \$9,300.00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Manager reported to Council that there are still ground floor apartments located in the Gladden building and building where the China Dragon is. The Manager stated that this matter is being addressed.

Tom Rockwell stated that the engineer has submitted a budget for the culvert replacement for Park and Grove Streets. The budget numbers are around \$26-\$35 thousand dollars. The Engineer thinks that he may be able to secure a grant for this project.

NEW BUSINESS: Phil Boggs reported that the email for the log on here in the Council room needs a new license in the amount of \$50.00 per month. Motion by Phil Boggs seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to purchase a new team's email account.

Tom McQuillan asked Tom Rockwell about a meeting with Dale Csonka regarding the sidewalk at West Lincoln Avenue. Tom Rockwell stated that he and Dale will schedule a meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: No Report.

The Council suspended the regular meeting of Council in order to meet in executive session.

The Chair called for an Executive Session at 7:41 p.m.

The regular meeting of November 6th reconvened at 8:46 p.m.

Motion by Ray Miller seconded by Phil Boggs and carried unanimously to approve a tentative Police Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2024-2026 subject to the modification of wording to be approved at the December 4th Council meeting

Motion by Phil Boggs seconded by Mike Bish and carried to authorize the Manager to advertise the 2024 proposed budget. Motion carried with Tom McQuillan casting a "NO" vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. Motion by Thomas McQuillan and carried.

Thomas Rockwell, Council President

Marie Maximovich, Borough Manager Secretary-Treasurer