

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF MCDONALD BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON AUGUST 5, 2024

Council President Tom Rockwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members answering roll call were Tom McQuillan, Ray Miller, Kirk Inskipt, Mike Bish, Jodi Robertson, and Tom Rockwell. Member Amber Wasko was unavoidably absent. Others in attendance were Mayor David Cooper, Police Chief Dennis Ahlborn, Kim Lauff, Dale Csonka, Joe Wilson, Lee Liebert, Jennifer Caldwell, Matt Cochran, Jill Parkinson, Philip Boggs, Solicitor John Hofrichter and Borough Manager Marie Maximovich.

Everyone joined the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS

Kim Lauff stated that a Resolution needs to be passed by Council for the McDonald Sewage Authority.

Joe Wilson asked to speak to the Council in private. The council will meet with him after the adjournment of the meeting.

Lee Libert asked about a parking issue that he has on School Street. The council will investigate this matter and get back to him.

Jennifer Caldwell stated that there is drama amongst the softball league, and they are trying to work out these problems. Tom Rockwell stated that he spoke with Amber and that they are going to develop a better set of rules and a handbook for the teams over the winter for next season.

Phil Boggs, The Fire Chief stated that Summerfest was a success. Mr. Boggs stated that as all of you know Ryan Johnston, the paid fire fighter is fighting cancer. Mr. Boggs stated that there are a few firemen from other departments that want to volunteer their time and Ryan to still be paid. Mr. Boggs stated that the Fire Department will bring these guys into the fire department as volunteers so that they are covered under the workers compensation. Mr. Boggs stated that there will be an MOA signed for borrowed equipment as well.

Matt Cochran asked about the storm sewer survey, especially the one on North Street. Tom Rockwell will investigate this and report back. Mr. Cochran stated that the downtown business district needs some economic development.

Jill Parkinson of Laurel Hill Road asked if the large tractor trailers could stop running over her property. Mrs. Parkinson stated that the trucks can't make a left turn onto Laurel Hill Road. Tom Rockwell is going to investigate this matter further.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: NONE

MINUTES: The minutes of the July 1, 2024, regular meeting of Council were presented for approval. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of July 1, 2024, as written.

Tom Rockwell stated that the visitor section of the meeting is closed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY/CODE ENFORCEMENT: Mike Bish stated that the police regionalization steering committee is having meetings and so far, things are moving forward.

Mike Bish stated that the civil service commission would like to hire move forward and hire Carmen Hewitt as a full-time officer effective July 1, 2024. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to hire Carmen Hewitt full time.

Mike Bish stated that the police department would like to hire part time police officer Kaden Cvitkovic. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to hire Kaden Cvitkovic. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Kirk Inskipt and carried unanimously to pass Resolution 7-24 which gives Kaden Cvitkovic the authority to enforce the laws in the Borough and contracted Municipalities. Mayor Cooper gave the Oath of Office to Officer Cvitkovic.

Mike Bish stated that the police department would like to hire part time police officer James Lema. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Kirk Inskipt and carried unanimously to hire James Lema. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to pass Resolution 08-24 which gives James Lema the authority to enforce the laws in the Borough and contracted Municipalities.

MAYOR: David Cooper gave the Mayors Report for July. Mayor Cooper stated that there was a great police/security presence at McSummerfest this year.

STREETS: Kirk Inskipt gave the street report for July. Kirk stated that the street department is getting a lot done. Kirk reported that August 16th is the part-timer Blake Ward's last day.

Kirk Inskipt asked about vacating Bennett Way. Discussion held regarding this matter. Tom Rockwell will meet Joe and Kirk at Bennett Way tomorrow at 6:30 am. They are tabling the discussion of closing Bennett Way. Kirk would like to spend not more \$700 for a small storage shed to hold the horses and traffic cones.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Ray Miller and carried unanimously to approve the Harshman fee schedule for work to be performed on a grant for East End Park in Allegheny Co. The cost of fees is not to exceed \$4,500.00.

Mayor Cooper stated that ground will be broken on the stage and new restrooms in Heritage Park in April.

Mayor Cooper stated that the movie in the park is scheduled for August 17th. Mayor Cooper stated that the memorial bricks in the park have been removed. Mayor Cooper stated that the \$75,000 donation check for full time police wages has been received.

The Manager stated that she was asked to put a motion on the agenda for a sign to be placed in East End Park to honor Ray Miller. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried to authorize a sign be placed in honor of Ray Miller. Motion carried with Ray Miller abstaining.

FINANCE: Jodi Robertson gave the Profit and Loss for July. Jodi Robertson gave the finance report for July.

BILLS: The bills were presented for payment. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Ray Miller and carried unanimously to approve payment of the bills as presented. The bills were as follows:

GENERAL FUND: CHECKS THROUGH	TOTAL
LIQUID FUELS: CHECKS THROUGH	TOTAL
GENERAL FUND EFT:	TOTAL

The Manager presented to the Council a proposal for bank services from Washington Financial. Discussion held. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Ray Miller to move some bank accounts to Washington Financial.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL: Tom Rockwell stated that he will be posting the job description for Police Assistant this week on social media.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNICATIONS: Tom McQuillan stated that some residents are repainting the old street markers. Tom McQuillan asked about how much time an employee can carry over in vacation and comp time. Mr. McQuillan stated that if an employee has a ton of time and leaves, the Borough could be in big trouble. Tom Rockwell stated that this has happened with Becky Price. Tom Rockwell stated that this is in the employee handbook, and it is a nice deal. Discussion held regarding this matter.

Tom McQuillan stated that the bridge at West End Drive is still waiting for DEP approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The manager stated that Littles Landscaping subdivision request has been approved.

Ray Miller stated that he has been getting complaints about parking on both sides of the street on Station. The Chief will investigate this matter.

NEW BUSINESS: The Sewage Authority asked for a resolution to be passed by the Borough. Motion by Kirk Inskipt seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to pass Resolution 09-24 which is the authorization for the execution of the Oakdale Pump Station Transfer Agreement with Alcosan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Motion by Tom McQuillan and carried.

Thomas Rockwell, Council President

Marie Maximovich, Borough Manager
Secretary-Treasurer