

March 3, 2025

The regular meeting of the Montoursville Borough Council held in the John Dorin Municipal Building was called to order by Council President Eric Greenway at 7:00 PM with the following answering roll call: Eric Greenway, Tina Kline, Misty Emick, Chris Lucas, and Robert Brown. Absent Mark Tillson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

The February 3, 2025 minutes were approved on a motion by Dr. Kline, second by Mr. Brown. The motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT/BOROUGH BILLS – Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the February 2025 Treasurer’s report, second by Mrs. Emick. The motion carried.

VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS – Willing Hand Hose Fire Chief, Mr. Jeff Hutchins reviewed the February 2025 Fire & Emergency call report.

NEW BUSINESS –

FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT – Council President, Mr. Greenway presented a Fee Schedule Amendment for Zoning Fee’s for review.

It was shared that the Central Keystone Council of Governments is requesting that zoning fees be increased so that their rates are being covered, and the borough residents are not subsidizing all those who apply for a zoning permits. **Motion** by Mr. Brown to approve Fee Schedule Amendment for Zoning Fee’s as presented; second by Mrs. Emick. The motion carried.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE – Council President, Mr. Greenway presented Community Yard Sale for the dates of May 30TH & 31ST or May 31st & June 1st, 2025 for review.

It was suggested to amend the dates for 3 days, Friday, May 30th, 31st & June 1st with the stipulation that Friday, May 30th yard sale will start no earlier than 9:00am for safety reasons so it does not affect the school traffic.

Motion by Mrs. Emick to approve the amended Community Yard Sale dates for May 30th, May 31st and June 1st, 2025; second by Mr. Greenway. The motion carried.

BRUSH/RECYCLING OPENING DATE & SATURDAY DATES – Council President, Mr. Greenway presented the Brush/Recycling opening date as April 1st and the Saturday dates as April 26, June 28, August 30 & October 25 for review.

Motion by Mr. Greenway to approve the Brush/Recycling opening date as April 1st, and the Saturday dates as April 26, June 28, August 30 & October 25 as presented; second by Mr. Brown. The motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION LETTER – 911 MEMORIAL COALITION RIDE – Council President, Mr. Greenway presented the authorization letter for 911 Memorial Coalition Ride for review.

Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the Authorization letter for the 911 Memorial Coalition as presented; second by Mr. Lucas. The motion carried

CHANGE ORDER #1 – BROAD & WALNUT STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT PROJECT – Council President, Mr. Greenway presented Change Order #1 for the Broad & Walnut Street Traffic Signal Replacement Project in the amount of \$17,388.00 to Lecce Electric for review.

Motion by Mr. Brown to approve Change Order #1 for the Broad & Walnut Street Traffic Signal Replacement Project to Lecce Electric in the amount of \$17,388.00 as presented; second by Mr. Greenway. The motion carried

PURCHASE A ODB TOW BEHIND LEAF/DEBRIS VAC & BOX –COSTARS—STEPHENSON

EQUIPMENT – Council President, Mr. Greenway presented a quote for the purchase of a ODB Tow Behind Leaf/Debris Vac & Box through Costars Vendor Stephenson Equipment in the amount \$132,470.83 for review. It was noted that the Borough had been awarded a PADEP 902 grant for the purchase.

Motion by Mr. Greenway to approve the purchase of a ODB Tow Behind Leaf/Debris Vac & Box through Costars vendor Stephenson Equipment in the amount of \$132,470.83 as presented; second by Mrs. Emick. The motion carried.

PLANNING & ZONING – Central Keystone COG Reports February 2025.

RECREATION – Council member, Mr. Lucas reviewed and explained Event Permits 2025-03 and 2025-04 as presented.

Motion by Mr. Lucas to approve event permits 2025-03 & 2025-04 as presented; second by Mrs. Emick. The motion carried.

STREETS/WATER – Street and Water Project Coordinator, Mr. Cliff Hoffman announced that the Borough will be doing hydrant flushing on Saturdays.. He stated that it is routine maintenance that needs done; flushing the hydrants may cause rusty discolored water and low pressure.so if this happens residents are to run the cold water until it clears if this should occur. Willing Hand Hose Fire Chief, Mr. Jeff Hutchins stated that the fire department is very grateful for the hydrant flushing. Street and Water Project Coordinator, Mr. Hoffman also noted that the PADEP/EPA required meter inspections are coming along however there are still about five hundred more that need done. The Borough crew will be doing inspections on Saturdays as well. He explained the purpose of the inspection is for the health of the borough residents in accordance with new laws.

MAYOR – Mayor Steve Bagwell thanked Street and Water Project Coordinator, Mr. Hoffman for taking the time to explain the SCADA system to him. A discussion took place regarding a schedule that council would like to be posted on the Montoursville Facebook page and website for the hydrant flushing schedule so that residents are informed.

POLICE CHIEF – Chief Gyurina reviewed the February 2025 police report. He noted that there was a small spike in mental health calls this past month. He also shared regarding the past snowfalls and the ticketing that took place for the residents that did not adhere to snow removal. He stated ticketing was done due to rain and the freezing temperatures that followed. Chief Gyurina then noted that the SPCA is no longer taking any dogs, but if there is a lost dog in the borough the police will try and post the animal on the Police Facebook page; he noted the police department has a chip reader in order to assist with the owners location.

COUNCIL PERSONS – Council member, Mr. Lucas asked if there were any updates regarding the curbs and if any information is being collected from other borough's on how they manage repairs and paving projects. Street and Water Project Coordinator, Mr. Hoffman along with Council Vice President, Mr. Brown stated that information is being collected and compiled, so as to have a concrete guideline for curbs for the residents and the borough.

Council Vice President, Mr. Brown gave a Civil Service Commission update, stating that an oral examine was given, however the applicant explained he had accepted another job. He also noted the Civil Service list will be certified by prior to the next meeting. Dr. Kline suggested contacting our local representatives in Harrisburg as this process seems very cumbersome and costly to the borough and ultimately we have no applicants to hire.

A letter from the PSAB regarding civil service requirements and regulations was discussed. At this time, Council Vice President, Mr. Brown thanked all the residents in attendance at this evening's meeting.. He continued by reading a statement and explained he would like his official statement to be recorded and included as part of the meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR – Borough Solicitor, Chris Kenyon explained Muncy Borough did a year-round authorization letter that involves PADOT highways.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT – Nothing at this time.

PENDING MATTERS – Nothing at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next Council meeting will be held Monday, April 7th, 2025 @ 7:00PM.. The Indian Park clean-up is scheduled for April 26th, 2025 from 9:00 -11:00AM.

VISITOR AND PUBLIC COMMENTS – Resident, Mr. Ken Raker, 1127 Elm St, commented about the hydrant flushing and questioned why it is just now being done when it was discussed last year. Street and Water Coordinator, Mr. Hoffman explained to him last year it was brought up that they were going to get ready to start flushing hydrants and that is what they are currently doing. Mr. Hoffman continued by stating there are no regulations for hydrant flushing, just a twice a year recommendation.

An unnamed person questioned if anyone considered how the increased traffic, which would result from the closure of Loyalsock Valley Elementary, is going to affect the residents of the Borough. Borough Solicitor, Chris Kenyon responded that all aspects of any changes that may be done to the school will have to go through a Land Development Plan which will be figured in to that process. Council Vice President, Mr. Brown explained to the residents, that if a Land Development Plan that comes before Council meets the criteria, Council is required to approve it. There is no other option.

Resident, Mr. Donald Boyles, 329 Bennett St, explained there was an event taking place at the high school with both sides of the street being parked up. He requested the borough to do something about this. Chief Gyurina stated that he does ticket if it gets dangerous and tries to use some discretion as to not over ticket. Council member, Mrs. Emick stated that she believes people should be ticketed more if they are going to break the laws. Council member, Mr. Lucas stated that the issue of this past weekend was a multitude of basketball games taking place and the people were constantly coming and going. He also encouraged people to contact the non-emergency number to have the on-duty officer sent out.

Resident, Sandra Crist, 1205 Cedar St, stated being that she just moved to Montoursville she wanted confirm what was explained to her, by Council Vice President, Mr. Brown, that the brush pile opens April 1st, 2025 and it is open Monday thru Friday 8-4pm and that she must present her ID in the borough office before heading over to the brush pile that the list of Saturday's that had been previously discussed are just additional days to the weekdays it is open..

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM on a motion by Mr. Greenway, second by Mr. Brown. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Gardner, Borough Secretary

Prepared Remarks
Montoursville Borough
Council Meeting
March 3, 2025

For those of you who attend these meetings regularly, you have repeatedly heard me ask that you do not blindly accept anything that is told to you by anyone as being factual. Please do your own research and come to your own conclusion.

A recent illustration of this was the information that we as a council have admitted that we have neglected the water system.

Merriam Webster online defines neglect as

To pay little or no attention to; fail to heed; disregard.

To fail to care for or attend to properly

To fail to do or carry out, as through carelessness or oversight.

I would like to bring your attention to the list that is posted on the display board in this room. I ask you to take a look at it on your way out. It includes a list of items and projects completed on the water system since 2010. This list includes items that were done by this council as well as previous councils over the last 15 years. This is not an all inclusive list of what was done, but an example of maintenance and construction items handled by councils during this time period.

I am not sure how you define the word neglect, but councils and other elected bodies, ours included are constantly making decisions. In our case those decisions are regarding the water system as well as the Borough. I am fairly sure that neglect is not the correct word to describe those actions.

That statement was followed by an assertion that council spent over 1 million on a SCADA system to monitor the water system so they would not have to pay overtime for employees to monitor on weekends.

The SCADA system (Supervisory control & Data Acquisition) allows access to the status of the system 24/ 7 / 365. That is one of the benefits the SCADA system. Another is that problems can be acknowledged and adjustments can be made in near real time. Does the system save us overtime? Yes it does. Does it eliminate overtime, No it does not. The break even point for saving enough overtime costs to pay for the SCADA system will take many years. It would have been foolish to make the decision based solely on eliminating overtime on weekends. The decision was made after weighing multiple factors.

If any of you have ever served on a council or similar body, you know that you are asked to continually make decisions on how to spend other people's money. There are almost always more items or projects to spend money on than there is money available. At that point, as a member of the body, you look at what needs to be done or is suggested to be done vs how much money you have to accomplish those tasks. You then discuss amongst your body, listen to experts and others and then make what you determine to be the best decision for the customer or taxpayer.

I was here as far back as 2010 as a taxpayer and citizen, listening to the council members at that time as they discussed how best to spend the money on the system. I cannot and do not fault previous councils for the decisions that they made. I will again point out that They had information that I, at that time, as a member of the audience more than likely did not have as not all possibilities and issues can be covered during a 45 minute committee meeting or a short discussion before a vote is taken.

Councils, ours included looked at the list of projects and equipment that needed to be addressed, looked at the available finances and prioritize the list

Do I agree with all of the past council's decisions, I cannot say that I do, but at the time they were made, Those council members believed their decisions to be the right course at that time. Please understand that the "priorities and the To Do" list changes as does the available finances and system status. What may be #1 right now, may be replaced by something else depending on circumstances.

I know some of you obviously disagree with the choices that were made as to the order that current and past councils have carried out maintenance and updates to the water system as well as other borough projects.

As a taxpayer, resident and customer of the water company, you have the right to disagree with our decisions and politely speak your mind. We do ask that when you are here during a committee or council meeting, you do not interrupt that meeting and the ongoing discussions by council and committee members as that is the reason we are all here.

I would also like to discuss an item that was brought up at both the January and February meetings.

At the January meeting, Mrs. Emick brought up the idea of an RFP for the Borough engineer's position. My first inclination was to agree that this might be a good idea. As a Borough, we look at how we spend your tax money on a continuous basis. As an example, we look at electricity and communications rates and other rates given the opportunity. It costs us nothing to shop around and ensures us and you that we are getting the best for your money. That is what I expect of my Government.

However, the use of an RFP is more complicated. RFP is an acronym for Request for Proposal. A request for proposal is utilized by council to solicit bids for professional services such as legal representation or in this instance, engineering services

For an RFP to be acted on, it will have to be prepared by our Solicitor. It will have to cover all of the business that the Borough Engineer will be required to conduct on behalf of the Borough. The Borough Engineer is involved in many aspects of the operation of the Borough. As an example, our engineer is involved in our MS-4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) operations and process. Our current engineer is knowledgeable at MS-4, which is a highly complicated endeavor. The regulations are massive and the changes seem to be all too frequent. When the borough was putting our last MS-4 permit application together, our engineer made a suggestion, saving us an estimated \$1 million in costs. The engineer is also involved in much more mundane items, such as helping us with the

engineering and grant process for our upgraded playground as well as any project that requires engineering.

The engineer also found us a grant that allowed us to repave Mill Street. For those of you who are interested in why Mill Street, the answer is that the grant had so many restrictions and requirements that it was the only street in the borough that met the requirements

I point this out only to show you that an RFP for the position is much more complicated and intricate than you or I can imagine. It will also cost a significant amount of money. The RFP will have to be written by our Solicitor, and the proposals received will then have to be examined by the Solicitor to ensure that they meet all necessary criteria. I will be keeping that in mind as it comes time to vote on whether or not to pursue an RFP for the Borough Engineer position.

As always, thank you for attending this evening and respectfully speaking your mind.

Madam Secretary, I provide a copy and ask that these comments be made an attachment to the meeting minutes.