

MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2016 MEETING

A meeting of the Moscow Borough Council was held on February 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Moscow Borough Building, 123 VanBrunt Street, Moscow, PA. The following Council members were either present or absent:

Daniel F. Edwards – Mayor	Present	Marc Gaughan	Present
Arthur Pencek – President	Present	William Heim, Vice-President	Present
Joseph Castrogiovanni	Present	Thomas Lynch	Absent
Edward Gaughan	Present	Rosemarie Warner, Secretary	Present

Also present were Constance Sanko (Secretary/Treasurer), Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), David Lamm (Building inspector/Zoning Officer), Bruce Zero (Solicitor), Grace Hamilton and Matthew Zero (Junior Council Persons), and Kim Fisch (The Villager).

Public Hearing Held on January 19, 2016: A Public Hearing was held on January 19, 2016 for the purpose of reviewing a proposed ordinance to amend the Moscow Borough Zoning Ordinance, 2008, pertaining to signage and dumpsters. Art Pencek said that part of the discussion was held on temporary storage units (PODS), which was not included in the amendment. Attorney Zero said that if PODs are to be included than another public hearing would have to be held since the proposed amendment related specifically to dumpsters. Council agreed that at this time PODS would not be included in this amendment since there really haven't been any problems with them.

Moscow Volunteer Fire Company: The Fire Company Installation Dinner scheduled for January 23, 2016 was postponed due to weather and has been rescheduled for February 27, 2016.

Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Public Hearing and Regular meeting: Rose Warner made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2016 Public Hearing and regular meeting as written. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Connie Sanko presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of January and lists of bills to be paid from the General Fund and Liquid Fuels Fund. Bill Heim made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the bills as presented. Rose Warner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Junior Council Persons: Grace Hamilton asked if Council liked the Moscow Board for Borough notifications by email or text. Marc Gaughan said it is a good start but that Council needs more time to discuss the use of it. Bill Heim suggested using Nextdoor Moscow to see if there is any interest in the new program.

Engineer's Report:

- Harry Andes and Marc Gaughan will be getting together to do a survey for design work in Stephens Heights.
- Marc Gaughan asked Harry Andes to look at the Orchard Street bridge and contact Lackawanna County about a grant for design work. Dan Edwards said the bridge needs to be repointed and he would like to have the concrete caps put back on, which he believes Paul DeMuth may have in his garage at his property on Orchard Street.

Secretary's Report: Connie Sanko reported that Clean and Green 2016 has been advertised.

Grants: Council members were provided with an updated list on the status of outstanding grants:

- United States Department of Agriculture Grant - all funds for this grant have been used so this grant will be closed out.
- Automated Red Light Enforcement Grant - an amendment is being drafted to use the remaining funds that were dedicated to design work for planters on Main Street.

- Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant - documents and second reimbursement request has been submitted. Pending projects are the perimeter fence at the building and installation of four decorative street lamps on Main Street (in progress).
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Grant - submitted request for final reimbursement.
- Lackawanna County Re-Invest Grant - application submitted for a gazebo for the lower side of Golden Park - approval pending.
- PennDOT Multimodal Grant - application submitted for sidewalks on the westerly side of Main Street from Academy Street to the Post Office - approval pending. .
- Monroe County Local Share Grant - application submitted for sidewalks on the westerly side of Main Street from Academy Street to the Post Office - approval pending.

Correspondence:

- Council members were provided with the annual volunteer report for the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society, Inc. at the Moscow Station.
- Council members were invited to Senator Blake's 6th Annual Legislative Breakfast on February 12, 2016.

Police Report: Chief Brenzel gave the police report for the month of January. There were 130 911 calls and 125 cleared calls.

Chief Brenzel asked if an ordinance or resolution is required for the police department to enforce the park rules. Bruce Zero asked Connie Sanko to see if there is a general park ordinance already in place.

Civil Service Commission: The Civil Service Commission was to hold a meeting on February 1, 2016.

Mayor's Report: Dan Edwards said that the retaining wall in the Main Street Parking lot next to Olsommer's was damaged. Marc Gaughan will look into the matter.

Building Permits: Dave Lamm reported that he completed a report for the Census Bureau. There was one new home construction permit issued in 2015. Dave contacted Wells Fargo about the vacant home at 104 Stephens Street, which has now been secured, and is waiting for a call back.

Building/Zoning Officer's Report:

- A brief discussion was held on the North Pocono School District tennis court project. Marc Gaughan recommended that the district come back to Council or the Planning Commission regarding concerns of the engineer which include the steep slope, which is a dangerous situation, netting around the fence, lighting and a landscaping design. Harry Andes would like to see the final as-built drawings. Attorney Zero asked if the school district was given these observations at the Planning Commissions meeting. Marc Gaughan said they were and that netting was discussed to be sure there would be a minimal impact on the neighborhood.
- Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law with the Decision of the Zoning Hearing Board have been emailed to all councilmember's for the following:
 - a. RLE Enterprises - parking in front of property
 - b. North Pocono School District - tennis court project pertaining to fences
 - c. Frank Hubbard - duplex project
- Council members were provided with information from the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute on two upcoming courses: The Course in Zoning and The Course in Zoning Administration.

Planning Commission: The January 25, 2016 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be held on February 29, 2016.

Recreation:

- Rose Warner said at the last meeting that Gerard Hetman reported on what was needed to comply with the lease with the county for the Market Street Park. Gerard informed Rose that he contacted Bill Davis who would like to meet with the Borough and who said that a written report

is not required. Bill Heim said he would be more comfortable if a written report was submitted. Rose will do a written report and provide copies to the Borough.

- Rose said that the Market Street Park has officially been renamed Old Mill Park. The 1898 Borough map shows that Market Street at one time was called Mill Street.
- Ron Donati will be pouring a concrete pad for the gazebo in Golden Park in the spring.

Recycling: Covington Township is going to buy back the blue recycling trailer for \$10.00, the amount the Borough paid when it purchased it from Covington.

Financial Report:

- Connie Sanko said that when Bridget White from DGK Insurance gave a presentation in December that there would be a 5% discount available if the Borough put a Safety Committee in place. Ed Gaughan was asked to look into the matter.
- Peoples Security Bank prepared an amendment for Pave Loan 2014 to use the funds for paving of Old Logger Road rather than Sunrise Boulevard.
- Bill Heim reported that the Tax Collection Committee meetings for December and January were cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for February.
- Borough officials who sign checks must be bonded. Connie is looking into bond insurance for Art Pencek and Bill Heim.

Moscow Sewer Authority: Art Pencek and Bruce Zero will be meeting with representatives of the Moscow Sewer Authority and John Brazil, attorney for the authority, to discuss a possible land acquisition for an exchange of property for the New Street Park, which will be used as a trail head and picnic area.

Streets:

Solicitor's Report:

Old Business: As previously noted, a public hearing was held on January 19, 2016 for the purpose of discussing proposed Ordinance #237 - 2016, An Ordinance of the Borough of Moscow, County of Lackawanna, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Amending the Moscow Borough Zoning Ordinance, Enacted June 2, 2008, to revise regulations pertaining to Off-Site Directional or Information Signs and to add Regulations for the Containment of Dumpsters. Art Pencek read proposed Ordinance #237 - 2016 for the first time which has to be advertised and action taken after a second reading on February 15, 2016.

New Business: Marc Gaughan reported that he has received numerous compliments on the improvements that have been made in the Borough. Rose Warner and Art Pencek said they too have received many compliments.

Adjournment: Rose Warner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Constance Sanko