

MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2019 MEETING

A meeting of the Moscow Borough Council was held on February 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Moscow Borough Building, 123 VanBrunt Street, Moscow, PA. The following Council members were either present or absent:

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

Also present were Constance Sanko (Secretary), Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), David Lamm (Building Inspector/Zoning Officer), Bruce Zero (Solicitor), Gerard Hetman (Lackawanna County Community Relations), Marie Larosa and Andrew Zero (Junior Council Members) and three North Pocono High School students.

Executive Session: Council President Arthur Pencek called for a brief Executive Session prior to the beginning of the regular meeting.

Citizen's Comments: Three students from the North Pocono High School were in attendance as a requirement for an Advanced Placement Government class.

Minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting: Joe Castrogiovanni made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting as written. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Murray submitted 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. Joe Castrogiovanni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Secretary's Report: One bid was submitted for Clean and Green 2019. J.P. Mascaro submitted a bid in the amount of \$13,625.00. Bill Heim made a motion to accept the bid of J.P. Mascaro in the amount of \$13,625.00. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Council's first preference is for June 3 to 6, 2019 for pick up. The bid this year was approximately \$4,000.00 more than last year.

Grants: A letter was sent to the Office of the Budget requesting an extension of the deadline date for the Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program grant so that the sidewalk project in front of the Borough Building can be completed this spring. The grant is to expire on March 31, 2019; the request was for an expiration date of March 31, 2020.

Correspondence: Council members received an invitation to Senator Blake's Annual Legislative Breakfast on February 15, 2019.

Police Report: Chief Brenzel gave the police report for the month of January. There were 168 911 calls and 163 cleared calls.

Building Permits/Zoning Permits:

- Dave Lamm reported that one demolition permit was issued in the month of January.
- Art Pencek said that several trailers that have been parked in the parking lot by Delish have been removed. Dave said there is still one pod there.
- Art Pencek asked Dave about a sign that is located on a property on Church Street that is advertising a home at another location for sale. Dave said it is a rental sign for two properties at other locations. Dave will send a letter to the property owner advising him that the sign is not permitted and also that it is too large.

- Dave reported that Spectrum Collision was taken over by Leggat Auto Body and that he will stop by to talk to the new owner.

Planning Commission: Marc Gaughan reported on the following.

- Dollar General had requested a conditional approval however the Planning Commission will not issue one until the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation issues a Highway Occupancy Permit and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection approves the project.
- Dollar General has agreed to the building having a four foot high gray stone wall, and gray horizontal clapboard with white trim, on the front and westerly sides of the building.
- There is nothing in the current zoning ordinance for appearance and Marc suggested that a separate ordinance be drafted as an addendum to the current zoning ordinance. A public hearing will have to be scheduled.
- Attorney Zero said a lot of people may be interested in having input when the zoning ordinance is revised. Art Pencek said it can be done in sections and the public asked for input. Marc suggested setting up a timetable and focus on a few areas at each Planning Commission meeting.

Recycling: Connie Sanko said that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection 902 Recycling Grant is due March 22, 2019. We will be applying for a recycling truck and recycling bins.

LERTA:

- Connie Sanko reported that she is waiting for approvals on the following for LERTA exemption: Academy II Senior Housing, VACWAY, and Laura Bracey (purchaser of the last available Hubbard twin home).
- Marc Gaughan suggested that the LERTA designation be extended to the State Route 380 bridges.

Streets: Marc Gaughan reported on the following:

- Attorney Zero will be preparing an agreement for the Ardito parking lot project.
- Leeward Construction was contacted about renting a street sweeper.
- No bids were received for the 1998 GMC Truck. It will be rebid.
- Greenman - Pedersen, Inc. submitted a bid packet to be bid for Grove Street. Marc Gaughan made a motion to advertise for the Grove Street Rebuilding Project. Bill Heim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor's Report:

- Attorney Zero reported that he contacted EMC Insurance regarding legal representation for the Sams Land Appeal. He said it makes sense to have Attorney Joseph McDonald to continue to represent the Borough rather than the insurance carrier. Bill Heim made a motion to retain Attorney Joseph McDonald to continue to represent the Borough for the Sams Land Appeal. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- Attorney Zero did not feel it was necessary to have a joint municipal agreement with Jefferson Township however he called Attorney Phillips to get his opinion. He asked if the Police Department has an agreement and Chief Brenzel said that there is a county wide agreement in place.

Personnel Committee:

- Connie Sanko reported that DGK Insurance said that the requirement is for employee background checks for the State Police Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse Clearances from the State to be updated every five years. The Employee Handbook will be revised to include these requirements and to also state that the fees will be paid by the Borough.
- Bill Heim will be working on vacations for certain eligible part-time employees.

Old Business:

- Council members received an email from Gerard Hetman, Lackawanna County Community Relations Department, regarding an inspection of the railroad bridge. The Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority said that the railroad bridge over Market Street has been load rated and inspected in accordance with federal regulations and is safe for current traffic levels as determined by a professional engineer.
- Bill Heim and Rose Warner will be meeting to discuss the upgrade to the website. He suggested holding off on purchasing tablets until the website is updated.
- Bill Heim received an email from a local computer company and suggested that next year we bid out for computer services.
- Bill Heim has some questions regarding quotes for the copy machine and will contact the salesperson tomorrow.
- Council members and Chief Brenzel were provided with copies of the Jermyn Borough Business Registry Ordinance. Art Pencek asked the mayor to give a copy to the fire company for its input.

New Business:

- Attorney Zero said that the Academy II Senior Housing Apartments are 100% occupied which is remarkable. He said that the developer had a vision and a need in this area. Marc Gaughan said that the walkability around town is an asset.
- Marc Gaughan said there is also a need for this type of housing in this area for people with higher income levels.

Adjournment: Marc Gaughan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Heim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Constance Sanko