

MINUTES OF THE BOROUGH OF MONTOURSVILLE

July 6, 2010

The regular meeting of the Montoursville Borough Council was called to order by Council President Robert Brobson at 7 PM, with the following answering roll call: Eugene Boyles, Robert Brobson, Kim DiRocco, Donald Konkle, Ronald Shearer, Gary Marshall and Hunter Konkle. Also attending were Mayor John Dorin, Street/Water Commissioner Ronald Smith and Borough Solicitor Garth Everett.

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

The minutes of the May 3rd, 2010 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Brobson seconded by Mrs. DiRocco and carried.

Public Comment

Solicitor Garth Everett spoke with regards to Mayor Dorin's Prestigious Service Award given in May by the Pennsylvania State Association of Burroughs. He also read the press release acknowledging Mayor Dorin as recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Achievement in Government Affairs Award.

Betzi Lyon, Lyon Camping and Supply, spoke in regards to new tree planting and wanted to see the weeding placed on a schedule. Mayor Dorin discussed that it was a \$465,000 Streetscape Project for the 300 block of Broad Street. The weeds are starting to come up and they will start to destroy the bricks and set up if they are not taken care of. Mr. Boyles talked about how he takes care of his tree in his yard, why can't other owners take care of theirs. Mr. Boyles stated that at the moment pulling weeds is a low priority. Mayor Dorin stated it is a time management issue and lack of schedule is causing it to not get done. Mr. Boyles stated that the Agility Program by PennDot is in charge of spraying in those areas. Ron Smith spoke regarding spraying for weeds, stating that PennDot sprayed last week, but the material that they used cannot be used in town. They will spray with a different material next week in the early morning. Mr. Donald Konkle stated the point that other businesses have taken it upon themselves to pull their own weeds. He is asking for community cooperation because at this point in time they are extremely busy. No one is opposed to doing it, he is just asking for community cooperation to get it done. Mayor Dorin asked if we could check with other communities to see what they do. Mark Tillson, 619 Broad Street, wanted to know if we could check into community services to see if they would be willing to help. He stated that possibly the Forestry Department at PennTech would be willing to come and trim the trees once a year. Mr. Tillson thought that the Borough could coordinate things such as these so that it does not fall back onto the public. Shauna Turner, Sun Gazette Reporter, was curious as to who requested the trees. The Mayor discussed that it was all part of the Streetscape program and public meetings were held to discuss matters. Letters were sent out to Merchants and everything involved was designed with public input.

Teresa Detato, 106 North Washington Street, was wondering if there is any place in Indian Park where people could take their dogs to run. She was curious if the fencing from the pool could be reused. Mr. Brobson stated that they would look into it.

Mark Tillson, 619 Broad Street, wanted to know what process was put into place after the residences received a letter mandating them to fix their sidewalks and then the sidewalk ordinance was eliminated. Those residents were never notified that the ordinance was terminated. Mr. Brobson stated that the ordinance was never terminated; there is one provision that is in the process of being changed. The provision states that when you are selling your home if your sidewalk needs to be repaired it has to be corrected before you can sell your property. At the moment, this provision is suspended. Mr. Tillson was curious as to why it was suspended and Mr. Brobson stated that it was suspended due to complaints.

Sue Marshall, representing Friends of Indian Park, discussed that the next free Movie in the Park will be July 16th with a rain date of July 17th and the featured movie will be Open Season. This movie is sponsored by Montoursville Lioness Club. Mrs. Marshall also stated that the Friends of Indian Park and the Volunteers of Indian Park got together and made three beautiful new benches that are in the park. Mr. Brobson also stated that if anyone wants to join either Volunteers or Friends of Indian Park they are always looking for more people. Teresa Detato was curious if a bench could be placed towards the end of airport road about halfway down. Discussion was held that the area in question has a flooding problem and the next high water would probably destroy a bench in that location.

Gayne Campbell, 435 Mayr Street, wanted to know what the current schedule for tree removal is in the park. Mr. Brobson stated that there is no plan to remove any trees at this time. There are proposals out there that have not been accepted by both parties. If anything comes up it will be brought up at a public meeting.

Anita Baer, 424 North Arch Street, stated that she would like to see the wooded areas that are in the park turned into habitat areas.

Chris Moran also stated that he does not want to see any trees cut down.

Mr. Brobson recessed the regular meeting at 7:30 pm and a Conditional Use Hearing was convened. Discussion was held on 450 Cherry Street home occupation art studio. Motion by Eugene Boyle to table the matter until it can be reviewed by the Planning Commission, seconded by Ronald Shearer and carried. Mr. Brobson closed the Conditional Use Hearing at 7:32 pm and reconvened the regular Borough meeting.

A motion to approve the Borough Treasurer's Report and Borough bills for June was made by Mr. Boyles and seconded by Mr. Donald Konkle, motion carried.

Old Business

Review of Ordinance—Prohibiting “Jake Brakes” --

Chief Strailey discussed that some residents have stated their concerns regarding brake suppression creating excessive noise. He does not feel “Jake Brakes” are needed in the Borough limits as trucks should not be going fast enough to need those reinforcements. Once an ordinance is enacted, signs can be put up on Broad Street, Brushy Ridge Road and Route 87 stating Borough wide enforcement. Motion by Eugene Boyles to advertise the ordinance, seconded by Ronald Shearer. Mr. Konkle stated that this was a frivolous ordinance that could be avoided if we called the companies directly. Chief Strailey stated that fines would be between \$50 - \$300 dollars. The motion was withdrawn by Mr. Boyles, seconded by Mr. Shearer.

New Business

Rental Ordinance-

Motion by Mr. Boyles to suspend the 1st time inspection fee, it was seconded by Mrs. DiRocco and carried. Mayor Dorin was curious if we were going to have a policy or a paper trail. Mr. Boyles stated that the Codes Inspector already has a policy in place.

Resolution to Appoint Certifying Officer for the CDBG Grant—

Motion by Eugene Boyles to appoint Ginny Gardner as the Certifying Officer for the CDBG Grant, it was seconded by Mr. Marshall and carried.

“New” Newsletter Editor—

Mr. Boyles made a motion to hire Samantha Jo Welch to do the Borough newsletter for a fee of \$250.00 per edition and \$1,000.00 per year; seconded by Mr. Shearer and carried. Mayor Dorin asked if Ms. Welch would contact organizations and attend meetings to gain information. Discussion was held on this matter as well as who would proof the newsletter.

Nuisance Ordinance Consolidation –

Mr. Brobson discussed nuisance ordinances that are categorized in different locations and the convenience of consolidating them into one list. The Chief has come up with a list from other municipalities for reference. The Borough Solicitor is familiar with the list as his office created the list. He wants to caution Council that by declaring something a nuisance, when enforcing it at the District Magistrate level, you still have to prove it is a nuisance in court. It is helpful in that it gives codes people an idea of what they can enforce but it does not hold up in court until a judge declares it a nuisance. There was further discussion on the adoption of the ordinances. Mr. Boyles made a motion to advertise the ordinances, seconded by Mrs. DiRocco and carried.

Montoursville Area School District – Loyalsock Valley Elem. Walkathon Donation Request-

Mrs. DiRocco read a letter from the Montoursville Area School District requesting a donation for the “Rally for the Valley Fundraiser”. Discussion held on donating popcorn or in kind services.

Finance-

After reviewing RFP's regarding a new bank, Finance Chairman Gene Boyles recommends changing to Jersey Shore State Bank. Mr. Boyles made a motion to change banks from Sovereign Bank to Jersey Shore State Bank, seconded by Mr. Konkle and carried.

Recreation-

Mr. Konkle made a motion to approve an event permit for Pack 21 Cub Scouts to camp out overnight on Mill Street, seconded by Mr. Boyles and carried.

Mr. Shearer made an announcement of upcoming events from the Rec Board.

Streets/Water-

Update given by Mr. Smith, Streets and Water Commissioner, regarding agility program, catch basin and curbs, dike extension, manhole top, etc. Mayor Dorin requested that a written report be given as to what has been done and what will be done in the future.

Mayor-

Mayor Dorin discussed some of the events that have been held at the park including National Archery, SPCA, & Mustang Club and they have all left the park in very good condition.

Councilpersons –

Mr. Boyles read a card from Carmen Von Stein in regards to Indian Park and how nice it is kept up.

Gary Marshall spoke regarding a copy of a letter that Mark Tillson sent to Ron Smith regarding tarring and chipping raising the size of the alley in which is causing rain to pool and in the winter it is freezing. He would like to see if the elevation could be reduced. Ron Smith stated that he has spoken with Mr. Tillson and they will shoot grades on it to see what they can do.

Discussion held on archery targets located in Indian Park. They are being utilized by the YMCA summer camp program and are properly supervised.

Mr. Boyles discussed a letter from Jamie Shrawder, SEDACOG, regarding RFP's for the proposed senior center. Mr. Boyles would like to keep this on hold until results have been distributed. Discussion held on different locations available to get the survey out to the people as well as sending it to all taxpayers.

Donna Pongrat, 437 Cherry St, stated that people are not supposed to be putting yard sale and lost dog signs up around town yet she has seen quite a few. Council stated that this is not allowed and it was requested that if you see these signs please take them down.

Next Council meeting will be August 2, 2010 at 7pm. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm on a motion by Mr. Boyles, seconded by Mrs. DiRocco and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Gardner, Borough Secretary/Treasurer