

MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE

CITIZENS' NIGHT MEETING

MAY 6, 2025

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Mayor Nick Gresock.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary, Sharon McIndoe, called roll and the following were present: Mayor Gresock, Joe Hyzy, Eric Poach, Bob Stevenson, Bill Krut, Mike Adams, Bob Williams, Dennis Biondo, Alex Graziani, Bob Wratcher, Josie Rock, Paul Hugus, Joe Sedlak, Paul Whealdon and Makayla Lang.

Mayor Gresock referred to the storm that went through the region and he commended the public works employees for their outstanding work during the recent storm. He reported the employees were out countless hours and did an amazing job. He felt Monroeville always has a good response whether it is the public works or police department and this month there are two proclamations recognizing National Police Week and National Public Works Week. He reported there are some neighborhoods still without power and some roads are closed. Mr. Hugus stated all roads are open except one small portion of Orchard Street. Mayor Gresock inquired about the traffic signals and Mr. Hugus indicated they are all powered. Further discussion ensued about the traffic signal in front of the municipal building blowing down. Mayor Gresock commended Mr. Hugus and his staff and the entire department for everything they did get everything opened. He felt it was an impressive response and he was proud of his department and the employees.

PAT FULKERSON

Mr. Pat Fulkerson, the Tax Collector, came forward to explain the Homestead Tax Act. He reported of an issue with a former council member coming to his office and demanding one of his clerks to write a letter. He suggested if a resident has a problem with an ordinance or the rates, they should discuss it with their council representative or the manager. He reported the tax office is there to collect the taxes.

Mr. Fulkerson reported the Homestead Tax was deleted in the 2010 by Ordinance No. 2466. He explained council decided to delete the Homestead Tax but the county and the school have the Homestead Tax under Act 1 which means it is the gambling money the state gives back to the communities. He reported if a municipality does not have the Homestead Tax they do not receive the reimbursement out of the school taxes. He referred to Ordinance No. 2466 which was approved at the end of 2009 by a vote of six affirmative votes and one negative vote by Marshall Boone. He reviewed the names on the ordinance: Mr. Kucherer, Mr. Franci, Mrs. Drumheller, and a couple of others voted to remove the Homestead tax which amounted to \$15,000 off a resident's assessment. He briefly reviewed how the process works. He reported only residential properties qualify for the Homestead Tax and it can only be allowed in one state. He stated there are approximately 7,400 properties that have

Homestead in Monroeville and they would have gotten \$100 per lot per home which would have totaled \$750,000 this year. He added if the same thing is done next year it would be the same amount but it has to be approved by ordinance. He felt the residents would support it but it is council's decision.

Mr. Adams inquired whether the county still has the Homestead Act and Mr. Fulkerson answered affirmatively. He added the municipality has to have it in full or it will not get the gambling money. Mr. Adams clarified that it can only be used for one property and suggested that is where the resident had an issue. Mr. Fulkerson agreed.

Mr. Williams inquired what the tax would be on a \$100,000 home with the Homestead exemption. Mr. Fulkerson stated it would be assessed at \$85,000 for a total of \$450.

Mr. Graziani clarified if this were enacted it would save approximately \$100 for the Monroeville residents. Mr. Williams stated it would only be for 7,000 residents and Mr. Fulkerson stated it was 7,400. Mr. Graziani explained the first \$18,000 of the assessment is not counted no matter the amount.

Mayor Gresock inquired whether it would reduce the school district tax and Mr. Fulkerson answered negatively. He explained the school takes qualifies for it under Act One which is the gambling money that the state gives back and they have to give every dollar back to the residents. He reported they have to have the Homestead to qualify for Act One.

DONNA MEYER

Mrs. Donna Meyer, a resident of Berkley Way, came forward with two questions. She stated traffic has gotten so bad around Berkeley Way that it is hard for the residents to get out of the plan which is located beside No. Four Fire Station. She explained there is a dip in the road just passed the fire station then it goes up to their entrance then goes down again. She reported it is difficult to see the traffic especially on the left at the access. She stated it is very congested between 7 and 9 a.m. and she has to wait at least five minutes to get out. She wanted to know if anything can be done with the lights between Westinghouse Drive and West Patty Lane which is the next street down. She suggested the lights could be synced in the morning and at dinner time because that is when the traffic is bad. She also pointed out a day care was recently approved in the area which will create additional traffic. She stated the residents tried to get a light but it was not approved. She noted Laura Lee goes up into Penn View which is a few hundred feet away from their entrance and the Synagogue is located across from them. She again stated it is becoming a big issue and it was quiet when she first moved into the area but it is becoming more and more difficult.

Mrs. Meyer then reported she received a letter from the Turnpike about ten or twelve years ago notifying them that they were going to start widening. She stated she recently got another letter notifying her that they needed access to her property to look. She explained she sits further up on Berkley but her neighbor down at the bottom received the letter. She was uncertain whether anything new was going on but reported of a rumor that No. Four Fire Station would need to be moved so the Turnpike could be widen. She pointed out the bridge would also have to be widened to go across the Turnpike. She understood it would take a while for the Turnpike to start their plans and get going.

Mayor Gresock suggested at this point the Turnpike is just reaching out to the property owners but the municipality has not been given any global information. Mrs. Meyer reported all the residents received letters ten to twelve years ago that they had to have access to their property then there was a

recent letter approximately two weeks ago. Mayor Gresock reported there have been some preliminary meetings regarding the fire station and how the bridge would be configured but the municipality is waiting to see how it would work.

Mrs. Meyer inquired about the lights and Mayor Gresock asserted it can be reviewed to see if anything can be done with the timing. Mrs. Meyer reported the traffic travels fast by the No. Four Fire Station.

LOIS DRUMHELLER

Mrs. Lois Drumheller, resident, came forward to express her concerns. She gave information to Councilman Hyzy because he has constituents that live near the landfill. She reported Protect PT was conducting a community health survey for people living near the Monroeville Landfill and this information could supplement it and give health officials information into what it going on in Pitcairn. She reported Protect PT was looking for volunteers and anyone interested living near the landfill could contact www.protectpt.info.com and they can take the survey on line. She encouraged Mr. Hyzy to share the information.

Mrs. Drumheller agreed that it was a tough week and she was without power for six days and she congratulated her neighbors for helping each other. She reported this week made her think about the issues with emergency preparedness. She stated Monroeville between 2010 and 2011 had an emergency management officer, Dave Knox, and he stressed the importance of National Incident Management System (NIMS). She explained NIMS training is the best practices for going across tribal lands, municipalities and state and local lands. She stated it provides a consistent nationwide template to enable people to work together so people can do things proactively. She felt the recent storm was approximately 15 minutes that took out a lot of trees that affected service. She reported the FEMA administration reviewed this issue extensively in 2004 and each member of council was required to take a basic test on line that was in the introduction to the incident management system. She explained council was trained in the common language so they understood what to tell their constituents in a given situation. She reported how all her neighbors helped each other. She felt each member of council should attain it and she could not see where Monroeville has been a part of this for a long time. She suggested in order for this to be successful, everyone should be communicating and it would also allow Monroeville to receive grant money. She mentioned Emergency Management Performance Grants and Homeland Security Grants do things that would be proactive and allow everyone in Monroeville to have the best practices for emergencies. She suggested NIMS training should be considered for Monroeville and she felt there should be only one person who occupies that emergency management coordinator position. She disagreed with the shared position which is currently being used for over ten years and using the chief of police. She felt the NIMS guidelines would not recommend it and Mr. Poach disagreed.

Mayor Gresock stated the municipality has an emergency management coordinator. Mrs. Drumheller inquired whether it was under the NIMS system and Mayor Gresock and Mr. Poach answered affirmatively. Mayor Gresock reported he has had the training and a lot of the council members have had training.

Mrs. Drumheller reported when she checked the region about the emergency management person she was not given Chief Cole's name. Mayor Gresock indicated the municipality is aware of who

it is and Mrs. Drumheller suggested it could be a problem because they do not know who it is. She employed the municipality to look into it and have common language across board and everything is under FEMA. She suggested it would be great if the municipality could get grants for that full participation but she does not see it. She requested the municipality do their homework.

Chief Cole came forward as the Chief of Police and the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Municipality of Monroeville to report the municipality is recognized by the county. He explained all the obligations to the region have been fulfilled as well as Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). He reported that he and Mr. Hugus and Mr. Poach were out during the events to tie all the resources together to make sure everything was covered appropriately. He stated every police office is NIMS standard accredited because of their accreditation and every fire fighter and EMS has the training.

Mr. Stevenson inquired whether he is currently accredited and Chief Cole stated it would be made official in June. He indicated it was done a while ago and it is on paper that every police officer has gone through the training and every EMS has to have it by state law and every fire fighter has to have NIMS training. He suggested all of council has had NIMS training in some form and everyone understands what National Incident Management Systems is and the municipality strictly follows it. He reported the municipality is fortunate to have extra resources with public works and they are trying to coordinate it better with Duquesne Light in the future but they meeting all of the requirements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no one else come forward at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander J. Graziani
Municipal Manager

AJG/sam