

**MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 1, 2023**

A meeting of the Moscow Borough Council was held on May 1, 2023 at 7:00 pm. at the Moscow Borough Building, 123 VanBrunt Street, Moscow, PA.

Opening of Meeting

Arthur Pencek, Council President, called the May 1, 2023 meeting to order at 7:00 pm. and also stated that meeting is being recorded.

The following Council members were either present or absent:

Rosemarie Warner (Mayor)	Present	Joseph Castrogiovanni	Present
Arthur Pencek (President)	Present	Dennis Cawley	Present
Edward Gaughan (Vice-President)	Present	Marc Gaughan	Present
Paula Bechaver	Absent	William Heim	Present

Also present were Amy Carlson (Administrative Assistant), Bruce Zero (Solicitor) Conor Mann and Jason Castrogiovanni (Junior Council) George Parker (Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer) Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), Colin Young (Fire Chief) Aaron Pikarski (Moscow Resident) Jillian Kaminski (Moscow Resident)

Citizens Comments:

Aaron Pickarski, Moscow Borough resident, brought up concerns from last meeting regarding his traffic and speed concerns on RT 690 from Main St to RT 307. Mr. Pickarski stated that he penned a proposed letter that would request a traffic study to be performed and forwarded this letter to the Borough. PennDOT requires the Borough to submit such requests (not private citizens) Council President, Art Pencek stated that Chief Brenzel said that PennDOT has already done two studies and both studies prior were the identical results. Also, he said Chief Brenzel was still having conversations with the school district on traffic control concerns. There have not been any decisions made but she will report back to Council when that information becomes available to her.

Mr. Pickarski also brought up concerns from last meeting as to an update on code violations on a property at 800 block of Church Street. Art Pencek stated it is a work in progress that letters have been issued and they need to wait until that period ends to start the next steps.

Moscow resident Jillian Kaminski also brought up concerns regarding traffic going the 15mph speed limit on Church Street in the school zones requesting a solution from Moscow Borough Council to see if there can be more police presence during those school hours. Mayor Warner expressed that the police department has been issuing citations for the speeding violations.

Aaron Pickarski, Moscow Borough resident also asked Council if the dog barking ordinance that could be enforced as there is continuous noise disturbance during the morning hours of 7:00 am in his neighborhood by his property on 810 Church Street.

Approval of Minutes

The regular monthly council meeting was held on April 3, 2023. Minutes were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Joseph Castrogiovanni to accept minutes as written. Motion was seconded by William Heim. The motion carried unanimously.

Junior Council

Conor Mann and Jason Castrogiovanni had no Junior Council updates.

Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company

Chief Colin Young reported on the following:

April 2023 monthly report had a total of 67 calls. The breakdown was 52 EMS calls and 15 fire calls.

Chief inquired as if there is an ordinance for placement of Knox Box on existing and new commercial buildings. Amy Carlson looked into and cannot locate Chief Young will put something together of what he needs for verbiage for an ordinance if there is not one currently.

Motion made by William Hiem to hire Megan Olzar for Part-Time Ambulance Driver, Julia Paige Lamberton for Part-Time EMT and Sarah McDougal Part Time EMT (application pending). Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Chief Young expressed concerns if something can be done with the sensor timers on the traffic lights by underpass on Rt 435 and 690 in case of emergency. Art Pencek, Marc Gaughan and Chief Brenzel agreed to set a meeting up with PennDOT to discuss.

General Correspondence

Primary election day is May 16, 2023. Moscow Borough residents vote at the Moscow United Methodist Church on the corner of Church and Spring Garden Streets from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Letter dated April 2023 regarding the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society for informational purposes.

Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Murray submitted the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2023 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 as reported and to pay the bills as presented. Joseph Castrogiovanni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Real Estate Tax Collector

The Real Estate Tax Collector's Report was provided for the month of April 2023.

Engineers Report , Greenman-Pedersen Inc.

For informational purposes documentation dated March 30, 2023 for Authorization of Professional Services regarding Storm Sewer mapping was submitted. After review by Robert J. Bochicchio, P.E., DBIA, does not recommend moving forward with the project unless the Borough can be approved for a grant.

Documentation submitted for approval dated March 30, 2023 for Authorization of Professional Services regarding 2024 Maple Street Paving. After review Robert J. Bochicchio, P.E., DBIA, recommends moving forward with the project. Motion was made by Marc Gaughan. Motion was seconded by William Hiem. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Assistant

Discussion on seeking into purchase of 2 new AED's for the Police Department and plan for funding, Amy Carlson will spearhead this and update moving forward.

Discussion on seeking permission from Borough Council to use Shred-All Co. Roaring Brook Township for destruction of specific records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual. Approval granted. Ed Gaughan made a motion to approve Resolution #297-2023 regarding destruction of specific records as set forth in the Municipal Records and Manual and Resolution #298-2023 regarding intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual. Joseph Castrogiovanni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Discussion of electronic and television recycling and shredding event possibilities for Moscow Borough residents. Responsible Recycling, Kutztown, PA seems to be what local municipalities are hiring out. Recycle Chair Joseph Castrogiovanni suggested to hold off on this until 2024 since there will be no Clean and Green offered to residents that year.

Grants

Marc Gaughan and Louis LaFratte, P.E. LaFratte Engineering, working on 200 Block of Academy stormwater and curbing grant application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Police Department

There were at total of Chief Brenzel gave the Police report for the month of April 2023. There were 139 911-calls and 131 cleared calls. Also, several events and training.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rosemarie Warner, Art Pencek and Chief Colin Young , Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Co. attended the Meet and Greet for Senator Rosemary Brown on Thursday April 20, 2023. Very informational for contact and avenues to obtain specific grants. Also, their willingness to help the Moscow Borough currently and in the future.

Shade Tree Commission

Arbor Day ceremony was held Friday April 28, 2023 at Golden Park and a tree was planted in memory of the late Edward Gaughan who was a staple in the Moscow Borough and member of various boards in the community.

Mayor Rosemarie Warner stated that the local Boy Scout Troop with children in the kindergarten age group is currently looking for projects to assist in. Suggestion was made to ask Dan Schilling if they can assist with the butterfly garden. Mayor Rosemarie Warner will contact Paula Bechaver who is also on the committee to see of any availability.

Zoning Officer

George Parker, PE submitted Monthly Report for the month of March 2023.

Joe Castrogiovanni asked of update at the entrance of Harmony Hills Phase III of the small loader that is parked if they are doing any work. Would like explanation why their equipment is still there. George stated that they anticipated that the permit for them to do the work would be processed already but it is not as he is waiting for more information from them to process. Joseph stated if the equipment is going to be there for an extended period of time it should be moved until they begin work. George stated that communication is being received and the information is being submitted to approve the permit.

Also, Joseph Castrogiovanni asked if RLE Enterprises has gotten back as to when additional trees are going to be planted as required. George will contact them to get an update.

Zoning Hearing Board

Email dated April 19, 2023 from Brian Yeager regarding withdrawal letter of application requesting a variance from the Moscow Borough Zoning Hearing Board by Pocono Management LLC for informational purposes and review.

A Zoning Hearing Board Meeting was held on April 20, 2023 regarding application of John and Cecelia Mercuri, 120 Horseshoe Drive, Moscow, PA 18444 for a variance for property they own at 201 North Main Street in Moscow. Variance denied. Final report from Attorney Brian Yeager is pending.

Planning Commission

Letter dated April 10, 2023 from the Lackawanna County Conservation District regarding Notice of Termination Approval Letter Moscow Dollar General for informational purposes and review.

Motion made by Marc Gaughan to approve letter dated April 19, 2023 from Jody Ferdyn updating the progress of the third phase of Harmony Hills III and requesting a 120-day extension for the project to be submitted to Borough Council for approval. The current 120-day extension expires June 24, 2023. New extension deadline would be October 24, 2023. Ed Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation

Marc Gaughan stated that Paula Bechaver will be submitting to Louis LaFratte, P.E. LaFratte Engineering plans to apply for grants for improvements to the Moscow Borough Parks.

Marc Gaughan stated that Mark Mecca will be spearheading a handicap accessible fishing pad at Old Mill Park.

Port-a-potties were delivered to Old Mill Park and Golden Park. William Hiem requesting reasoning why the Borough is responsible for the expense. He will discuss with Paula about donations from the leagues to cover these expenses as they were previously paid for by the leagues.

Municipal Building

Discussion as projected delivery date regarding generator The equipment is on order and due mid to late January 2024.

American Rescue Funds have not been used to date. Amy Carlson to contact US Treasury and follow up as to expiration of funds or return funds back to the US Treasury if not used by deadline set forth.

Financial Report

Statement from Edward Jones for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2023. Current ending value \$128,304.81 for informational purpose and review.

Lackawanna County TCC did not meet in April but do have another meeting scheduled for May 2023.

Moscow Sewer Authority

Email dated April 20, 2023 correspondence regarding Moscow Sewer Authority Extension Project LSA Grant C000083204 for informational purpose and review.

Email dated April 21, 2023 from Amy Carlson on behalf of Arthur Pencek, Council President of signed letter for extension of LSA Grants C000065518 and C000071611 to Mary Lou Butler of ESC Design Inc. for submission to John Murray at PA Department of Community and Economic Development for informational purpose and review.

Email dated April 21, 2023 from Allison Cramer, PA Department of Community and Economic Development regarding current balances of Moscow Sewer Authority LSA Grants for informational purpose and review.

Streets

Marc Gaughan stated storm damage from water from Julia Street with bad erosion that the borough has been working on. A sub ground drain system is needed to prevent the flooding on properties in Stephens Heights coming off of Borough streets. In the past the Borough has paved the areas. Marc Mecca, DPW Supervisor has prices and the Borough will be putting two catch basins in bringing it down Jennifer Street behind the curb line. Expense being paid out through liquid fuels money approximately \$30 to 40,000.00.

Also, there were a great deal of wash outs from the storm on Greenfield Road.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Bill Hiem to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Marc Gaughan. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Amy Carlson