

MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2023

A meeting of the Moscow Borough Council was held on November 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm. at the Moscow Borough Building, 123 VanBrunt Street, Moscow, PA.

Opening of Meeting

Arthur Pencek, Council President, called the November 6, 2023 meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The 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	Present	William Heim	Absent

Also present were George Parker (Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer) Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), Colin Young (Fire Chief) Jason Castrogiovanni, (Junior Council) Maria Lucarine (Moscow Resident) Rocco Lucarine (Citizen), Katrina Powell (Citizen), Patricia Boyanoski (Citizen).

Citizen's Comments

Moscow Borough resident, Maria Lucarine, stated her concerns regarding a fence put in near her property at R149 Market Street. She stated Fire Chief Colin Young and Cpl. Martin Cieless determined that it was a hindrance to the Moscow Fire Co. Ms. Lucarine is requesting the concrete barriers be spaced with a minimum opening of 13 feet for two vehicles to pass through per the recommendation of the Fire Chief. She also does not like the construction method for the wooden rail fence along the property line. Ms. Lucarine also stated there is an abandon vehicle owned by Boro Beverage near her same property that is in violation of borough ordinance and also would like it removed. Moscow Borough Zoning Officer, George Parker will be reviewing the situation regarding this matter to make a determination going forward.

Approval of Minutes

The regular monthly council meeting was held on October 2, 2023. Minutes were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Edward Gaughan to accept minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Marc Gaughan. The motion carried unanimously.

Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company

Chief Colin Young reported on the following:

October 2023 monthly report had a total of 79 calls. The breakdown was 65 EMS calls and 14 fire calls.

The fire company and volunteers split up in groups to handed out candy to the many children trick or treating throughout the borough on Tuesday October 31.

Motion was made by Paula Bechaver to hire the following for employment at the Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Co. Rachel Doney (PT EMT) and Benjamin Pollack (Driver). Reagan Donahue (PT EMT) and

Christin Krauss (PT EMT) were tabled until December 2023 meeting due to insufficient paperwork being submitted. Motion was seconded by Joseph Castrogiovanni. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

General Correspondence

Laurel Lines Vol 50, Issue 9 an informational piece was submitted for review.

Invitation information for the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society 50th Anniversary Dinner to be held on Saturday November 11, 2023. Art Pencek and Marc Gaughan will be in attendance representing the Moscow Borough.

Marc Gaughan wanted to commend the outstanding work and restoration improvements that has been done at the Moscow Railroad Train Station and the freight house in the past year through a state grant. An anonymous individual donated the signage that has been put up replicating the original that was put up in 1914.

Lackawanna County Association of Boroughs dinner meeting invitation on November 16, 2023 at 6:30 pm, Regal Room, Olyphant. If anyone is interested contact the business office. The deadline to make reservation is Monday November 13, 2023 by noon.

Treasurer's Report

The transfer report was submitted by Elizabeth Murray, Treasurer for approval for the month of October 2023. Dennis Cawley made a motion to make the transfers as reported. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

The treasurer's report was submitted by Elizabeth Murray, Treasurer for the month of October 2023 and lists of bills to be paid from the general fund and liquid fuels fund. Marc Gaughan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as reported and to pay the bills as presented. Paula Bechaver seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote. Monthly Reports for October 2023 were submitted for review (payroll transactions by payee, deposit detail and general fund register)

Real Estate Tax Collector

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

Financial Report

Paula Bechaver made a motion to issue holiday gift certificates to be purchased from local business for employees. This was approved in the 2023 Budget line item 430.210 for this expense. Gift cards total of \$470.00 to be distributed to employees with paystub on Friday December 22, 2023. Joseph Castrogiovanni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Memo dated October 24, 2023 from Elizabeth Murray, Treasurer of breakdown of new interest rates on business accounts each account will now have an interest rate of 4%.

Streets/Planning Commission/Council of Governments

The scheduled October 30, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting was cancelled due to lack of content on the agenda.

Recommendations for Improvement report received from EMC Insurance regarding development or existing program for Fleet Safety and Drug Testing that need to be submitted. To date there is no existing Fleet Safety Program implemented that DPW is aware of. Marc Gaughan stated he will work with Mark Mecca to develop Fleet Safety Program.

Marc Gaughan stated that he would like to publicly thank Amy Carlson, Business Office Manager for contacting Aqua PA in Honesdale letting them know we are not happy with the work they had done on

Spring Garden St. Also expressed we would like to see the contractor come back and remediate these issues as soon as possible.

Marc Gaughan, Mark Mecca and Robert Bochicchio, P.E. DBIA of Greenman-Pedersen Inc met with a resident on Hillside Drive which is a priority roadway in poor condition, Long term plan (2-3 years) is to do curbside work, re-mill, pave and add drainage to the entire road which will connect to Sunrise. Marc Gaughan wanted to publicly thank Mark Mecca for developing a remedial plan with spray patching until the project can be completed. Resident was very understanding and cooperative in the meeting.

Engineer's Report Greenman-Pedersen Inc.

Continuation of the Maple Street Paving Project update. 100 block of Maple about 70% of roadway being paved by Aqua PA. Talked with our engineer to finish all the paving but was over the \$21,000.00 threshold which the borough would then have to bid out. The money the borough had would finish off the 100 block of Maple Street which is the reason that block was chosen. The 200 block of Maple St. 1.5 mills have been put aside from 2022, 2023 and 2024 for this stormwater project.

Marc Gaughan made a motion to put out to bid for the installation of the catch basin on the Jennifer Street Project. Robert Bochicchio, P.E. DBIA of Greenman-Pedersen Inc has submitted the paperwork and plans. Motion to authorize Amy Carlson, Business Office Manager to advertise for bidding and all bids received will be opened at the next council meeting scheduled for December 4, 2023. Ed Gaughan seconded the motion. Marc stated he is still confident weather permitting it will be completed this season. Funds for the project are being taken from the American Rescue Plan. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Council of Governments

Art Pencek spoke on behalf of the Council of Governments as Marc Gaughan was not in attendance at the last meeting. All present at the meeting agreed to do the study on the regional planning. Moscow Boroughs share of the project is approximately a little over \$4,000.00. After the first of the year they will bid out for the study.

Marc Gaughan stated it is really a pleasure to work with Robert Bochicchio, P.E. DBIA of Greenman-Pedersen Inc as he has the best interests of the Borough. Also, we, the borough of Moscow, are very lucky to have Greenman-Pedersen Inc as our engineering firm.

Zoning Officer Report

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

Art Pencek has asked Amy Carlson the next newsletter to be published to please submit literature from the borough regarding obtaining permits through the borough.

George testified at Magisterial Hearing regarding unkempt property located at 822 Church St. A citation was issued to tenant Thomas Reese who was in violation of Moscow Borough Ordinance #214-2011 and ignored three (3) official warnings over a period of over 7 months to clean the property. Property owner is Paul J. Demuth. District Magistrate Kipp Adcock ruled in favor of the Borough and ordered Mr. Reese to clean up the property to an acceptable standard. Borough Solicitor Bruce Zero stated Magistrate Kipp Adcock contacted him and would like a dollar value placed on the fine by council. Ed Gaughan made a motion that the magistrate issue a judgment of \$250.00 a day from the date originally determined to current date. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Zoning Hearing Board

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting was held Thursday September 26, 2023 of the continuance of a variance requested by John Pagotto for a property owned with Tara Pagotto at 400 Church Street, Moscow, PA. which was denied. The Moscow Borough Zoning Hearing Board Attorney Brian Yeager, will submit Finding and Facts of Conclusion of Law with the Decisions of the Board once completed.

Police Report

Chief Brenzel gave the Police report for the month of October 2023. There were a total of 139 911-calls and 132 cleared calls. Also, several events and training.

Joe Castrogiovanni thanked Patrolman Janniel DeJesus for his services throughout the borough on Halloween evening. He also thanked the Moscow Volunteer Fire Department for their services and help in the borough as well.

Art Pencek brought up an article that was published in the local newspaper regarding charges filed against individuals at the Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services. He asked Chief Brenzel if this would have any effect on our relations with the agency. The Chief assured that she was aware of these charges and has taken appropriate plan of action to assure the borough has continued positive relationship with the agency.

Shade Tree Commission

Mayor Rosemarie Warner and Paula Bechaver had discussion of resident concerns of tree removals within the Borough as they would need to be directed to either Mark Mecca or Dan Schilling to determine removals and if ordinances are being followed or if does not have anything to do with the Borough.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rosemarie Warner reported on the following:

Condolences and thoughts to the Orłowski and Bartridge families on the great loss to our community of longtime resident Helen Orłowski at the age of 101. She was a model citizen and inspiration to all.

Met with the Daisy Troop regarding local government and assigned each daisy with a council seat in an exercise to show what would be expected of them as a council member for the borough.

The annual tree lighting ceremony will be Thursday November 30, 2023 looking to purchase additional decorations and tree lighting fixtures in anticipation of the event. Main Street is now lit with new lighting.

Junior Council

Jason Castrogiovanni stated he will be focusing on assisting the Mayor with the annual tree lighting ceremony being held Thursday November 30, 2023. He will also include Kathrine Barker (Junior Council Member) for assistance along with any other members from the public to volunteer to help out.

Moscow Sewer Authority

Art Pencek stated that the Moscow Sewer Authority is short a member on the board and Jim Kanavy notified him that Jeff Huff a Moscow resident was interested in the position. His application for the position will be voted on at the next Borough Council Meeting on December 4.

Old Business

The first draft of the 2024 Moscow Borough Preliminary Budget was read by Council President Art Pencek.

The Taxes Assessment Values for proposed 2024 Budget were presented for informational purposes

The first draft of proposed Tax Levy Ordinance #271 – 2023 was read by Council President Art Pencek.

Ed Gaughan made a motion to accept the first draft reading of the 2024 Moscow Borough Preliminary Budget. Dennis Cawley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Marc Gaughan wanted to congratulate the North Pocono High School Girls Volleyball Team on their District II Championship. The team is coached by Moscow Borough solicitor Bruce Zero's daughter Alex. Also,

congratulations to the North Pocono High School Boys' Soccer Team on their District II Championship. Junior Councilmember Kathrine Barker's brother is a member of the team.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Ed Gaughan to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Paula Bechaver. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Amy Carlson