

MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 6, 2024

Call Meeting to Order

President Art Pencek called the May 6, 2024 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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: George Parker (Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer) Amy Carlson (Business Office Manager) Shawn Young (Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Co) Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), Katherine Barker (Junior Councilmember) Carol Yanko (resident)

Citizen's Comments

No citizens comments

Approval of Minutes

The monthly Council meeting was held on April 1, 2024. Minutes were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Ed Gaughan to accept council meeting minutes as written. Motion was seconded by William Heim. The motion carried unanimously

Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company

Shawn Young, member reported on the following:

There were 127 total calls 31 fire related calls and 96 EMS calls for the month of April 2024.

Annual Chicken BBQ will be held on June 2, 2024 which will be take-out only. Flyers have been circulated throughout the Borough, on the website and social media with more details.

Conducting a raffle for (1) 2024 Honda FourTrax Rancher 4x4 ES from May 1st 2024 with a drawing date on or around Labor Day 2024. For information and to purchase tickets visit the Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Co. Facebook page.

Staffing is getting much better for the Fire Company. Also, Jefferson Township and Moscow are now on dual dispatch

"Run for the Hoses" will return at the Moscow Country Street Fair on Saturday July 27, 2024

A motion was made by William Heim to approve the following applications for EMT employment at \$16.00 per hour for Maria Bonita and Lauren Black (clearances and paperwork completed). Also, Dillon Koch for driver position at \$15.00 per hour (clearances and paperwork completed). Motion was seconded by Marc Gaughan. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call.

General Information

Laurel Lines Volume 51 Issue 3 was submitted for informational purposes.

Lackawanna County Commissioners Meeting was held at the Moscow Borough Building on Wednesday May 1, 2024 at 10:00 am

Amy Carlson, Business Office Manager interest regarding ClearGov Digital Budget Book that was presented at last week's commissioners meeting She would like to start to compile information for the Moscow Borough to learn more about it and possibly following suit in the future if council and the budget would allow.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was submitted by Elizabeth Murray, Treasurer for the month of April 2024 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. Monthly Reports for April 2024 were submitted for review (payroll transactions by payee, deposit detail and general fund register for review) Bill Heim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Real Estate Tax Collector's Report

Real Estate Tax Collector's Report from March 2024 was submitted for review.

Financial Report

Statement from Edward Jones certificate of deposit balances as of March 28, 2024

Business Office

A motion was made by Marc Gaughan to grant permission requested to apply for the DCNR 902 Recycle Grant. DPW Director, Mark Mecca is interested in applying for a Leaf Vacuum Collection Truck. The Borough match is 10%. Mark Mecca has a quote from 10/09/23 of \$201,570.39. The motion was seconded by Joseph Castrogiovanni. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

The American Rescue Plan Funds Annual Expense Report was completed and submitted to the United States Federal Government on 04/25/24 for the fiscal period of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. All funds have been expensed for the Moscow Borough by the deadline of December 31, 2024

Newsletter Supplement for Spring-Early Summer 2024 was mailed out to Moscow residents

Streets/Planning Commission and Council of Governments:

Marc Gaughan addressed the following:

DPW Department is actively working on completing the Jennifer Street project.

Maple Street Project update, Marc and DPW Director Mark Mecca will be meeting with Robert J. Bochicchio, P.E., DBIA, of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. Projected to submit to council for approval to bid by next council meeting.

Part-Time DPW Seasonal Summer Employment hire Richard Byron is very proactive and working out exceptionally well

Review of packet from email dated April 12, 2024 from Mary Liz Donato, Lackawanna County Planning Department Manager regarding Regional Planning Project Intergovernmental Agreement

10-Year Long Range Plan Re-cap and committees to be established. Looking for residents in the community who would like to be on committees. Theme for the long-range plan is "Decade of Development" These will be emailed to council and the planning commission in the near future. Chairmanships are available as well.

Zoning Officer Report

George Parker, PE submitted Monthly Report for the month of March 2024 for review.

Zoning Hearing Board application for Mollie Maseychik, 813 Parkview Road was **rescinded** by applicant on 04/30/24

Update regarding Moscow Borough's continuing effort to collect overdue monies to satisfy the GPI invoice for inspection of the work at the Moscow Post Office in 2023. Last week George finally received a phone call from a new person at TTI who asked him to forward the history of the situation for her to address. He will continue to pursue this and keep everyone involved updated.

Discussion of George's communication from JBAR Realty, Inc. (RLE Enterprises) (North Main Street). All trees have now been planted on requested property lines. Pictures were distributed for viewing. Joseph Castrogiovanni thanked George Parker for his efforts in resolving this issue.

Dennis Cawley as to if the trees in Harmony Hills need or do not need to be replaced and who would be responsible for the cost if replaced. Art Pencek said borough solicitor was looking into the situation regarding the right-of-way.

Joseph Castrogiovanni asked George for update the property at 305 N Main (Cor w/ Keene St.). The contractor working was replacing roof without permit. He contacted owner and told him to go to Borough Bldg. on Monday, April 29, 2024 and get permit application. Vacway Appliance & Service Inc. (Dave Partyka) sold the property to Richard Russell (631-946-1715) this week. On April 30, 2024 George met on site at 305 N Main St with new property owner Richard Russell regarding procedure that needs to be followed regarding the work in progress (replacing the roof and siding). He told the new owner that he needs to complete a Zoning Permit Application. He also discussed his potential use of the structure and he said he is restoring as a residential dwelling. George told him he needs to stop the process since he is in a C-1 Zone. He argues that he was never told that by the seller and there is nothing in his deed stating same. Mr. Russell does not agree with George's opinion. Mr. Russell has legal counsel (Atty. Smith) via conversation by phone. Mr. Russell intends to file an appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance based upon it being originally built as a residential structure. George told Mr. Russell he will get the application forms to him to initiate that effort.

Joseph Castrogiovanni also asked George about the entrance to Harmony Hills Phase III. Inspections have been done by borough engineer Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. Joseph requested any more work that is done to continue to have inspected.

Marc Gaughan requested an update on the garbage bags on Busted property on Main Street. Art stated the property has been sold and stated there were some legal issues and spoke to the Moscow Borough Tax Collector stated that tax invoice came back and inquired about it as the County stated that there were some issues to be addressed.

Parks and Recreation

Amy Carlson, Business Office Manager on behalf of Paula Bechaver Chairperson reported on the following listed below:

The Rubber Mulch Grant C000088297 approved by the PA Department of Community & Economic Development in the amount of \$12,500.00 has been received. DPW Director Mark Mecca will purchase the 2,000 pounds of rubber mulch from Lyons Recreation, Stratford NJ for Clover Park as previously approved.

Shade Tree Commission

Amy Carlson, Business Office Manager on behalf of Paula Bechaver reported on the following listed below:

The Annual Arbor Day Ceremony at Golden Park on Friday April 26, 2024 at 4:00 PM. This year's tree was planted in memory of John McShafferty who was very committed to the North Pocono Little League throughout the years prior to his passing. John's family and the North Pocono Minisink Lions Club were present for the ceremony. A tribute to John was read at the ceremony by Jim Strempek, President of the North Pocono Minisink Lions Club.

Moscow Borough received the 2024 Tree City and Growth Award for the 35th year.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rosemarie expressed condolences to Corporal Martin Ceiless on behalf of the Mayor and Moscow Borough Council on the passing of his father.

Police Report

Chief Brenzel gave the police report for the month of April 2024. There were a total of 113 911-calls and 110 cleared calls for the month, also several events and training.

Recycling

The excessive brush dropped off from residents was removed from the back of the Moscow Borough Building and taken to the Lackawanna County Recycling Center. The build up was due to the fact that DPW was not allowed to transport it to the Lackawanna County Recycling Center until after May 1, 2024.

Moscow Sewer Authority:

Art Pencek gave update on Sewer Extension Project that is slated to begin in July 2024.

Personnel Committee

Ed Gaughan, Chairperson stated he has been working on some updates for the handbook prepared and should have them ready to present at the next council meeting on June 3, 2024.

Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by Amy Carlson