



Moscow Borough Council
Meeting Minutes

Moscow Borough Municipal Building
123 Van Brunt Street
Moscow, PA 18444
570.842.1699
www.moscowboro.com

Monday October 7, 2024
7:00 PM

Call Meeting to Order

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

The following Council members were either present or absent:

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

Also present were: George Parker (Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer) Amy Carlson (Business Manager) Katherine Barker (Junior Council) Luis Arias (Junior Council) Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief) Officer Janniel DeJesus (employee) Marc Cordelli. (Lackawanna County Director for Community Relations) Kevin Strausser (resident), Paul Trygar (resident), Sonja Strausser (resident), Stefanie Trygar (resident), Larry Rizzitano (resident), Mike Vilello (resident), Gary Willsch (resident), Jim Pinto (resident), Theodore Ludka (resident), Carol Yanko (resident), Annie Kozik (resident), Ava Rava (student), Melissa Kozik (student)

Approval of Minutes

The monthly Council meeting was held on September 3, 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 Marc Gaughan The motion carried unanimously

Citizens Comments

Moscow Police Officer Janniel DeJesus, thanked borough council for assisting through health issues through late last year and early 2024.

Kevin Strausser, President of Moscow Development Association addressed council regarding application for an LSA Grant for privately owned water service provided to a few residents of Moscow that is in need of a water tank replacement and needs to process through the Moscow Borough. Resolution needs to be signed by Council President and was declined due to the Moscow Borough is applying for the same grants. Kevin stated that he would provide Senator Rosemary Brown’s Office contact information and contact information from Department of Community and Economic Development that he and resident and member Michael Vilello have spoken with stating these individuals confirmed that each application is reviewed and looked at based on their own merit and not as a bundled group. Art Pencek stated that we would look into it to see if it holds validity once information is provided.

Resident Gary Willsch, 402 Autumn Drive. Issue about water running from Greenfield Drive onto his driveway and property. Nothing has been done. Seven inch drop off through driveway and property due to amount of water running down hill and nothing is being done. Marc Gaughan stated GPI is compiling plans to curb it and borough is hoping to resolve issue in one to two months as soon as the plans are received.

Resident Jim Pinto, plan for borough road maintenance. Through tax savings over a period of the past three years in 1.5 mileage and grants, trying to spread throughout the borough and also in house instead of bidding out the projects that are more expensive. Also, can pot holes be repaired instead of spray patch. Cut ordinances inquiring who is responsible. Marc Gaughan will contact Bruce Zero to see who is responsible party.

Marc Cordelli. Lackawanna County Director for Community Relations made a brief presentation to offer any way that he and his staff can help the Moscow Borough. Distributed event information on events coming up.

Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company

There was no Moscow Volunteer Fire and Hose Co. Report for month of September 2024 due to Chief Colin Young not in attendance.

Ed Gaughan made a motion to hire Angelina Topa as a part-time driver at the rate of \$15.00 per hour (all clearances have been submitted) Motion was seconded by William Heim. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

General Correspondence start here at 32.00 minutes on recording

Laurel Lines Vol 52, Issue 9 – September 2024 was submitted for informational piece and review.

Thank you letter dated September 2024 from the North Pocono Library was submitted for informational piece and review

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Ed Gaughan to accept the transfer report for the month of September 2024. William Hiem seconded the motion the motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report was submitted and reported for the month of September 2024. A motion was made by William Heim to accept the treasurers report as reported and to pay the bills as presented. Ed Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Real Estate Tax Collector's Report

Real Estate Tax Reports were submitted for August 2024 and September 202 for informational piece and review.

Financial Report

Nothing to report for month of September 2024

Business Office

Rate structure for the 2025 budget of payroll increase for the School Crossing Guards was submitted for review. Borough Council agreed the borough portion and advised to move forward for approval from the North Pocono Board of Education for their portion.

Discussion of Clean and Green amount to be budgeted for 2025 Budget agreed to budget \$30,000.00.

Email dated October 3, 2024 from Robert J. Bochicchio, P.E. DBIA, Greenman-Pedersen Inc., regarding SR435 Section P01 Culvert Rehabilitation Project Letter received for informational piece and review.

Approval was granted of request for approval to apply for Department of Community and Economic Development: Local Share Account Statewide Funds (come from online gambling/sports betting) with a due date of November 30, 2024. Grant to be used for purchase of new 2025 Interceptor police vehicle.

A motion was made by William Heim to approve Resolution 306-2024 and Allocation Letter for Department of Community and Economic Development: Local Share Account Statewide Funds Grant for police vehicle. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Financial Report

Per the recommendation of 2023 Final Audit Summary from Murphy, Dougherty & Co. additional signature on all payroll checks has been added going forward. WePay Payroll service has been notified and provided with the change

Streets/Planning Commission and Council of Governments:

Marc Gaughan addressed the following:

Planning Commission Meeting September 30, 2024 Rollin R Keisling of Rollin R Keisling Associates present plans prior to the meeting to George Parker, Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer for a lot line adjustment request. Planning Commission accepted the minor subdivision property of Walter Woehrlé requesting lot line adjustment to add 1.2 acres to his daughter's property at top.

Brundage Subdivision for informational purposes. A plan was presented by Donald Julian, PLS of ESC

and Design Engineering. Planning Commission reviewed plan. The plan is only for subdivision of the property into two parcels. There is no proposed land development included. Planning Commission voted and recommended approval by Borough Council.

Next COG Meeting scheduled for Wednesday October 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Moscow Borough Building has been cancelled due to lack of topic content.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer George Parker, PE

Monthly Report for August 2024 was submitted for review. There were no questions or comments for George Parker.

Field meeting with Justin Howe Springbrook Twp. along SR0690 to discuss parking problem along the south shoulder of the highway in the vicinity of Laurel Rd. Sight distance issue

Parks and Recreation

Clover Park playground equipment installation is scheduled for this month if all goes as planned.

Lou LaFratte submitted the LSA application for Harmony and Golden Parks.

Police Report

Chief Brenzel gave the police report for the month of September 2024. There were at total of 165 911-calls and 163 cleared calls for the month, also several events and training.

Junior Council

Katherine Barker stated that the meeting on September 23, 2024 of the Decade of Development, Young Visionaries Committee met with the Mayor and all is looking promising with the committee and the ideas proposed going forward.

Recycling

Leaf Pickup flyers put out curbside leaf pickup will take place weeks of October 15-18, October 21-25, October 28-31 November 1-8.

MOSCOW SEWER AUTHORITY:

Art Pencek stated that the Moscow Sewer Authority was just waiting for the money to get started which projected to start sometime this month.

Solicitor's Report

There was no report for month of September 2024 due to Solicitor Bruce Zero not in attendance.

Personnel Committee

Ed Gaughan, Chairperson stated has made proposed revisions to the employee handbook. As the intention was not to change the bulk details but to clarify them. A motion to accept these revisions as shown in the Employee Handbook was made by Paula Bechaver. Motion was seconded by William Heim. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

New Business

Planning Commission approved MarKoz Realty, Inc.'s request for an extension of the one hundred twenty (120) day review period for its Land Development plans to February 20, 2025. A motion was made by Marc Gaughan to accept the request. Motion was seconded by William Hiem. The motion carried unanimously. Borough Council agreed with councilmember Joseph Castrogiovanni who stated that before any additional extensions are granted going forward they must provide an update on the status of their project at a Borough Council meeting prior to the next expiration date of February 20, 2025 in addition to a formal request for another extension.

Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by Amy Carlson