



Moscow Borough Council Meeting Minutes
Monday , January 6, 2025

Moscow Borough Municipal Building
123 Van Brunt Street
Moscow, PA 18444

Moscow Borough Council

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- Arthur Pencek - President
 - Edward Gaughan - Vice President
 - William Hiem
 - Marc Gaughan
 - Joseph Castrogiovanni
 - Dennis Cawley
 - Paula Bechaver
-

Mayor Rosemarie Warner

Call Meeting to Order

President Art Pencek called the January 6, 2025 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	Present
Edward Gaughan (Vice-President)	Present	Marc Gaughan	Present
Paula Bechaver	Present	William Heim	Absent

Also present were: Amy Carlson (Business Manager) Atty. Bruce S. Zero (solicitor), Luis Arias (Junior Council) Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief) George Parker (Zoning Code Enforcement Officer) Colin Young (Chief, Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Co.)

Approval of Minutes

The monthly Council meeting was held on December 2, 2024. Minutes were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Joe Castrogiovanni to accept council meeting minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Marc Gaughan. The motion carried unanimously.

2025 Appointments and Renewals

Motion was made by Marc Gaughan to appoint Lisa Notarianni to the Vacancy Board for a one-year term expiring 12/31/25. The motion was seconded by Joseph Castrogiovanni. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote. Note: The Civil Service Commission - Kevin Strausser (Chair) and John Franklin (Alternate) 6-year terms and Moscow Sewer Authority James Kanavy (Chair) 4-year term were automatically renewed with no roll call needed as per stated by Council President Art Pencek. Also, the Administration , DPW and Police Departments listed on agenda did not need a vote as they are Moscow Borough hired employees.

General Correspondence

The following elected official positions are open for the May 2025 primary and November 2025 general elections with 4-year terms expiring on 12/31/2025. Moscow Borough Council , Arthur Pencek, William Heim, Dennis Cawley, Paula Bechaver and Mayor, Rosemarie Warner. Included in the meeting packet were 2025 Important Dates from the Commonwealth of PA, Department of State, Bureau of Elections. Interested candidates must process their own paperwork through the Lackawanna County Election Office by stated deadlines. Also, any further questions or interested candidates were informed they should contact Elizabeth Hopkins, Lackawanna County, Director of Elections. (570-963-6737) email HopkinsE@lackawannacounty.org , Lackawanna County Government Center, 123 Wyoming Avenue, 2nd Floor, Scranton. PA 18503.

Moscow Volunteer Fire and Hose Company

Fire Chief Colin Young gave the Moscow Volunteer Fire and Hose Co. reports. There were 109 EMS and 18 Fire Calls for month of December 2024. There were 1230 EMS and 228 Fire Calls for the year of 2024.

A motion was made by Dennis Cawley to hire Brian Skutnick Part-Time EMT at a rate of \$18.00 per hour. All paperwork and clearances have been submitted. Paula Bechaver seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Grants

Letter dated November 27, 2024 from Mark Vottero, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Acting Chief of Municipal Recycling Implementation Section regarding **approval** of 902 Grant-Leaf Vacuum Collection Truck Recycling Program Grant Number: 202405080919 in the amount of \$200,000.00 was submitted as an informational piece.

Letter dated December 4, 2024 from Jessica Edwards, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Manager/Re-Invest Coordinator regarding **denial** of request for Re-Invest Grant Funding for Golden Park Fence Extension Project in the amount of \$5,000.00 was submitted as an informational piece

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report was submitted and reported for the month of December 2024. Ed Gaughan to accept the treasurers report as reported and to pay the bills as presented. Paula Bechaver seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Real Estate Tax Collector's Report

Real Estate Tax Report was not submitted for December 2024. Real Estate Tax Collector stated it will be submitted for the February 2025 Council Meeting

Financial Report

Joseph Castrogiovanni made a motion to transfer Peoples Security Bank & Trust Co. certificate of deposit mature date of Jan 5, 2025 in the amount of \$10,944.66 to HNB Bank 7 months at 4.25% due to the higher interest rate offered Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. Amy Carlson, Business Manager will notify Elizabeth Murray, Treasurer to move forward with the process.

The certificate of deposit with mature date of January 30, 2025 in the amount of \$11,127.50 will be tabled until the February 3, 2025 Council Meeting until interest rates can be confirmed with Peoples Security Bank & Trust, Edward Jones and HNB Bank closer to maturity date. The certificate of deposit carries a 10-day grace period for renewal.

Streets/Planning Commission and Council of Governments:

Marc Gaughan spoke with Robert J. Bochicchio, P.E., DBIA, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. stated they are moving forward with the stormwater survey for the Maple Street project and Greenfield and Autumn Drive project.

Art Pencek inquired to Marc Gaughan as to why it is taking so long for the design work for the Autumn Drive project. Marc responded that it is a tiny project.

There was no Planning Commission Meeting on Monday December 30, 2024 due to lack of topic content on the agenda.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer George Parker

George Parker thanked Amy Carlson, Business Manager and the entire DPW Department for the purchases and setup of the new Zoning /Code Enforcement and Building Inspector Office now located in the basement of the municipal building.

Monthly Report for December 2024 was submitted for review. There were no questions or comments

Police Report

Chief Brenzel gave the police report for Both 2024 Annual and Monthly December 2024 Report. There were at total of 130 911-calls and 125 cleared calls for the month, also several events and training.

There were at total of 1580 911-calls and 1561 cleared calls for the year of 2024, also several events and training.

The National Association of Town Watch Organization Awards were released. The Moscow Borough received 3rd Place award for 2024 National Night Out in Category 6.

Junior Council

Luis Arias stated that the Christmas Tree Lighting event held on Thursday December 5, 2024 was a huge success.

RECYCLING: Joseph Castrogiovanni, Chairperson

Advertisement for 2025 Clean and Green Program Bids was published on December 21, 2024 and again on January 24, 2025. Sealed bids will be received until 12:00 PM EST Thursday, January 30, 2025.

Joseph Castrogiovanni requested for Amy Carlson ask Mark Mecca, DPW Director what the process for the disposal of resident Christmas Trees will be and to have something put on the website informing Moscow residents.

Marc Gaughan stated to thank the DPW Department for the clean up of the tree branches from the late November snow storm.

Municipal Building

Art Pencek stated that two weeks ago the boiler in the building was cracked. A temporary small boiler was replaced for the time being for the upstairs but the Borough will need to replace with a new boiler in the near future. Art and Mark are waiting for Scott Staniszewski Plumbing to report back with pricing for a new larger boiler. Once that guidance is released GPI may need to draw up specs and the borough to put out for bid.

Moscow Sewer Authority

Paperwork was again held up and construction is now supposed to begin on January 27, 2025

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