

MUNCY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 5, 2023

The meeting of the Muncy Borough Council was called to order in the Borough Hall 6:00 P.M. by President B Scott. The Pledge of Allegiance followed and a moment of silence for our armed forces and first responders was led by President B Scott.

Council Members present: Scott Delany, Bill Scott, Linda Stein, Steve Shank, Richard Baker, Thad Martin, Brooke Bishop. *Solicitor:* Zach DuGan *Absent:* none

Staff Present: J Sholtis, J Lyons, K Hakes, J Dorman, D Williams, X Becker, L Wilcox.

Guests: Dick Sutton, Donna Sutton, Lisa Lyons, Tara Ashby, Pharron Banghart, Rebecca Bertin, Mark Maroney, Carrie Pauling, Bryan Pauling, Rob W .

Guests/ Public Participation: Rob W offered his sons services for photography services for Muncy Borough.

Minutes November 7 2023 - S Delany motioned to accept. B Bishop 2nd the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Minutes November 16 2023 – S Shank motioned to accept. B Scott 2nd the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Treasurer Reports: J Sholtis presented cash disbursements and bank balances for approval. R Baker said yea to accept the reports. S Shank 2nd the motion. The motion carried 7-0. Chief Dorman added that new police officers will be signing a one year agreement for equipment provided.

Old Business:

Budget 2024 – L Stein presented the latest budget for 2024. The total expenditures are \$1,379,495. The budget includes a new full time police officer, a .5 mil tax increase and a \$65,000 transfer from borough savings to balance the budget. S Delany indicated that he is opposed to removing boro manager costs out of the budget and feels that we need a borough manager. L Stein agreed. B Bishop said she has difficulty deciding if we need a borough manager when it is unclear of the duties and responsibilities of the current borough staff. R Baker motioned to accept the budget and advertise the tax notice. B Scott 2nd the motion. The motion carried 4-2. T Martin and S Delany voted No.

Tax Resolution 2023-13 – tabled. Solicitor Zach informed council that due to a tax increase there should be a Ordinance put in place after the advertising period is fulfilled. He will prepare the Ordinance for the December 21st meeting. R Baker motioned to advertise the tax ordinance. S Shank 2nd the motion. A roll call vote was held. B Scott-yes, R Baker-yes, S Shank-yes, T Martin-no, S Delany-no, L Stein-yes, B Bishop-yes. The motion carried 5-2.

New Business:

Livic Civil Green light-go project - B Scott presented a proposal from Livic Civil to manage the Green Light-go project at the corner of Main and Penn streets. A lump sum fee of \$47,900 will be required. L Stein was concerned that the intersection retain its historic look and not have the 'tin can' look as Main and Water street intersection does. B Scott assured that the new intersection would not have the look of the Main and Water streets intersection. B Scott motioned to approve Livic civil to manage the grant. B Bishop 2nd the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

MBMA appointment - B Scott presented that Betty Baker's term on the MBMA board expired in 2022. B Scott motioned to appoint R Baker to the MBMA board effective January 2024. S Shank 2nd the motion. The motion carried 4-2. S Delany and L Stein voted No. T Martin abstained due to working for the WBRA.

US Department of Justice agreement / ADA compliance letter – Solicitor Zach suggested that this should be discussed in executive session due to potential legal issues.

Council members / Mayor / Manager - K Hakes reported that the leaf machine is broke but we are still picking up bagged leaves. Chief Dorman introduced new police officer Xavier Becker. Council thanked R Baker and L Stein for their services on Council.

IPMC J Lyons – reported he is working on various properties in the borough. He is also working on a update in the borough code that he will be presenting in the spring.

Guests/ Public Participation: Borough resident Pharron Banghart asked if the boro manager monies in the 2024 were removed and if the office staff pay adjustments were carried into 2024. J Sholtis answered yes to those questions. P Banghart spoke to the fact that solicitor allowed and/or overlooked the recent vote to fire boro manager. She referenced B Bishop abstention. B Bishop spoke to the abstention and its being handled legally. R Sutton reported that he attended two finance committee meetings. He felt they were productive meetings and should be open to the public. Pharron spoke to the fact that council is not working together and have split opinions. B Bishop reported that she has never worked with a group of individuals who have different viewpoints and cannot put them aside to work together for the betterment of the town. She referenced social media postings and we all need to be professional. Tara Ashby wants to know why the grant for new borough buildings was removed from the Penn Strategies report. B Scott said that a grant application was never submitted. S Delany indicated the council previously voted and approved a grant for borough buildings and that he spoke with Penn Strategies and they were proceeding with the grant until B Scott told them that the borough was not interested. B Scott reported that a grant for new boro buildings would be rejected because the borough does not own the land. A lengthy discussion continued about the library and buildings.

Correspondence/Announcements:

Borough reports:

Police Department – November report attached.

Fire Department – no report.

MBMA – September minutes attached.

Streets Department – November report attached.

Tax Reports – November report attached.

WBRA – October minutes attached.

Library – no report

IPMC – no report

B Scott motioned to adjourn. R Baker 2nd the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm. S Delany motioned to go into executive session. R Baker 2nd the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Executive Session: A discussion about ADA compliance letters was held.

The meeting recon veined at 7:15 pm. Council will discuss future ADA compliance issues at the December 21st council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sholtis

Borough Treasurer / Secretary