



Borough Council Minutes

June 11, 2024

7:30 pm

Call to Order, Salute to the Flag. 7:30

Mr. Eric Kudrich President	P	Mr. Harry Prey Councilman	P	Mr. Jason Ohliger Solicitor	P	Chief Todd Kowinsky Fire Department	P
Mr. Mark Madsen Vice President	P	Mrs. Lisa Salvato Councilwoman	P	Mr. Scott Myer Treasurer	P	Asst Chief Stewart Eastern Pike Regional Police	A
Mr. Sean Alessandra Councilman	P	Mr. Cory Homer Mayor	P	Ms. Amy Turner Tax Collector	P	Mr. Shawn Bolles Zoning/Code Enforcement Office/Park Mgr	A
Mr. John Bush Jr Councilman	P	Ms. Shannon O'Leary Junior Council	A	Mr. Tom Olver EMA	A		
Mr. Jon Maney Councilman	L (7:45)	Mr. Nathaniel Carso Junior Council	P				

Public in attendance: approximately 14 members of the public were present.

**President's Remarks:**

The circus at the Fire House was well attended, the flags and the Home Town Hero Banners were placed on the Avenue and around town, flowers on PA Avenue were planted, thanked Jeffs Garden Shop and Dave Osczespki and Kathy Toussaint for their assistance, the grant for 4 new flower pots and 4 trash receptacles has been awarded to the Borough.

**Added Motion(s): None**

**Public Comment** (When recognized by the president, per Borough Code, state your name and address for the minutes)

John Helman, Dingmans Township, spoke in support of LGBTQ and encouraged the Council to vote to recognize the proclamation.

Brian Carso, Matamoras, spoke in support of the proclamation and mentioned the beautification of Pennsylvania Ave flowerpots, trash cans, trees, sidewalks and lampposts since he move to town.

**Unanimous Consent Agenda M: Alessandria/Bush. All in favor.**

- Approval of Minutes –Council meeting May 2024
- Approval of Treasurer's Report – May 2024
- Approval of bills to be paid – May 2024
- Approval of reimbursement to the recreation department for invoices paid on behalf of the Wade Trust Fund, copy of expenditures: May 2024

**Reports:**

- Mayor Cory Homer: Report is on file. Mayor Homer congratulated 2024 graduates, submitted DNCR Grant Application for ADA walkways in Veterans Park and noted they were awarded money through an LSA grant; thanked the local Boy Scouts who spent time cleaning up Vets Park earlier this month; congratulated the Fire Department on another successful year of bringing the circus to Matamoras; noted the Austing Prey Memorial Car Show had a great turnout at the park; noted there is a new Veterans Affairs Office in Shohola; asked that everyone wear their lifejackets on the river.

- Government Committee: Mark Madsen/Harry Prey: The P & C Insurance policy is being reviewed and the Statement Of Values is being updated.
- Fire Committee: Sean Alessandra/Lisa Salvato: Nothing to report
- Public Works: Harry Prey/Jon Maney: Noted that this month there is more garbage than usual that is being collected; there was a meeting with Westfall regarding the brush pile, Westfall will be obtaining quotes, the composting site on LaBarr Lane will be closed to the public during the week, it will only be open on Saturday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and Westfall and Matamoras will alternate scheduling to have an employee stationed at the gate. The DPW reported a watermain break near Mountain View Drive. Mr. Prey discussed the need to make that road wider, as there are safety concerns for the residents who live there. In the event of an emergency there needs to be more room for emergency vehicles and traffic. The DPW employees attended a Chainsaw Safety course and a Bob Howard attended a Dirt and Gravel Road course.
- Facilities Committee: John Bush Jr./Mark Madsen: On July 11<sup>th</sup> there will be repair work done in front of the borough office to repair a leaking septic pipe.
- Finance Committee: Lisa Salvato/John Bush Jr.: Noted the Borough was awarded an LSA Grant for a police vehicle. She attended a meeting with PennDOT regarding liquid fuel money. It was an informative meeting. We have to reallocate monies dispersed for a particular project, but overall, there are no issues with the liquid fuel monies.
- Finance: Scott Myer: Reports are on file, noted EIT, real-estate tax is in line with budget expectations.
- Planning Committee: Eddie Addison: At the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting planning voted to send a recommendation to council to approve a 2-hour parking restriction on 1<sup>st</sup> Street between Pennsylvania Ave and Ave K. On May 23<sup>rd</sup> both he and the borough secretary attended a planning training session in Hawley.
- Recreation: Jon Maney/Sean Alessandria: The basketball court was paved yesterday and will be opened within the next few weeks. There is a lot of interest in the status of the splash pad. We have someone who is being certified to operate the equipment; once we get their passing test results, we can open the splash pad.
- Eastern Pike Regional Police: Nothing to report.
- Recreation Advisory Board: Angela Clark: Nothing to report.
- Fire Chief: Todd Kowinsky: The circus was well attended every night. The carnival is scheduled to be in town from July 30 to August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two members recently finished their EMT courses. Their next step is to pass the state exam. The department is sending 5 members to FF1 Essential Class. Chief Kowinsky strongly agrees with Mayor Homer regarding the importance of wearing life jackets on the water. He noted issues with responding to calls due to house numbers not being visible. He is working with a few people to come up with a solution to this issue. He also noted that two new members have joined the department.
- Emergency Management: Tom Olver: Not Present, but submitted a report
- Police Commission: Dave Clark and Sean Alessandra: Nothing to report.
- Sewage: Mark Madsen: Reported he attended another meeting this month. The surveys on 28 parcels in Milford Township have been completed, now the information needs to be transcribed onto the appropriate forms for submittal. Milford Borough President Joe Dooley has taken the lead to keep communications going between all parties.
- Code Enforcement/Recreation Shawn Bolles: Not present.
- Tax Collector: Amy Turner: Noted received 160 paid bills to date, leaving 106 still unpaid
- Junior Council: Shannon O'Leary & Nathaniel Carso: Nat reported school year is wrapping up, and on May 17 the prom was held. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, they had a 5K to raise money for Mental Health and it was a big success. Graduation was Friday.
- All other Reports on file:

Police Report X	Recreation	Police Commission
Planning X	Fire Department X	Municipal Authority
Myer & Meyer Financial Report X	Berkheimer EIT Report X	Pike Tax Maintenance Updates X

Correspondence: On file.

**Old Business:**

- a) Motion to re-open the hearing on Ordinance 2024-\_\_\_ §124-18 Off-street parking. **M: Prey/Madsen.** Mr. Ohliger explained that is a continuation of a hearing and that the Planning Committee has made their recommendation to the Council to approve. Mr. Ohliger asked both the Council and the public if they had any questions. A member of the public asked for some detail as to what area of Matamoras this would affect. Mr. Ohliger responded that this is related to zoning requirements regarding parking for developing properties or establishing a new use. **All in favor.**
- b) Motion to adjourn the hearing on Ordinance 2024-\_\_\_ §124-18 Off-street parking. **M: Prey/Alessandria. All in favor.**
- c) Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-006 §124-18 Off-street parking. **M: Prey/Maney. All in favor.**
- d) Motion to send amendment to Schedule of Development Standards back to the Planning Commission for further review of comments received from Brian Snyder from Pike County Planning. These comments were received after the Planning Commission held their last meeting. **M: Maney/Bush Jr.** Mr. Ohliger noted that once it comes back to from the Planning Commission, Council will then need a vote to advertise a hearing regarding the ordinance. **All in favor.**
- e) Motion to advertise a Public Hearing regarding a possible amendment to Chapter 118, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic", of the Borough Code. **M: Maney/Prey. All in favor.**
- f) Matamoras/Westfall Compost Facility: chipping and access was discussed earlier. Mr. Madsen reminded residents that they will need to bring proof of residency with them.
- g) Motion to adopt a Resolution recognizing June as Pride Month in the Borough of Matamoras. **M: Salvato/Kudrich. 2 in favor, 4 opposed. Motion failed.**
- h) Motion to send the Comprehensive Plan to the Planning Commission for review. **M: Maney/Madsen.** There were concerns about the cost of the project and whether the municipality should develop its own plan or stay with Westfall Township and make updates to the current Joint Comprehensive Plan. It was noted that this is a guidance document, an aspirational plan. Matamoras has very little opportunity for growth or any major changes. The majority of the changes to the plan will be about Westfall. It will be important to find out what commitment Westfall is looking for. Will they be looking for a 50/50 cost split or a more appropriate pro-rata split? **All in favor.**
- i) Motion to accept the Pocono Mountain Visitors Grant for \$3,656. **M: Madsen/Alessandria.** This is a matching grant and would be used towards the purchase of 4 trash receptacles and 4 more flowerpots for the Avenue. President Kudrich noted that this is an unbudgeted expense and asked Lisa Salvato, Finance Chair, if they could find money within the budget so they may vote on accepting the grant award. Discussion ensued. The Council members were in agreement that the receptacles and flowers do improve the look of the Avenue and the streets look cleaner. Concerns were raised about the reoccurring costs that are associated with these improvements, such as manpower and costs of materials such as dirt and flowers. Mr. Madsen noted that he voted to accept the grant only because he didn't want to jeopardize

potential future grants by refusing this offer. Mr. Maney would like more transparency before to applying for grants. **All in favor.**

- j) Our Worker's Compensation carrier has dropped the Borough's coverage effective August 31, 2024, based on our claims experience. Over the past five (5) years they have paid out over \$100,000 in claims.

**New Business:**

- a) Stormwater evaluation: Council will discuss this with the Municipal Authority, Kiley and Pike County Planning.
- b) A motion was made to authorize Mr. Ohliger to file an injunctive action with the Court of Common Pleas with respect to the dangerous dog at 511 Ave K if the issue is not resolved by the end of the week. **M: Alessandra/Salvato. All in favor.**

**Public Comment:**

Brian Carso: Expressed appreciation for the spring cleanup event and inquired about the possibility of adding a fall cleanup event. President Kudrich noted that it is not budgeted, but will be considered in the future budget talks.

Tara Paradiso Ave G noticed that cars on the Avenue are not stopping for children crossing the roads. Mr. Alessandra will bring this to the attention of the police.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Maney, seconded by Mr. Alessandra at 8:46 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Brown  
Borough Secretary