Council Chambers
Monongahela, PA
December 11, 2019

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of The City of Monongahela, due notice of which meeting was published according to law, held Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kepics who led in the pledge to the flag.

The roll was called and the following present:

Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Presentations

Officer Fusco and Officer Fontaine took over the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) being performed by the nursing staff and applied one shock using the automated external defibrillator (AED. The patient blinked, took a deep breath and spoke to the officers. The patient was then transported by medical flight to Pittsburgh.

Tri-Community Ambulance Service and Rostraver/West Newton EMS nominated and recognized Officer Fusco and Officer Fontaine for the Life Saving Award for their exceptional performance of duty on October 17, 2019. After the award presentation the patient personally thanked both officers for their heroic efforts.

Mayor Bob Kepics received the Citation from the Senate of Pennsylvania from Senator Camera Bartolotta for his 22 years plus dedicated service to the City of Monongahela

Public Forum

Gretchen Lopez, 507 Second Street, Monongahela, reminded Council of the September meeting and is back asking about the Local Share Account (LSA) and the potential assistance to homeowners affected by landslides.

Mayor Kepics responded stating that he was on the All State Board this year (2019) and 82 landslide cases were brought before the board and no money was distributed because of the large amount of cases. He also stated that it may be hard to get assistance but to apply anyway.

Councilman Kulak stated the announcements have not been made for the Local Share Account awards and to watch for them.

Senator Camera Bartolotta asked Ms. Lopez to call her office regarding this matter.

Councilwoman Williams stated that she had an engineer evaluate the site.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated that the Code Enforcement Officer determination of a public safety and welfare concern then we consent.

James Braun, 1228 Elmcrest Avenue, Monongahela, congratulated the mayor on a wonderful career and that under his jurisdiction the town has flourished and is as clean and safest he's ever seen it. Asked for a round of applause for the Mayor. (applause) Announced that Santa is visiting on Saturday from 12:00 AM to 5:00 PM and is ready to great children who wish to speak with him or give him their list.

Mayor Kepics commended Mr Braun for the railroad set up in New Eagle Borough and acknowledged the hard work needed for the display.

Mr Braun said he would pass along the Mayor's thanks.

Mr Braun also discussed the Youth Edition of the Main Street Program. They are meeting this Saturday at 11:00 AM; as well as everyone else at Little City Coffee Monongahela, people 13 and 31 years of age are invited to get involved and do the same thing Main Street is doing.

Terry Necciai, 400 Meade Street, Monongahela, congratulated Mayor Kepics on the improved safety of the city. Mr Necciai talked about how amazed he was in all that happened this year in the city with the 250th Anniversary celebration, the Hamilton funeral, the cookie table, Governor Wolf's visit, etc.

Mr Necciai compared the difference of building occupancy from the 14-15 vacant buildings to the 11 new businesses that opened this year.

He described the large amount of paperwork that was needed to close out two main street buildings, the Gregory building and the old A&S building.

Mr. Necciai stated he was also speaking as a Library Board member and that things were moving along well and that there have been some board changes. Some of the new members are former Forward Township Supervisor, Thomas Headley, Royce Arbor, and Scott Frederick. With that Mr. Necciai named the other office and incumbents.

Mayor Kepics added to Mr. Necciai' s comments stating that the City Council has always given money to the library and wants to see it always stay in this city.

Mr Necciai concluded his comments stating that a bigger challenge is getting other parts of the community to use the library, like the other side of the river, which is part of Monongahela, has not been treated very nicely and that there is no library in Elizabeth.

Brooke Kish, 1023 Fourth Street, Monongahela, said she is following up on the police-cameras for our policemen. It was stated that it would probably be in the budge next year and is wondering if the funds came through already.

Chief Harris said that "we are still working on it".

Ms. Kish stated that Monongahela has been in the news alot these past three months so she was asking for status.

Chad DeSantis, Decker Street, Monongahela, congratulated Mayor Kepics for all the things he has done in the past 20 years including the things he failed to recognize while giving him a hard time.

Mr DeSantis continued his remarks stating that it had been a pleasure to "bust his chops" but wanted to thank the Mayor for all he had done and thank him for his service.

Mr DeSantis concluded his comments with a Roy Rogers quote, "happy trails to you, until we meet again"…then, speaking to the rest of the Council, stated how upset he was that the 2020 Budget was not on the webpage this morning and his expectation of the timely posting of bills 4, 5, and 6. He also hopes the Council can come up with some procedure to ensure the timely posting of information so he does not have to storm the City Clerk's office first thing in the morning.

Mr DeSantis hopes Council will take minutes at work session meetings so all parties are recognized and have the meetings at a reasonable hour, perhaps the first Wednesday of the month in the evening. Mr DeSantis recommended that Council select times during January's reorganization meeting.

Report of City Clerk

Police Report

It was recommended and so moved by Mayor Kepics, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Police report be approved, and the same agreed to by the following Yea and Nay vote to call the roll by the City Clerk:

Yeas
Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Total Yeas 5
Total Nays 0

Councilwoman Williams asked if a mileage log was annotated on the Police Report.

Chief Harris stated there is no mileage log on the Police Report.

The Motion having received the majority vote of Council, the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

Code Enforcement Report

It was recommended and so moved by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Polonoli, the Code Enforcement Report be approved and the same was agreed to by the following Yea and Nay vote to the call of the roll by the City Clerk:

Yeas
Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Total Yeas 5
Total Nays 0

The Motion having received the majority vote of Council, the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

First Reading of:

Bill 4-2019, Tax Millage

Bill 5-2019, Tax Re-Enactment

Bill 6-2019, Salary Ordinance of 2020

Bill 7-2019, Rezoning of Dry Run Road/State Route 136

Resolution of 15-2019, Transferring Appropriate Monies in 2019 Budget

It was recommended and so moved by Councilman Kulak, seconded by Mayor Kepics , Resolution 15-2019 be adopted as read, and the same was agreed to by the following Yea and Nay vote to the call of the roll by the Clerk:

Yeas

Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Total Yeas 5
Nays 0

The motion having received the majority vote of Council the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

Open bids for Tax Anticipation Loan:

CFS Bank	$500,000.00	2.10%
First Commonwealth Bank	$500,000.00	2.93%

It was recommended by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Mayor Kepics, that the low bid by CFS Bank based on the Solicitors approval, and the same was agreed to by the following Yea and Nay vote to the call of the roll by the Clerk:

Yeas

Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Total Yeas 5
Nays 0

The motion having received the majority vote of Council the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated that Bassi Vreeland and Associates is general counsel of CFS Bank and all appropriate waivers and conflict of interest would be signed by both the City and CFS Bank before I could look into that and if no appropriate waivers and conflicts of interests are signed you would have to have an independent third party legal adviser look into the appropriateness of the loan.

Report of Mayor Kepics

Asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the November 13, 2010 and November 29, 2019. There being none, the minutes were approved.

Mayor Kepics stated were supposed to hire a full time officer this evening. But we are putting that off until the end of the month because we are still waiting on some reports from the Civil Service Commission is that correct.

Chief Harris stated that is correct we haven't finished the background portion of the process at this time.

Mayor Kepics stated that since this is the last time we would be hearing from him he would like to thank his wife and family for all the years of putting up with everything, their love and support and me missing all their recitals and plays and everything else by doing things for the City.

Mayor Kepics thanked former Chief of Police Brian Tempest, Steve Topriani, the Chamber and others for their assistance over the years and I am proud of the work that we all did to make Monongahela one of the best communities in the Valley.

"A lot of things happened and a lot of things are moving on and I know that Greg will continue it on and I want to thank you all."

Report of Accounts and Finance

Councilman Kulak stated that over the years it has been his pleasure serving with the Mayor and that he felt that he offered a good quality of leadership to council and that he was open minded to over the years to their suggestions and had a sense of reasoning. Councilman Kulak was proud to serve under Mayor Kepics and that the City has prospered under his leadership.

Councilman Kulak read a Certificate of Recognition from the Commissioners who could not attend recognizing Mayor Kepics for his service as Mayor.

Councilman Kulak read a Proclamation from the City of Monongahela recognizing Mayor Kepics for his service as Mayor.

Councilman Kulak stated that they are still working on the budget and things are still progressing on that and we continue to develop the budget as we proceed to the end of the year.

Report of Public Safety

Councilwoman Williams wished Mayor Kepics well and to enjoy his retirement.

It was recommended by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Kulak to approve the license for Black Diamond Iron and Metal.

Mayor Kepics if the wheel scrubber be installed on the property that it was a requirement that they install the scrubber.

Councilman Polonoli stated due to the winter months they should have more than three months to install.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated that they could put a condition in the transfer that the wheel washer be in place by June 1, 2020.

Solicitor Pappaseri stated that the motion on the table is to approve the transfer without the condition.

The same was agreed to by the following Yea and Nay vote to the call of the roll by the Clerk:

Yeas

Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Total Yeas 5
Nays 0

The motion having received the majority vote of Council the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

It was recommended by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Kulak, that the City Hall staff work hours of 8:30 to 4:30 with a half hour for lunch and not to exceed 37 and a half hours a week in order to provide better service to the taxpayers and would take effect as of the first of the year.

Yeas	Nays
Ken Kulak	Robert Kepics
Claudia Williams	Daryl Miller
William Polonoli	

Total Yeas 3
Nays 2

The motion having received the majority vote of Council the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

Report of Streets and Improvements

This will be the last week for leaf pick up and anyone having any leaves sweep them to the curb and the Street Department will be around.

The City has applied for the DEP Grant and that is still in motion and the City is waiting for notification of the grant award.

Councilman Miller stated that he started as Councilman when the Mayor came into office and that he has learned a lot from the Mayor and thanked him for helping him along the way.

Councilman Miller stated that he is looking forward to our new Mayor Greg Garry.

Reports of Parks and Property

Councilman Polonoli stated that the City is now looking for someone to assist with the snow removal from various locations around the City. If anyone is interested please contact the City.

Report of Solicitor

Resolution 16 – 2019 – Inter-municipal transfer of Liquor License R11512 from the City of Washington to the City of Monongahela.

It was recommended and so moved by Mayor Kepics, seconded by Councilman Polonoli, to approve the transfer of Liquor License R11512 for Hog Father's BBQ.

Yeas

Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Total Yeas 5
Nays 0

The motion having received the majority vote of Council the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated there is a need for software and hardware upgrades to computer systems at City Hall and we need a motion for approve those upgrades.

It was recommended and so moved by Councilman Kulak, seconded by Councilman Polonoli to approve software upgrades and replacement within City Hall not to exceed a cost of $20,500.00, and the same was agreed to by the following Yea and Nay vote to the call of the roll by the Clerk:

Yeas

Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Total Yeas 5
Nays 0

The motion having received the majority vote of Council the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated that similar need for upgrading and/or replacement of hardware related to server systems within City Hall.

It was recommended and so moved by Councilman Polonoli, seconded by Councilman Kulak to approve hardware upgrades at City Hall not to exceed $20,500.00, and the same was agreed to by the following Yea and Nay vote to the call of the roll by the Clerk:.

Yeas

Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Total Yeas 5
Nays 0

The motion having received the majority vote of Council the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

Solicitor Pappasergi then stated he has been with the City for going on three years and wanted to thank the Mayor for teaching him a lot about what it means to be a Solicitor and a City Official. He has been pleased and honored to work under him and for him.

Report of Chief

Chief Harris stated for the past 12 years he was witnessed great progress within the Police Department and the community relations with the department and the City. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the citizens and make this a better place to live.

It was recommended and so moved by Mayor Kepics, seconded by Councilman Miller all properly and approved bills be paid and the same was agreed to by the following Yea and Nay vote to the call of the roll by the Clerk:

Yeas

Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Total Yeas 5
Nays 0

The motion having received the majority vote of Council the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

It was moved by Mayor Kepics, seconded by Councilman Kulak, council adjourn, and the same was agreed to by the following Yea and Nay vote to the call of the roll by the Clerk:

Yeas

Bob Kepics
Ken Kulak
Claudia Williams
Daryl Miller
William Polonoli

Total Yeas 5
Nays 0

The motion having received the majority vote of Council the same was declared by Mayor Kepics and so ordered.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk