

**MOUNTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 24, 2023**

A meeting of the Mountville Borough Council was held on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 1900 hrs. in the Mountville Borough Hall at 21 E. Main Street, Mountville, PA 17554.

The following Council members were present:

- Matt Auker, Theresa Baker, Jonah Eastep, Christine Eshleman, Phil Kresge, Rick Spiegel and Mayor Steve Mitchell. Lenny Heisey was absent.
- Also, present were Mountville Fire Co #1 Chief Dean Gantz, and Borough Manager Derrick Millhouse.

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. by Council President Kresge who then gave an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Kresge addressed the visitors in the room. He advised them of the public comment sections of the meeting, and if anyone wished to be heard during those times, they could stand, state their name, and address, and then address the Council. He explained that the main agenda item for the night's meeting was to get public input on the future of Spring Street. He encouraged the residents in the room to let the Council know what is on their mind and what if any suggestions and comments they have regarding Spring Street. The residents were presented with an information form which contained thoughts and ideas that had already come up in previous Council meetings, along with some breakdown of costs.

Public Comment

- President Kresge asked for public comment on any of the agenda items for tonight's meeting. Several residents did speak, and the following is a summary of their thoughts, ideas and opinions.
 - Cathy Greider – She believes the road should be closed. She explained there are sight issues, the road is narrow, and it would cost too much to repair or reconstruct.
 - Lori Second – She stated the speeds of the cars on the street are too fast. She would like to see speed bumps installed and/or the road to be one way. If those options are not suitable, she would like to see the crossing closed.
 - Holly Graybill – Concerned about vehicle speeds. The road is narrow. There are tractor-trailers that still use the road and they get stuck on the tracks or gouge the road. She would like to see the road go one way or be closed.
 - Steve Zeamer – Believes most of the people using the road are not Borough residents and doesn't want to see the Borough paying to fix a road that Borough residents do not use. He stated he worked in the Borough for years and the crossing is dangerous. If it were to be fixed, safety considerations would be needed and that could get expensive.
 - Mike Trimble – Believes the speed issue on the road is purely an enforcement issue. He thinks the road should be one way. He mentioned the road is needed to maintain and emergency route out of town. He also mentioned there is a significant amount of traffic that uses the road during the Field of Screams events. He believes FOS traffic is a large reason why the road is in bad shape. Liquid Fuels money would be affected if it's closed.
 - Ann Marie Fluke – She frequents Spring Street and admits the crossing is a bit scary. She believes it needs to remain an emergency route out of town and that it should be made one way.

- Dale Rohrer – Uses Spring Street from time to time, but believes the money projected to be spent on the road could be better spent elsewhere. He believes the road should be closed. Residents can easily drive around. He suggested Field of Screams could help with repairs.
- Karl Smith – He suggested speed is a problem on all Borough streets. Asks why it matters if those using the road are Borough residents or not. If the road is closed, would the railroad contribute to the cost?
- Greg Betz – He agrees the road is in rough condition. Believes the Field of Screams traffic is the cause of most of the deterioration. If it's closed at the tracks, could there be new attractions built in the right of way? If the crossing is closed and the road is repaired, wouldn't that solely benefit Field of Screams?
- Brenda Zeamer – If it was made one-way, how would that affect the use of the road in an emergency? Could it be opened two-way during the event. Doesn't use the road often because she doesn't like the crossing. She does walk the road and believes widening it would be a good improvement.
- Beth Hess - Can the crossing just be gated, so that it could be opened in an emergency? She asked what the options are for repair if the crossing were closed.
- Curtis Wagner – He asked if it was out of the question to ask the other townships to contribute to the repair costs of the road, since a majority of those who use the road are from out of town.

Recognition of Visitors

- None.

Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports

- *C. Eshleman moved to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2023, meeting as distributed.* T. Baker seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried.
- *R. Spiegel moved to accept the financial reports and fund distributions as presented.* J. Eastep seconded the motion. Council was in accord and the motion carried.

Public Safety – Police/Fire

Chairperson – R. Spiegel

- No Report.

Public Safety – Planning/Zoning

Chairperson – L. Heisey

- No Report.

Public Safety – Health/Sanitation

Chairperson – T. Baker

- No Report.

General Government - Personnel

Chairperson – P. Kresge

- No Report.

General Government - Budget

Chairperson – C. Eshleman

- No Report.

General Government – Public Outreach

Chairperson – P. Kresge

- No Report.

General Government – Building Committee

Chairperson – P. Kresge

- No report.

Public Works – Streets

Chairperson – Matthew T. Auker (absent)

- No Report.

Public Works - Parks and Recreation

Chairperson – Jonah M. Eastep

- No Report.

Engineer's Report –

- No report.

Manager's Report –

- No Report.

Mayor's Report –

- No Report.

Unfinished Business

- None.

New Business

- None.

Public Comment

- Beth Hess requested to know what if any progress has been made on the playground upgrade. J. Eastep reported they will resume discussion next year.

Miscellaneous

- Community Picnic is scheduled for August 27th.
- National Night out is at Leisure Lanes on August 1st.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2007 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrick J. Millhouse
Manager/Treasurer

Gallery:

Gregg Betz

Miguel A. DeJesus

AnnMarie Fluke

Holly Graybill

Cathy Greider

Charles Hank

Beth Hess

Rufus Hoover

Nick Hughes

Dale Rohrer

Diane Schaeffer

Lori Second

Karl Smith

Mike Trimble

Justy Trimble

Curtis Wagner

Steve Zeamer

Brenda Zeamer