

TOWN OF MONTVILLE -- PUBLIC SAFETY COMISSION
Regular Meeting – July 24, 2023 -- 6:00 PM
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comments by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced.

1. Call to order.

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners William Bauer, Mickey Gillette, Gary Murphy, Thomas Pedersen, and Stephen Stewart.. Absent were Commissioners Traci Callaghan and Karen Perkins. A quorum was present.

4. Amendments to the Agenda -- *None*

5. Special Recognitions and Presentations,--*.None*

6. Communications:

- Copies of monthly statistics reports from Fire Departments, Fire Marshal, Police, Animal Control and Building Official.

Chairman Murphy confirmed the receipt by the Commission of statistical reports from the departments for June 2023.

7. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve minutes:

- a.** The Regular Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to amend the June 26, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, Item 9, heading to read Fire “*Marshal*” Report, not Fire Department and the same in the first line of that report. Discussion: none. Voice Vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

8. Remarks from the Public.

Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

9. Remarks from Department Heads.

Police Department Report

Lt. Radford reported the Police Department statistics for month ending June 30, 2023. Reported were 880 calls for service. A total of 86 citations issued included 18 infractions, 1 juvenile summons, 7 misdemeanors, and 60 written warnings. He also reported that two (2) police recruits graduated from the Academy this week and have begun their transition into the Department. The police officers are Tyler Hughes and Bayron Morasena, as requested by Town Councilor Yuchniuk. The Commission was thanked for assisting with interviews for Department vacancies. Lt. Radford responded to question from Chairman Murphy as to whether the new recruits would be working the day shift—they will be working all shifts.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Barnes reported Fire Marshal Statistics for the month ending June 30, 2023, as follows: Inspections of businesses and apartments (48), Fire investigations (1), Incident responses/requested to the scene (2), Burn permits issued (4), New Business Inspection (2), Illegal Burn (1), Complaint investigated(1), and Plan Review (2). During the month of June, a total of one (1) hour was spent on Emergency Management obligations.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. Report from Fire Department Liaison. (Perkins)

Chairman Murphy noted the absence of Commissioner Perkins and the fire department statistical reports emailed by her to the Commission, Town Councilor Yuchniuk, and Mayor McDaniel for Oakdale and Montville Fire Companies. He also reported that Commissioner Perkins conveyed she thoroughly enjoyed the Police Department ceremony and was very happy with it. Mayor McDaniel reported that Chesterfield Fire Chief Truex has had issues with data downloads.

Montville Fire Company (June 2023)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	8
EMS Calls	59
Fire Calls	3
Motor Vehicles Accident Calls	3
Other Calls	12

Mohegan Fire Company (June 2023) – No Report

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	
EMS Calls	
Fire Calls	
Motor Vehicles Accident Calls	
Other Calls	

Oakdale Fire Company (June 2023)

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	9
EMS Calls	31
Fire Calls	1
Motor Vehicles Accident Calls	4
Other Calls	10

Chesterfield Fire Company (June 2023) – No report—technical issues

Incidents:	Total
Cancelled Calls	
EMS Calls	
Fire Calls	
Motor Vehicle	
Other Calls	

b. Report from Animal Control. (Callaghan)

The statistical reports for the month ending June 30, 2023, submitted by ACO Swanson are as follows:

Town of Montville Animal Control Report (June 2023)

	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded	16	142
# of Animals Sold as Pets	1	76
# of Animals D.O.A.	1	2
# of Animals Euthanized	0	4
Total Complaints Investigated	106	1083
Total Animal Bites Investigated	4	16
Total Infractions/Summons	2	11

Town of Salem Animal Control Report (June 2023)

	Month	YTD FY
# of Animals Impounded	2	9
# of Animals Sold as Pets	0	1
# of Animals D.O.A.	0	0
# of Animals Euthanized	0	0
Total Complaints Investigated	7	58
Total Animal Bites Investigated	1	1
Total Infractions/Summons	0	0

c. Report from Police Department Liaison. (Gillette)

Commissioner Gillette expressed congratulations to the two (2) new recruits to the Department; remarked on the four (4) interviewed candidates; and referred to the Police Department as fantastic.

d. Report from Building Department Liaison. (Stewart)

Commissioner Stewart reported the Building Department statistics for June 2023. He also reported that the Department now has a COG member who is helping so V. Vesey is not singularly handling the workload.

2022-2023 Building Department Report												
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Permits Issued	110	107	171	188	117	205	111	123	87	156	123	100
Pending Permits	159	87	143	136	127	136	102	95				200
Inspections	187	197	167	193	120	127	139	120	102	101	133	135
Plan Reviews CO's	62	70	67	71	57	70	62	69	*	*	*	*
Violation Notices	2	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	0
Unsafe Notices	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Blight Identified	182	184	188	199	201	203	195	205				212
Blight Abated To Date	454	454	459	467	479	478	487	491	*	*	*	518

*Unknown

11. Remarks from Fire Chiefs. -- None

12. Unfinished Business.

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion concerning possible action on the water tank installation problem at Millwood on Old Colchester Road.

Fire Marshal Barnes stated there was nothing new to report.

13. New Business.

- a. To Consider and Act on a Motion to discuss and take possible action on adding a new or parttime Animal Control Officer.

Chairman Murphy reported on the proposal submitted late this afternoon from ACO Swanson to add a fulltime ACO. Mayor McDaniel was not prepared to speak on the matter today nor was he aware the item was being added to the agenda; but stated the aim is to find a confident, consistent candidate as the parttime ACOs are transient. Having to work weekends was indicated as a deterrent to the position. Lt. Radford added getting and keeping parttime individuals is an issue but currently does not know the best or another option. Town Councilor

Yuchniuk who is an ACO remarked the pay, hours, having to be on call, and the lack of benefits that does not work well with finding and keeping staff as the parttime position is mostly used as a stepping stone for a fulltime ACO position elsewhere. He also remarked a fulltime position would be logical to obtain a good employee to serve the Town. Mayor McDaniel also remarked he was not opposed to the proposed position but was thinking about the union and others aspects of it. Commissioner Stewart inquired about the status of the ACO Facility; Mayor McDaniel responded that bid specifications had been developed for actual pricing and further, no bonding money was obtained from the State after seven (7) attempts. Town Councilor Yuchniuk reported on a pending second round of State bonding that is upcoming. ACO Swanson was thanked by Chairman Murphy for coming to the meeting and stated the proposal would be tabled to the next meeting pending review of it.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to table the Agenda item until the August Commission meeting. Voice vote: 5-0-0, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

14. Remarks from the Public. (Non-agenda items only—three-minute limit) -- None
Chairman Murphy asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

15. Remarks from the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel remarked on stress at the Town Council meeting as well as the fantastic job of the transition event; the swearing in of Chief Blanchette and the official formalizing of the Montville Police Department. The Mayor also reported first responders had a lousy weekend and a crisis team counselor was commissioned. He asked that the first responders are checked upon; supported.

16. Remarks from Town Council Liaison.

Town Councilor Yuchniuk inquired whether the secretary position for the Fire Marshal office has been filled; Mayor McDaniel reported an external candidate will start working next Monday as there were was no internal interest.

17. Remarks from Commissioners.

Commissioner Pederson congratulated the newly appointed officers and wished well. Commissioner Bauer thanked the Police Department for its efforts and Chief Blanchette was welcomed aboard and looked forward to what he brings to the Department with his experience. Commissioner Stewart congratulated everyone in the new Police Department and asked that they take care of each other out there. Chairman Murphy called the Police Department transition seamless stating he listened to the event on the Town and State Trooper radio frequency. He wished the Department good luck with its endeavors.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Stewart; seconded by Commissioner Bauer to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 5-0-0; all in favor. **Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Clerk, Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN
OF MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**