

Addendum #2 to August 12, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Good Afternoon,

It is good to see you again Mayor Lennox, Ms Renken, and Hello to the rest of the Council.

Given recent events, I appreciate that my effort today is most likely in vein; however, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to implore this council to reconsider their position -regarding the Lion Roy Grant Community Pool. In an ever-changing environment, surrounded by an unstable economy, It is absolutely critical that leaders are able to adapt and change with their surroundings. The reality is that our township does not have the funds to commit to a project estimated at 5.3 million dollars - which we can all agree will well exceed that estimate.

My wife attended the July 22nd meeting in which the Louis Marshall Hospital presented their current successes and challenges along with their financial projections. Our hospital is projected to end the year with nearly a half million-dollar deficit. Listen, we have seen where this can go. We have seen neighboring townships hospitals close their doors. It would be irresponsible not to watch and learn from our neighbors. This project is not fiscally responsible

Perhaps the individuals sitting on this council are not experiencing it themselves, but our community is struggling. Many are opting to skip meals to keep a roof over their heads. Most are forced to make difficult financial decisions - or go without. The last thing we need is increased and unnecessary taxes. In a world where every single dollar counts and can truly decide if a person goes to bed with an empty stomach.

It is true that this council engaged the community during the decision making process - but it is also true that this council was only able to obtain a little more than 100 votes when polling the community regarding the new pool design. Michelle/my wife was able to solicit 527 signatures from members of this community. 527 members of the community that you have been elected to serve. 527 individuals who agree that we need to make every effort to fix what we have prior to moving forward with the proposed new pool.

It is no longer a well kept secret that staffing - not disrepair - was the primary reason our pool was not opened in 2021. Our townships children are now 3 summers and counting without a pool. I would ask, how much longer does this go on? What do you think is a reasonable number of years without this vital form of physical activity? The committee has been challenged to meet 80% of their 2.5-million-dollar fundraising goal prior to the ground being broke. At last check, they have raised approximately 15 thousand dollars aside from the generous pledge of 250 thousand from the Lions Club. Though even with that, we are only just over 10% of the goal. At this pace, we will be many, may years without a pool for our township's children.

Frankly I am disheartened, to say the least, regarding this – and other decisions made by this council. In reviewing prior council meetings, it is evident that members of this council are often unprepared and have not giving forethought or consideration to the agenda items. Each member of this council has been elected to serve their respective wards - yet you continuously vote in unison regarding matters that are not open and shut cases - how can that be? Candidly speaking, and I am speaking for myself and for many others - we expect much more of our elected officials and are honestly dissatisfied with the job being performed.

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This is your opportunity to show us that our voices are heard, and that us that our positions are being considered. This would be a clear step toward a more positive and productive path forward.

Regardless of your decision surrounding the pool - I implore you all to do better. The fate of our township, and the people within it, are entirely in your hands. You must make decisions that are in **our** collective best interests. Decisions that are thoughtful, forward thinking, and reflect the current challenges of this township and state of the surrounding economy.

Although Michelle and I are both passionate about this project, this is not the last this township should expect to see of us. Accountability appears to be long overdue, and we cannot sit idle allowing rigidness, ego, or lack of thoughtful consideration to dictate the future of this township. If you are not up for the challenge, I know many who are waiting for their turn.

Thank you

Harry McInnis