

December 17, 2024

A Special Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held December 17, 2024. Chairman Ian Mahal opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the December 17, 2024 meeting: Mrs. Donna Palmer, Mr. Jeff Enders, Mr. Joseph Slovick, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Terry Raffety, Mr. Justin Frantz, Solicitor Evans, Police Chief Bowers and Borough Office Manager Megan Paul.

Citizens' Comments: Ginny O'Brien, owner of a home on Teaberry Hill, presented council with a copy of a Right-of-way-agreement from 1973 with the Sewer Authority. Mrs. O'Brien feels the agreement states her driveway, where the sewer manhole was placed, is to be maintained by the Sewer Authority. Mrs. O'Brien was informed the Sewer Authority will meet tomorrow evening and will address the issue. Mrs. O'Brien stated that a drain placed by neighbors is washing out the property. Solicitor Evans stated that is a civil matter between the homeowners.

New Business: The 2025 budget was discussed. Mr. Raffety thanked Megan Paul for her hard work. The salary and healthcare of a new Borough Manager was kept in the budget. \$54,000 of the Building Reserve was allocated to cover the budget deficit. \$40,000 of new revenue will be realized from the increase in curbside recycling fees as well as the increased amusement and gas tax. The sale of the former Kozura property will go into the Building Reserve. Mr. Frantz made a motion to pass the 2025 balanced budget. Mr. Raffety seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mrs. Palmer made a motion to pass the tax levy Ordinance #356, with taxes remaining unchanged. Mr. Enders seconded the motion.

Mr. Raffety made a motion to amend the Ordinance for curbside service for recycling and sanitation, which repeals #313. Mr. Frantz, seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Enders made a motion to approve the first reading of the Amusement Tax Amendment, which repeals crypto currency and sets new fees. Mr. Slovick seconded the motion. On the question, the amendment will include a penalty for removing inspection labels with a fine of \$5000, at the second reading next month.

Mr. Slovick made a motion, second by Mr. Frantz to increase the Gas Tax Amendment to \$200 per machine. The motion passed as presented. Mr. Raffety thanked Megan Paul for her great job on the ordinances. Mr. Enders questioned what year the fees for inspection of rentals was increased. Megan responded it was 2018. Mr. Mahal will ask Mr. Palmer what Pottsville charges.

The remaining ARPA funds were discussed. Mr. Enders made a motion to allocate \$10,000 to playground updates. Mrs. Palmer seconded the motion. The funds need to be spent by 2026.

Chief Bowers requested the purchase of three teasers at a price of \$12,415, which includes holsters, etc. Mrs. Palmer made a motion to approve the purchase. Mr. Enders seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

The position of Borough Manager was discussed. The position will be advertised on our web site, social media, the PA Association of Boroughs and Indeed.com. The solicitor stated it is not necessary to advertise on any printed news group. Mr. Slovick made the motion to advertise. Mrs. Palmer seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mrs. Palmer made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2025. Mr. Frantz seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

The council moved to Executive Session for Personnel matters.

The council returned from Executive Session.

Mrs. Palmer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Enders seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary