

December 3, 2024

A Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held December 3, 2024. Chairman Ian Mahal opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the December 3, 2024 meeting: Mrs. Donna Palmer, Mr. Jeff Enders, Mr. Joseph Slovick, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mr. Terry Raffety, Mr. Justin Frantz, Solicitor Day, Kyle Crouse, Police Chief Bowers and Borough Office Manager Megan Paul.

Citizens' Comments: No citizens attending had any comments.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Enders made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Mr. Frantz seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Approval of Bills: Mr. Kuehn made a motion to approve the bills to be paid. Mr. Enders seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Approval of Officers' Reports: Mr. Kuehn made a motion to approve the reports. Mr. Frantz seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Communications: There were no communications to discuss.

New Business: The second reading of the Food code Ordinance was completed. On the question, Mr. Slovick asked if businesses that were shut down for a period of time would be inspected before starting back in business. Mr. Crouse stated that of course if certain amount of time had passed they would be inspected again. Mrs. Palmer made a motion to approve the ordinance, second by Mr. Enders. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Slovick made a motion to approve the resignation of Borough Manager Mahalchick effective 11/22/24. Mr. Enders seconded the motion the motion passed as presented. Mr. Mahal stated Mr. Mahalchick had been involved in the borough for ten years and had been a part of many great projects.

On the recommendation of Police Chief Bowers, Mr. Raffety made a motion to approve the handicap application for 310 Pine Street and table the applications for 137 Carbon Street and 533 School Street, as they are on streets with parking opposite their homes. Mr. Enders seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

The subject of charging for recycling was discussed. Mr. Slovick would like a brake down on the cost of three street personnel spending eight hours on recycling vs. paying an outside company to do the recycling. Mr. Mahal stated it is worth examining. Megan Paul stated recycling is cheaper than sending to a landfill. The borough is mandated to recycle. Grants are only \$1000 yearly now. The market is saturated. Mr. Kuehn stated that in early years we made around a \$2000 a month profit from recycling.

Mrs. Palmer made a motion to amend the sanitation ordinance to allow for a \$10 per residence/ \$25 high volume business charge per quarter. Mr. Slovick seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

The council discussed the 2025 Budget. The budget currently has an unappropriated balance. Mr. Mahal stated a second meeting will need to be held for the budget. An advertisement to approve the budget must be ten days before the meeting. The current Borough Manager salary is \$43,000 after the sewer reimbursement. Megan Paul stated there is currently \$64,000 for unused permit fees from the Miners Lofts in the General Fund. The newly approved recycling fees will increase revenue. \$54,000 from the Building Reserve moved to the General Reserve can be replaced with the sale of the Kozura property on Sunbury Street. Mr. Enders questioned the amount in Liquid Fuels. Megan Paul stated there is \$324,000, which is not part of the budget. Mr. Enders will work on streets to be paved in 2025 with Ms. Paul. Megan Paul stated the 2023 audit needs to be completed. If we can get balance sheets in funding will not be held. The possibility of addition income by raising taxing on gas pumps to \$200, amusement tax to \$100 games of skill to \$1000. With businesses getting billed quarterly. Ms. Paul will get a list. Chief Bowers has checked all establishments.

Mr. Slovick stated Home Rule is the way to go. Mr. Mahal stated he could do a RFP to have firm explain Home Rule to the community. With Home Rule, among others, the Borough could impose EIT and LST.

Council will meet on Tuesday, December 17 at 7pm.

Old Business:

Items were tabled. The Amusement Tax Amendment was discussed during the budget.

Council Reports

Mrs. Palmer has been researching the feral cat problem.

Mr. Frantz thanked the fire companies for their quick response to smoke at the high school.

The council moved to Executive Session for personnel purposes at 8:27. The council returned from Executive Session at 9:07. Discussion followed on advertising for a Borough Manager. Following lengthy discussion, Mrs. Palmer made a motion to advertise for a Borough Manager with salary dependent upon experience. Mr. Enders seconded the motion. On a roll call vote with Mr. Raffety, Mr. Kuehn and Mr. Mahal voting no, the motion passed.

In the interim the Office, Streets Code and Sewer Managers report weekly to council as a whole. Mrs. Palmer seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Enders made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Slovick seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary