

December 6, 2022

A meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held December 6, 2022. Chairman Ian Mahal opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the December 6, 2022 meeting: Mr. Mike Firestine, Mr. Joe Slovick, Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Terry Raffety, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mrs. Ashley Securda, Mayor Palmer, Solicitor Evans, Kyle Crouse, Police Chief Combs, Fire Chief Eric Eichenberg, Borough Manager Bob Mahalchick and Junior Council Member Alex Kurtek.

A motion was made by Mr. Firestine, second by Ms. Milbrandt to present each of the Borough's Fire Companies with \$10,000 from ARPA funding. The motion passed as presented. Eric Eichenberg thanked the borough. Mr. Raffety made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to award \$5,000 in ARPA funds to the Minersville Food Pantry. The motion passed as presented. Mr. Edward Butler thanked the council on behalf of the Food Pantry. The pantry is currently serving 35 families a week.

Citizens' Comments:

John Vuksta, Gallows Row, again asked Council if anything could be done about the constant dog barking at the home next to his. Police Chief combs stated he was at the home on Labor Day and the dogs are taken care of. Mr. Mahal asked if a nuisance ordinance would help the issue. Chief Combs asked how we could limit the number of animals in a residence. He suggested having a lawyer send a letter to the animal owners.

Mrs. Kurtek reported her son's Eagle Project of refurbishing the steps on Laurel Street to New Minersville is complete.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Firestine made a motion to approve the November minutes. Ms. Milbrandt seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Approval of Bills:

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion to approve the bills to be paid. Mr. Raffety seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Communications:

James Orff of New Minersville sent a letter requesting a stop sign be placed at the corner of Ash and Locust Streets for the safety of children walking to the playground as well as traffic. He also requested the area in front of the gates to the New Minersville playground onto Locust Street. Parking in that area makes it impossible for children exiting the playground to see approaching vehicles. Mr. Orff also stated that parking in that area would make it impossible for the New Minersville fire trucks to make the turn at Locust and Ash Streets, delaying response times. Police Chief Combs and Mr. Firestine will inspect both areas.

New Business:

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to award each of the eight Borough employees \$1,000 from ARPA funding for their work during COVID. The motion passed as presented.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion, second by Mr. Kuehn to approve the 2023 Meeting Dates as proposed. The motion passed as presented.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion, second by Mr. Kuehn to advertise for quotes for the cleanup of 610 Sunbury Street. The motion passed as presented.

Letters for Sewer Authority appointment were received from Albert Bobinas, whose term is expiring, and Steve Darosh. Mr. Darosh stated it is not his intent to take away anyone's job but he was asked after his unsuccessful run for Council to apply. Mr. Kuehn nominated Mr. Bobinas. On a roll call vote, Mr. Darosh was nominated to the board.

Letters for Water Authority appointment were received from Edward Butler, whose term is expiring and Steve Darosh. Mr. Raffety nominated Mr. Butler, Mr. Kuehn seconded the nomination. The nomination passed.

Mr. Firestine nominated Don Cuff, whose term is expiring, to UCC Appeals. Mr. Raffety seconded the appointment. The appointment passed.

Old Business:

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to again advertise the four borough parcels with a minimum bid of \$500 required. The motion passed as presented.

Community Updates:

The Santa Train Rides will be December 10 and 11 at 10:30am, 1pm and 3:30pm.

The Mayor reported the FRO Christmas Event will be December 10th. The parade of decorated vehicles will be at 1pm. The Lions Tree Lighting will be December 10th at 6pm, with toys collected at the FRO event being presented to Minersville School District for needy children.

Committee Reports:

Streets-Mr. Firestine reported the street sweeper is back from repairs. With winter coming, police are being asked to ticket vehicles parked at yellow lines, so plows are able to make turns. Cold patch is being laid where needed. Mrs. Sinko reported a neighbor has put his own No Parking sign at his home between Carbon and Pine Streets. Chief Combs reported that is not valid. He will inspect the area. Mr. Raffety reported residents on Pine Street have painted No Parking on the street. Chief Combs will check on it.

Finance- Mr. Kuehn stated a meeting to have a second reading and approve the 2023 budget would be held next week. Tuesday, December 13 at 6pm was decided upon.

Sewer/Water-Mr. Raffety reported the Pine Street combined Sewer/Water Project is complete and looks good.

The Council went into Executive Session at 7:55 for Legal purposes. Council returned at 8:30. Mr. Kuehn made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to appeal the arbitrator's decision in the police case.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary