

December 7, 2021

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held December 7, 2021. Chairman Katielynn Milbrandt opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for former Councilman Bill Angelo and for the anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the December 7, 2021 meeting: Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mr. Mike Firestine, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mr. Steven Darosh, Solicitor Amato, Kyle Crouse, Police Chief Combs and Bob Mahalchick, Borough Manager.

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal, to approve the minutes from November 2021. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Darosh made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Firestine seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion to approve the Officers' Reports. Mr. Firestine seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Citizens' Comments:

Mr. Dave Dutcavich of Sunbury Street questioned the placement of the lighting to be installed in front of his business as part of the Street Scape Project. Mr. Dutcavich is aware of all of the street lighting from former projects. The planned placement of the lighting will be an obstacle to his business. Following discussion, Mr. Mahalchick will contact Mr. Dutcavich to be present when the contractor and PP&L meet for placement of the lights.

The Council met in Executive Session for personnel matters from 7:20 to 8:27.

Communications:

Ms. Newton submitted a letter resigning from Council on November 30th. Mr. Kuehn made a motion to accept the resignation with thanks for her time served. Mr. Darosh seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Old Business:

The school district's request for the Borough to help financially in the Miners Lofts appraisal was tabled on the advice of the Solicitor who stated no action is currently needed, as the appeal is not going to court until May. The council previously decided to offer their support of the district's appraisal while not entering into an appeal of their own.

Following discussion Mr. Darosh made a motion to deny the handicap application for 124 North Street due to previous submittals during a short period of time. Mr. Firestine seconded the motion. Mr. Mahal abstained from voting. The motion passed as presented.

New Business:

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to deny the driveway application at 10 Sunbury Street on the advice of Police Chief Combs. Chief Combs reported the area does meet the minimum width. Mr. Firestine seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion to approve Application #3 for Heim Construction for the Sunbury Street Project in the amount of \$246,691.44. Mr. Kuehn seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

The second reading of the 2022 budget was completed. Mr. Mahal made a motion to accept the 2022 budget. Mr. Kuehn seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented. Ms. Milbrandt thanked the Finance Committee, Mr. Mahalchick and the office staff on their hard work completing the budget.

The first reading of the tax levy ordinance establishing the mileage at 21.00 for 2022, which represents a raise in taxes of 1 mill. Mr. Kuehn stated the tax levy was anticipating an increase in sanitation rates and trying to be proactive without cuts to the budget. Mr. Firestine questioned the allocation of \$10,000 for a Christmas tree on Third Street. Mr. Firestine stated the money for the electricity could be used from Liquid Fuels. Mr. Firestine stated he was concerned about the raise with people recovering financially from COVID. Mr. Mahalchick stated everyone was concerned about the effects of COVID. Mr. Darosh stated he is concerned at the placement of the tree on Third Street for fire responders. Mr. Kuehn stated the location of the tree is not stated in the budget. Mr. Firestine stated the Christmas tree is a Borough project, not a Lions project.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine to approve the Military Buyback Option for the Police Pension. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine to approve the agreement for separation for Officer Badge #21. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mr. Darosh to approve the retirement of Officer Badge #21. The motion passed as presented.

Following discussion, Mr. Kuehn made a motion to advertise for a police officer without hiring until a conversation with the Minersville School District occurs on the future of the resource officer. Mr. Mahal seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Mr. Kuehn to approve the posted meeting dates for 2022. The motion passed as presented.

Board appointments for the Water and Sewer Authority as well as the UCC Appeals board will be made at the January meeting.

Council Reports

Streets and Highways- Mr. Firestine reported the fuel pump on truck 14 needs to be replaced. A quote from Mark Hammer was received for \$12,00 and he will be able to start the job tomorrow. A quote from Apple Chevrolet was received for \$8000-\$12,000. There would be a three-week wait and the truck would need to be towed there. Mr. Kuehn made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal to have the 2016 truck repaired by Mark Hammer. The motion passed as presented. Mr. Firestine questioned where the vendors were getting their power for the Miracle on Fourth Street. Police Chief Combs stated most have generators. The event will be held from Noon to 6pm. The library side of the street will be cleared of parking.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

The “M” Drop will be held on December 31. Ms. Milbrandt suggested an event earlier in the day be held in the future for families.

Mr. Darosh was thanked for his service to the community as a councilman.

Mr. Firestine made motion, second by Mr. Darosh to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary