

May 2, 2023

An advertised meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held May 2, 2023. Chairman Ian Mahal opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the May 2, 2023 meeting: Mr. Mike Firestine, Mr. Joe Slovick, Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mr. Terry Raffety, Mrs. Ashley Securda, Mayor Palmer, Solicitor Day, Police Chief Combs, and Borough Manager Bob Mahalchick.

Citizens' Comments:

Robert Smith of Sunbury Street questioned the fact that there had been no third shift police coverage in the borough the past two weeks. Police Chief Combs responded that there is never no coverage and the borough is doing its best to fill police vacancies. Mr. Smith said to raise the taxes to pay for police protection. The owner of the Little Brown Barrel stated that it would take up to an hour to respond to a call. The Mayor asked the citizens to stay at the meeting after the upcoming Executive Session for answers. Mr. Kowalchick questioned if officers that had quit would be hired if the salaries were increased. Mr. Mahal stated there are many rumors and hopefully all answers would be answered following the Executive Session.

The Council went to Executive Session for Legal and Personnel matters at 7:16.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:32.

Mr. Slovick made a motion, second by Mr. Raffety to approve the council president to sign a memorandum of agreement with the MPOA to advertise the hiring of a full-time patrolman at a salary of \$61,000. The council president will only sign the agreement should the MPOA agree on a full time CBA extension that expires on December 31, 2026. On a roll call vote, the motion passed 4/3, aye-Securda, Raffety, Mahal, Slovick; Nae-Kueh, Milbrandt, Firestine.

Mr. Raffety made a motion to approve the council president to sign a memorandum of agreement with the MPOA to increase the salaries of Officers Kavanaugh, Layton-Herron and Walsh to reflect a new starting rate of \$61,000. The council president will only sign the agreement should the MPOA agree on a full time CBA extension that expires on December 31, 2026 and effective June 5, 2023. The motion passed on a 4/3 roll call vote, aye- Securda, Raffety, Mahal, Slovick; nae-Kuehn, Milbrandt, Firestine.

Mr. Slovick made a motion second by Mr. Raffety to approve the Civil Service Commission's eligibility list for Police Sargent. The motion passed on a roll call vote 5/2, aye-Securda, Raffety, Mahal, Milbrandt, Slovick; Nae-Kuehn, Firestine

Ms. Raffety made a motion, second by Mr. Slovick to approve the council president to sign a memorandum of agreement with the MPOA promoting Officer Jeff Bowers to Police Sargent with a salary increase of \$3,000 to reflect his new responsibilities. The council president will only sign the agreement should the MPOA agree on a full CBA extension that expires on December 31, 2023 and effective June 5, 2023. On the question, Mr. Kuehn stated this was against the advisement of legal council as worded. The motion passed on a roll call vote 5/2, aye-Securda, Raffety, Mahal, Milbrandt, Slovick; nae-Kuehn, Firestine.

Mr. Raffety made a motion, second by Mr. Slovick to approve the council president to increase the pay of Police Chief Combs by \$3,000, effective June 5, 2023. The motion passed on a roll call vote 5/2, aye-Securda, Raffety, Mahal, Milbrandt, Slovick; nae-Kuehn, Firestine.

Mr. Raffety made a motion, second by Mr. Slovick increase the hourly rate of a part-time officer to \$27.00 an hour effective immediately. The motion passed on a roll call vote 4/3, aye-Securda, Raffety, Mahal, Slovick; nae-Kuehn, Milbrandt, Firestine.

Mr. Mahal stated these were not votes of who is for police and fiscal responsibility and it was not an easy decision, and hopefully the actions will work for the best.

Mr. Kuehn requested to be removed as chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Mahal accepted his request and stated the Mr. Raffety would chair the committee. He thanked Mr. Kuehn for all of his great work on all committees.

Communications:

A letter was received from Senator Casey's office confirming the submission of our Municipal Building Renovation Project for \$750,000 for Committee consideration.

A complaint was received from the Disability Rights of Pennsylvania regarding handicapped parking for an individual who was originally turned down for handicapped parking. Solicitor Evans is handling the matter.

A thank you note was received from the Minersville Historical Society for the Borough's \$2500 donation.

New Business:

Mr. Firestine made a motion to accept the bids for the 2023 Street Paving Projects- Meckley's Limestone Products, H&K Group, Inc., New Enterprise Stone and Lime Co, Lehigh Asphalt Paving and Ronnie Folk Paving, Inc. The committee will review the bids for awarding at the meeting on May 9. Mr. Kuehn seconded the motion, the motion passed as presented.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion, second by Mr. Slovick to accept the lone bid from Mark Hammer for the towing contract. The motion passed as presented.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine to award the towing bid to Mark Hammer. The motion passed as presented.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion, second by Mr. Raffety to approve Chris Gulotta to submit the final USDA application at a cost not to exceed \$4000 using ARPA funds. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Raffety made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt authorizing the advertisement for bids to the borough auxiliary lot at the recreation complex. A \$150,000 no match grant was awarded. The motion passed as presented.

May 2, 2023

Page 3

The Citizen of the year to be honored at the Memorial Day ceremonies will be decided at the May 9 meeting.

Authorized the Borough Manager to speak to loggers concerning the damaged trees at Holy Family Parish Cemetery.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion, second by Mr. Slovick to replace the 2013 dump truck bed at a price of \$23,627.00. The motion passed as presented.

Police Chief Combs requested no even side parking on High Street. Emergency vehicles would not be able to enter the street with parking on both sides. An amendment to parking regulations will be available for the first reading at the May 9th meeting.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion, second by Mr. Slovick to send a certified letter to Mr. Torrato offering to purchase the property at 600 Sunbury Street. The motion passed as presented.

Old Business:

Mrs. Securda made a motion, second by Mr. Slovick to allow \$2260 to repair the Little League fence from a fallen tree using recreation funds. The motion passed as presented.

Letters from the Police and Fire Departments as well as legislators are being sent to PennDot concerning the River Street Wall.

The demolition of 28-30 South Street will be postponed until the 2022 CBGD funds are received.

The Lions Club lease will be discussed at the May 9 meeting.

Mr. Firestine made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Milbrandt seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary