

## **November 12, 2024**

A Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held November 12, 2024. Vice Chairman Jamie Kuehn opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Attendance:**

The following Council members attended the November 12, 2024 meeting: Mrs. Donna Palmer, Mr. Jeff Enders, Mr. Joseph Slovick, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mr. Terry Raffety, Mr. Justin Frantz, Solicitor Day, Mayor Palmer, Kyle Crouse, Police Chief Bowers and Borough Manager Bob Mahalchick.

The Council went to Executive Session for legal matters at 7:08. The council returned at 7:31.

Mr. Enders made a motion, second by Mrs. Palmer to accept the four bids received for 610 Sunbury Street. The motion passed as presented. The following bids were received-

- \$ 80,000 by Tijani Mounir
- \$155,000 by Michael Foran
- \$176,111 by J&J Realty LLC
- \$200,000 by 19507 LLC

Mr. Frantz made a motion, second by Mr. Raffety to award the bid to 19507 LLC. The motion passed as presented.

**Citizens' Comments:** Mr. Bernie Lescavage informed the council the appointment of Mr. Frantz was not done properly. He has researched the procedure and the Solicitor should not have instructed the Mayor to break the tie. Additionally Mr. Lescavage stated the taxpayers are not receiving any information concerning the remodeling of the borough building. Mr. Kuehn stated the original estimate of \$2.1 million dollars is for the first floor and outside of building. It was advised to leave the second floor with construction due to potential use. Mr. Lescavage asked how insurance can be purchased for the project without heating in the upstairs, possible mold remiation and an elevator to make the project compliant. There is no tax base in the borough and questioned where the additional money after the grant is coming from. Mr. Lescavage stated the borough building is not historical it is only sentimental. He questioned not acquiring the First National Bank. Mr. Slovick stated council looked at the bank and construction would be substantial. Mr. Lescavage stated not near what the current building will cost. Mrs. Palmer stated just because the public has not heard updates does not mean the council has not been working on the project.

Residents from North Second Street reported a feral cat problem. One resident has been feeding the cats, as well as chipmunks and squirrels. The cats are doing considerable damage to resident's yards, porches and attack people as well. Residents cannot even open windows due to the smell. Residents asked for a law prohibiting feeding strays such as the one adopted by Pottsville. Mrs. Palmer will look into the program for spaying wild cats.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Palmer made a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Mr. Frantz seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

**Approval of Bills:** Mrs. Palmer 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. Enders made a motion to approve the reports. Mr. Raffety seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

**Communications:** There were no communications to discuss.

**New Business:** The first reading of the 2025 budget was completed. The budget as it now stands show an \$180,345 appropriated balance. Mr. Mahal sent council members an email that there is two reserve accounts that can be used to offset the budget. Mr. Kuehn suggested using the budgeted amount for the pool debt, which ends in 2026, be moved to funds for the borough building. Mr. Raffety stated anyone with concerns about putting additional burden on the taxpayers or input contact the Finance committee. The solicitor stated only three members can meet at a time.

Mr. Enders made a motion, second by Mr. Frantz to approve The Food Ordinance. The ordinance can be adopted next month following advertising the ordinance at Borough Hall and in the newspaper.

Mr. Enders made a motion to approve the driveway application for 43 S. Delaware Avenue. Mr. Raffety seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Frantz made a motion, second by Mrs. Palmer to approve the LSA Resolution.

**Old Business:**

The fee for rental of the Union Hall at \$250/month for four months was tabled as well as the Amusement Tax Amendments, UCC Appeals Board vacancy, River Street Wall and Solar Project.

The council went to Executive Session for Personnel and Legal issues. The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:34.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary