

November 14, 2023

A Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held November 14, 2023. Chairman Ian Mahal opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the November 14, 2023 meeting: Mr. Mike Firestine, Mr. Joseph Slovick. Mrs. Katielynn Pothering, Mr. Terry Raffety, Mrs. Ashley Securda, Mayor Palmer, Solicitor Evans, Kyle Crouse, Police Chief Combs, Junior Council Member Kurtek, Mr. Ed Barkett and Borough Manager Bob Mahalchick.

The Council went into Executive Session for Legal Purposes at 7:01. The Council returned from Executive Session at 7:19.

Citizens' Comments: Mr. Dunleavy of Teaberry Hill, spoke about his opposition to the closing of the Teaberry Hill playground. Mr. Dunleavy stated the playground does need rehab, however the young families moving into the neighborhood are using it. Mr. Mahal stated no decisions have been made concerning the playground.

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Pothering made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine to approve the minutes from October 2023. The motion passed as presented.

Approval of Bills:

Mrs. Pothering made a motion to approve the bills to be paid. Mr. Firestine seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Approval of Officers' Report:

Mrs. Pothering made a motion to approve the officers' reports. Mr. Firestine seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Communications:

In response to a letter from the Brennan Law firm concerning the borough purchasing tax parcel #52-01-0016, council instructed Mr. Mahalchick to contact the firm to inform them the borough is not interested at this time.

In response to a letter from the Historical Society informing the council they may be forced to disband due to lack of interest, Mayor Palmer stated he informed the Historical Society there is an interest by a dozen people to step and join the Society or take it over.

The remaining balance of \$4590 of CDBG-V funding needs to be awarded to local businesses.

New Business:

The first reading of the budget was heard, with an anticipated deficit. Mr. Mahalchick stated rising Police salaries and insurance costs are adding to the deficit. A 2-½-mill tax increase is possible. The budget is a work in progress.

The parking meter rates for business are still being determined.

Mrs. Pothering made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine to set the parking meter rates at .25 per 15 minutes. On the question, chief Combs asked the days and times. Days and times are Monday thru Saturday 9am to 6pm. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Mrs. Pothering to approve the Big Diamond Parade on Saturday, April 6 from noon to 5pm. The motion passed as presented.

Mrs. Pothering made a motion, second by Mrs. Securda to adopt a Resolution authorizing the application of LSA Grant. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Raffety made a motion, second by Mrs. Pothering to approve United Environmental to perform the Phase ii study in the amount of \$13,608.50 using American Rescue Funds. On the question, Mr. Firestine asked how much money is left from those funds. Mr. Mahal stated there is an excess of \$50,000. The motion passed as presented.

Old Business:

Mr. Raffety made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine to purchase 2 generators and carts from Harbor Freight at a total cost of \$1079.96 from the line item for street expenses. The motion passed as presented.

Mrs. Pothering made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine to accept the bids for demolition of 28-30 South Street. The motion passed as presented. Mrs. Pothering made a motion, second by Mr. Raffety to award the bid to G&R Excavating and Demo at an amount of \$24,940, following confirmation from the company's estimator. On the question, Mr. Mahalchick stated they have demolished Sheetz. The motion passed as presented.

The rental ordinance for short-term rentals is in progress. The Zoning Commission review is in progress.

Firestine made a motion to hire Stephen Cox for the Street Department. Mr. Raffety seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahalchick reported that the new streetscape lights are awaiting an agreement between Verizon and PP&L on pole replacement before they can be used.

The Mayor reported that the Second Annual Reading Outdoors Santa Drive would be held December 2. All money and toy donations will be given to Minersville Area School District.

Community Updates-

Santa Comes to Town November 26. Parade at 5:30, meet with Santa immediately after on Fourth Street.

Mrs. Pothering made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Slovick seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary