

November 9, 2022

A meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held November 9, 2022. Vice Chairman Jamie Kuehn opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the November 9, 2022 meeting: Mr. Mike Firestine, Mr. Joe Slovick, Mr. Terry Raffety, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mrs. Ashley Securda, Mayor Palmer, Solicitor Evans, Police Chief Combs and Borough Manager Bob Mahalchick.

Brian and Matt Green of Pioneer Pole presented the Police Department, represented by Police Chief Combs and Officer Bowers a check for \$5,000.00. The donation will be used for items that were wanted by the department but were not affordable. Mr. Rafferty made a motion, second by Mrs. Securda to accept the donation. The motion was passed as presented.

Citizens' Comments:

No citizens wished to comment.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Slovick made a motion to approve the October minutes. Mr. Raffety seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Approval of Bills:

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

Approval of Officers' Reports:

Ms. Slovick made a motion to approve the Officers' Reports. Mr. Raffety seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Communications:

Alex Kurtek has requested to become a Junior Council member. The Council approved his request and will contact the Pennsylvania Borough Association to make his appointment official.

The rental appeal for 19 Sunbury Street was denied on the advice of the Solicitor. Parent/child rentals are the only rentals subject to prosecutorial discretion as applied to our rental Ordinance #301.

New Business:

A copy of the ARPA Funding was enclosed in the Council's packets. A balance of \$185,336.73 remained in the account as of 9/30/22. Each of the four volunteer Fire Companies are requesting \$5000.00 which would fund approximately one set of gear for each department. Mr. Mahalchick stated he is awaiting an estimate to replace or repair the Council Chambers roof from the Water Authority. The three borough entities would share the cost.

The Borough Council Steering Committee has met to discuss office layouts, an elevator and two different renderings for an entrance of the borough building.

The first reading of the 2023 budget was completed which currently shows a \$69,418 deficit.

Discussion was held on the property on Sunbury Street that was damaged by fire. Police Chief Combs reported an arson investigation is completed. The building owner is interested in selling the properties. Ed Barket will be appraising the building. Mr. Kuehn would like to know the owner's balance on the mortgage. Police Chief Combs reported the escrow dollars have not yet been received. He will look into that. Mr. Kuehn stated Mr. Mahal has asked for the owner's certified possible rental income.

Old Business:

The Law Enforcement grant was completed and submitted.

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Mr. Slovic, to reject the bid submitted on 420 Church Street, as it did not meet the minimum bid requirement. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Mr. Slovic to accept the bid for 219, 221 Sunbury Street submitted by Mr. Dave Dutcavich. Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Mr. Slovic to award the bid to Mr. Dutcavich for 219, 221 Sunbury Street in the amount of \$1605 each for a total bid of \$3210. The motion passed as presented.

Community Updates:

The Santa Parade will be November 27th.

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 20th. The parade of decorated vehicles will be at 1pm. The Lions Tree Lighting will be December 10th also 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 down for repairs under warranty and will be winterized. Street sweeping will resume in the spring. The black top has not been sealed on the combined Water/Sewer Project.

Mr. Securda asked that someone from the Sewer Department check on the former Ryan home on Fifth Street to cap off the open sewer line. Mr. Raffety questioned how long it takes for a home to be condemned after the water is shut off. Police Chief Combs reported it is a tricky situation as that is not a cause for eviction.

Recycling is being discussed. Mr. Raffety asked that Mr. Dutcavich be contacted about recycling for borough businesses.

Finance-Mr. Kuehn stated the budget is a work in progress.

Mayor-A target date for the first outdoor event is scheduled for January 1st. Mr. Slovick made a motion, second by Mrs. Securda to use funds from the previous events not to exceed \$2500 for more signs for event route and parking. The motion passed as presented.

The Mayor asked that the Code Enforcement Officer check on a permit for 419 North Street. The property was damaged in a fire. The power has been restored but there are holes in the roof.

There is no Work Session in December. The December 6th meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting to conduct business.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary