

September 13, 2022

A meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held September 13, 2022. Chairman Ian Mahal opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of Silence was observed for former Mayor Rizzi and former Police Officer Rose.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the September 13, 2022 meeting: Mr. Mike Firestine, Mr. Joe Slovick, Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Terry Raffety, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mayor Palmer, Solicitor Evans, Kyle Crouse, Police Chief Combs and Borough Manager Bob Mahalchick.

Citizens' Comments:

Ray Melnick, 376 Jones Street, reported parking problems on their street continue. One owner is still putting cones so no one can park. Mr. Crouse stated he had gone to the street, removed the cones and told the owners they could not put them there. Mr. Mahal again suggested an allowance for handicapped parking would be considered. Chief Combs stated he had been to the street but will go again.

Mr. Laughlin of the Fire Police stated the Fire Police would be available for Holy Family's Rosary Crusade on October 23. Ms. Milbrandt made a motion to approve the event. Mr. Firestine seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Monica Raczka, 622 Baker Street stated her car bottoms out when pulling out on Quality Street. Mr. Firestine stated it would be on the list for street paving next year.

The Kurttek brothers continue their work on the metal steps to New Minersville for their Eagle Scout Award. Mr. Firestine will check if replacement steps are stored at the borough garage. Mr. Brian Rich gave the Kurtteks his contact information for help they may need.

Representatives from the group to form a new Skateboard Association presented a proposal to hold a Skate Jam at the park on October 23. Mr. Mahal suggested the Recreation Committee as well as Mr. Mahalchick and himself meet with the representatives. Mr. Kuehn made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to approve the event after all parties had worked out details satisfactorily. The motion passed as presented.

Ed Zalonis, Pine Hill Street, stated during the last ATV event a 15 year old on a motorcycle slammed into his car causing \$3500 in damages. He stated the boy's father and a former police officer contacted him and had him sign an agreement not to hold the borough responsible for damages if he would settle for half that amount. Chief Combs stated that was not part of the ATV event and the officer no longer works for the borough. He also stated that this was the first he was hearing of this agreement. The mayor stated the motorcycle in the accident was legal to be on the road. Mr. Mahal stated the release Mr. Zelonis was asked to sign would be looked into.

Jim Terway stated from his experience in Cass Township the ATVs have no exhaust, are speeding and have no headlights. He stated while it is a good idea for special events, it is not for all the time.

Mrs. Teresa Smith stated that during the last event, girls going to prom and the elderly trying to get their hair done were subjected to the disturbance of the ATVs. She stated they do not belong in town and you cannot even walk in town and a meeting should be held. She suggested building a pickle ball court if you want to have something to do in town. Mr. Mahal stated if you see a disturbance you need to call the police.

Dan Gaskins asked what about uninsured ATVs is there is an accident. He stated he saw vehicles run through red lights three times and no police vehicles moved from 9:30am to 3pm. The Mayor questioned if Mr. Gaskins had read the ordinance and he responded that he had. The Mayor stated to get a permit you need to show proof of insurance. The mayor stated if the borough only gets 30% of Reading Outdoors membership we would have over \$200,000 to fix roads and not raise taxes. Mr. Gaskins stated you are going to need all of that money to pay for police coverage. Mr. Rich stated that in Shamokin they had approximately 800 people and every business called and thanked them. This is an avenue to get business into town. The mayor stated that Shamokin even plans to build a hotel. Mrs. Smith stated that Shamokin is a dump.

Mr. Zelonis continued to state his accident was during an ATV event. Mr. Kuehn stated the accident had nothing to do with the ordinance. He stated there is a legitimate concern that is why the borough started slowly. No one came forward. He stated this is an avenue to not raise taxes but we cannot guarantee there will not be an accident. Mr. Terway stated that Cass has problems. Mr. Kuehn stated we have 24-hour police coverage.

Mr. Joseph, 231 South Street stated his street was terrible at those events with ATVs jumping from Third Street. He suggested other things for revenue. The mayor asked his like what. Mr. Joseph said, help the small business owner. People cannot afford to open storefronts. Mr. Mahal stated we couldn't give grants too businesses, Mr. Joseph stated no one knew about the meeting. The Mayor stated it was advertised. Mr. Joseph suggested getting a petition against the ordinance. The mayor stated he gets information out to the public. Mr. Joseph stated the borough do a mass email on important subjects like this. The mayor stated he respects his opinion.

Mark Gabardi, South Street, stated he does not live under a rock and neighbors did not know about the meeting. He stated he saw ATVs doing wheelies and police driving right by. He also saw the vehicles on Sunbury and Front Streets and going right through traffic lights. He is concerned about three bars being right in the area. He questioned Reading Outdoors getting \$7 of the \$50 fee. Mr. Rich questioned if he knew how much administrative costs were. Mr. Gabardi suggested applying for The Main Street Grant Program, which he worked for the city of Pottsville for years. Mr. Mahal stated we are sprucing the up the downtown. Mr. Kuehn stated the scope is very limited geographically where general revenue can be put all over town. Mr. Gabardi stated \$200,00 is great in a year but the Main Street Program is over a million dollars and could be used to get shops into town. Mr. Mahal stated he has met and looked into many programs.

It was determined that Mr. Zelonis's accident occurred during the ride that sponsored Christmas gifts for children

Mr. Kowalchick, Norwegian Township, congratulated the three new police officers and expressed his confidence in Police Chief Combs.

Mr. Mahal thanked everyone for coming.

Solicitor Evans stated the proposed ordinance is more stringent than others. Mr. Kuehn made a motion to pass the ATV Ordinance, second by Mr. Slovick. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mahal, Mayor Palmer and Mr. Rich thanked the council.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion to approve the August minutes. Mr. Firestine seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Approval of Bills:

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

Communications:

Schuylkill Haven Borough requests fire Police on September 24 for their Borough Day.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion to approve the UTV Fall Bash October 7 and 8, with sponsors covering the cost of two police officers for ten hours each. Mr. Raffety seconded the motion. On the question the time will be 10-7pm. Mr. Kuehn stated he wants citations given for offenders. Chief Combs responded he is comfortable with the coverage he has had. Two officers will be designated for event and one or two officers for regular duty. Police Chief Combs stated he would give those instructions to set the tone. Mayor Palmer stated areas on Third and Sough Streets would be concentrated on. The motion passed as presented.

New Business:

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to authorize the Personnel Committee and Mr. Mahalchick to hire a new Street Department person at a rate not to exceed the most junior employee. Mr. Raffety seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented. Mr. Kuehn made a motion to approve payment #5 to Heim Construction in the amount of \$90,933.86 for the Sunbury Street Project. Ms. Milbrandt seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to approve Change Order #2 for the 300 block of Sunbury Street in the amount of \$78,132.67. On the question, Mr. Kuehn stated this represented no new funds. The motion passed as presented.

Old Business

Mr. Raffety made a motion to approve the new Noise Ordinance. Mr. Slovick seconded the motion. On the question, Chief Combs stated that if this gets out of hand it needs to go back to the PLCB. The motion passed as presented.

Council Committee Reports:

Streets-Mr. Firestine reported the street sweeper has been out. A schedule for side streets is coming. Ms. Milbrandt questioned if street sweeping could be done monthly as moving vehicles when parking is limited is a problem for some streets. Mr. Firestine, Mr. Mahalchick and Mr. Houser will look into a schedule.

Fire-Ms. Milbrandt reported Sunday breakfasts at the Mountaineer would be resuming. She asked if the yearly stipend from the borough will continue and when COVID relief funds could be expected. Mr. Mahal stated the borough has not received those funds yet. Mr. Mahalchick stated the yearly stipend continues to the fire companies.

Community Development-Mr. Slovic reported the Lions want to renew their lease for an extended time period. Mr. Kuehn stated the lease is renewed yearly automatically.

Sewer, Water, Sanitation-Mr. Raffety reported the joint Sewer/Water Project on Fourth Street is completed and Pine Street will begin. A water project on North Street will be put out for bid and begin in the spring.

Approve Officers' Reports-Mr. Firestine made a motion to approve the Officers' Reports. Ms. Milbrandt seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Community Updates:

Fall Cleanup will be held September 15 & 16 from 8am to 3pm and September 17 from 9am to noon.

Electronic recycling event on October 1.

The Halloween Parade will be held October 22 with formation at 6pm and start at 6:30pm.

Trick or Treat will be held October 31 from 6pm to 8pm.

Mr. Kuehn stated he is in touch with Principal Maley for Volunteers for this year's Haunted House. However, there has been a leak in the roof which has affected the second floor of borough hall.

Fall clean up is September 15 and 16 from 8 to 3 and September 17 from 9 to noon.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary

Public Meeting

September 13, 2022

An advertised town meeting was held at 6pm at the Water Authority meeting chambers on Caron Street for the discussion of a PLCB Noise Ordinance Exemption Resolution. The following Council members attended the September 13, 2022 meeting: Mr. Mike Firestine, Mr. Joe Slovick, Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Terry Raffety, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mayor Palmer, Solicitor Evans and Borough Manager Bob Mahalchick. No citizens attended the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Raffety, second by Mr. Slovick to approve the PLCB Noise Ordinance Resolution. The motion passed as presented.